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THE FLORIDAS.

In the year 1803, when the violation of our right of deposit at New Orleans had fixed the attention of the general government upon the interest of the Western country, a committee of the House of Representatives, of whom Dr. Dickson was one, were directed to report upon the propriety and practicability of annexing the Floridas to the United States. The report submitted on that occasion presents some views, extremely interesting at the present moment, when the union of these provinces with the American States is on the point of being realized, and when the necessity of a water communication between Tennessee and the bay of Mobile, is felt and acknowledged by all the friends of their country.

The report describes the rivers which rise in the country of the Cherokees, and traversing the country inhabited by the Creek confederacy, discharge themselves into the Mobile bay. "In these rivers, says the report, the eastern parts of Tennessee are deeply interested; as some of the great branches of the Mobile approach very near to some of those branches of the Tennessee river which lie above the Muscle Shoals. Even if it should be difficult to connect them, yet the land carriage will be shorter, and the route to the sea more direct, than the river Tennessee furnishes. These rivers possess likewise an advantage which is denied to the Mississippi. As their sources are not in the mountain, and their course is through a level country, their currents are gentle, and the tide flows considerably above our boundary. This circumstance, together with the depth of water which many of them afford, render them accessible to sea vessels; and ships of two hundred tons burthen may ascend several hundred miles into the heart of our own territory. These rivers, however, which run almost exclusively within our own limits, and which it would seem as if nature had intended for our own benefit, we must be indebted to others for the beneficial use of, so long as the province of West Florida shall continue in the possession of a foreign nation. If the province of West Florida were still an independent empire, it would be the interest of its government to promote the freedom of trade, by laying open the mouths of rivers to all nations; this having been the policy of those nations who possess the mouths of the Rhine, the Danube, the Po, the Tagus, with some others. But the jealousy of the colonial spirit will not admit of this policy, so liberal in itself and so reciprocally advantageous to the citizens of the United States and of West Florida."

The report then speaks of East Florida. "Though not so important to the U. States, the committee nevertheless deem its acquisition very desirable. From its junction with the State of Georgia at the river St. Mary's, it stretches nearly 4 hundred miles into, forming a large peninsula and has some very fine harbors. The southern point, Cape Florida, is not more than one hundred miles from the Havana, and the possession of it may be beneficial to us in relation to our trade with the West Indies. It would likewise make our whole territory compact, would add considerably to our sea coast, and by giving us the Gulf of Mexico for our southern boundary, would render us less liable to attack in what is deemed the most vulnerable part of the Union." The report concludes with stating: "If we look forward to the free use of the Mississippi, the Mobile, the Apalachicola, and the other rivers of the west, by ourselves and our posterity, New-Orleans and the Floridas must become a part of the U. States, either by purchase or by conquest."

To this valuable report we are indebted for the acquisition of New-Or-

leans and the free navigation of the Mississippi. The Congress of 1803 made a great stride towards securing the happiness and prosperity of the Western country, and the Congress of 1812 has undertaken to follow up their steps and complete their work.

No part of the Union can be so much interested in the acquisition of West Florida, as the State of Tennessee. To the eastern section of the State the rivers of that province are indispensable, as well for the exportation of their own produce as for the introduction of foreign articles. To the western division, these rivers would be invaluable in facilitating an import trade. Two branches of the Tennessee stretch to the south and approach the navigable waters of the Mobile river. Above the muscle shoals the Hiwassee, a river of the Tennessee, extends south-eastwardly towards Coosawatcha, a branch of the Alabama, and the distance between the navigable points of these two rivers is no more than fifty-five miles. Below the shoals is Bear creek, better known to geographers under the name of Ocochappo, and the distance between the highest navigable points on these two streams is something less than fifty miles. Through these two channels the merchants of West Tennessee will find the means of bringing into our country the productions of all foreign nations. Loading his vessel at the head of the Mobile bay he will proceed up the Mobile river ninety miles to M'Gilvrey's town in the Creek nation. Here he will find the Mobile divided into two streams, one the Alabama, coming down from the N. East; the other, the Tombigbee, coming down from the North. If he intends to cross the Tennessee above the muscle shoals he will turn to the North East and ascend the Alabama; a most beautiful river with a clear gentle current, flowing at the rate of two miles to the hour, from three to four hundred yards broad, and from 15 to 18 feet deep, in the driest seasons. Going up this river 210 miles and he will arrive at little Tallahassee, a town of the upper Creeks, where the Alabama loses its name, and is divided into two streams, the Coosawatcha and the Tallapoosa. Ascending the former of these streams a short distance, he will arrive at the point on the Coosa where a portage or canal of 55 miles will carry him to Hiwassee. Descending the Hiwassee he will soon arrive in the Tennessee; following the course of the Tennessee a short distance and he will arrive at the mouth of Elk river, and turning up he may deposit his cargo at a point on Richland creek in Giles county, or at Fayetteville in Lincoln. From the latter of these places to Nashville would be a land carriage of 80 miles over a level country.

The other channel to cross the Tennessee below the muscle shoals, would be, to ascend the Tombigbee from M'Gilvrey's town to its highest navigable point. A portage of fifty miles would then bring him to Bear creek; following the course of that creek, which is deep and gentle, he would soon reach the Tennessee; after which he might float with the current to the mouth of Duck river, where a part of his cargo might be deposited, and thence distributed through the upper country, or he may float to the Ohio, and thence ascend the Cumberland to Nashville.

That either of these routes would be infinitely preferable to the present channel through which goods are brought into our country, is evident upon the slightest examination. From Philadelphia to Nashville the merchant at this time has to transport his goods over a course of one thousand five hundred and thirty seven miles; three hundred and three of which consists of land carriage from Philadelphia to Pittsburg; one thousand and fifty four by water from Pittsburg to the mouth of Cumberland, and thence one hundred & eighty miles, against a strong current to Nashville. But from Nashville to M'Gilvrey's town at the junction of the Alabama and Tombigbee, is no more than three hundred and fifty miles, a due south course, and over a very level country; that is only forty-seven miles further than the distance between Philadelphia and Pittsburg. But following the route which merchandize must take, and you would only have one hundred and thirty five miles of land carriage, and about three hundred and forty by water, a considerable part of which would be on the Alabama where the tide flows. But the

great advantage in this new route would be in putting an end to the unnatural trade which we carry on with Philadelphia and Baltimore; a trade which affords not the least encouragement to the western farmer, and which can only be supported by draining our country of its gold and silver. When we come to import from the Mobile our commerce will then assume its natural course. The productions of our country will then be exchanged at New-Orleans for a return cargo which can be paid for and delivered at the head of Mobile river; a place to which a Spanish frigate once ascended, and to which vessels of several hundred tons may come with the greatest ease.

Imagination looks forward to the moment when all the southern Indians shall be pushed across the Mississippi; when the delightful countries now occupied by them shall be covered with a numerous and industrious population; and when a city, the emporium of a vast commerce, shall be seen to flourish on the spot where some huts, inhabited by lawless savages, now mark the junction of the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers.

The present is a favorable moment for accomplishing a part of this great design. The Floridas will soon be occupied by the American troops. Our settlements on the bay and river of Mobile will require to be strengthened; and to strengthen them a part of the country inhabited by the Creeks will be indispensable to us. Fortunately the crimes of this nation have supplied us with a pretext for the dismemberment of their country. An expedition will soon have to move against them to exact a terrible vengeance for the blood they have spilt among us; and the republic must indemnify itself for the expenses of this movement, by appropriating to itself and dividing among the conquerors the better part of that land which is so useless to them, and which will be so valuable to us.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. NEW-YORK.

Nothing has been to us a subject of more regret than the nomination of the Honorable DE WITT CLINTON for President by the Republicans of New York. On a question of this kind, where disunion would destroy every probability of success, the voice of the majority ought to govern, and when, as in the present case, so large a majority is in favour of Mr. MADISON, a secession of any particular state is equally injurious to the great cause of Republicanism and ruinous to the person whose elevation is intended.

Mr. Clinton cannot possibly be elected should he receive all the federal votes in the Union, and it is not to be expected that the great Republican interest on a question of this momentous nature can be consolidated with the federal party.

If Mr. C's friends have supposed that he would receive a single republican vote in this Commonwealth, they are extremely mistaken. The sense of the state is expressed in the nomination of Mr. Madison by the unanimous voice of the Republicans in the Legislature, and it is not possible to change them by any inducement which could be held out.

When the general sentiment of the party is so manifest and decided, we do earnestly hope that the respectable state of New York will not uselessly waste her strength and influence on a candidate that cannot succeed, but will defer the pretensions she has advanced till they receive the sanction of the Union on another occasion.

We know not how the disagreement between the House and Senate of this state as to the choice of electors will be compromised. It is impossible that it may be the design of the federal party to destroy the votes of Massachusetts in this great election. But this one fact we do know—that every Elector who is chosen by the Republican interest will give his vote for Mr. Madison, and of this our friends in every quarter of the United States may rest upon as certainly as if they saw the official record before them. We too know that no federalist will vote for Mr. Clinton, except from despair of getting in a federal President. It is not out of regard to him they support his pretensions; but from their utter inability to run in any man of their own side.

Boston Pat.

Our Gallant Navy.

From the National Intelligencer.

The gallant Rodgers, our readers will be happy to learn, is at length safely arrived in port with all his fleet. Altho' he has not, like Capt. Hull, had an opportunity, which no one would have more gladly seized, to signalize himself and our navy by a successful engagement with a British naval force, he has made a voyage which has been and will be productive of great advantage to our commerce. Sailing from New-York, and pursuing the track of the homeward bound fleet almost into the chops of the British channel, he has sailed thence southwardly beyond the Madeira islands, and, returning in safety to Boston, having warned all our vessels he met with of the war, has completely eluded the British fleets in pursuit of him; and by drawing off their attention to himself, has cleared our coast of them, and ensured the safety of our merchant vessels returning into port to the value of many millions, which would otherwise have fallen a sacrifice to their numerous cruizers.

It gives us much pleasure to state that the Commodore is so far recovered of the fracture of his leg (in the running fight with the Belvidere) as to be able to walk on crutches; nor ought we to omit to mention, that after receiving that wound, he remained on deck, in opposition to the remonstrances of his friends, until all hope had ceased of bringing the British frigate to action.

United States' frigate Constitution, off Boston Light, August 30, 1812.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that on the 19th inst. at 2 P. M. being in lat. 41, 42, and long. 55, 48, with the Constitution under my command, a sail was discovered from the mast head bearing E. by S. or E. S. E. but at such a distance we could not tell what she was. All sail was instantly made in chase, and soon found we came up with her. At 3 P. M. could plainly see that she was a ship on the starboard tack under easy sail, close on a wind—at half past 3, P. M. made her out to be a frigate; continued the chase until we were within about 3 miles, when I ordered the light sails taken in, the courses hauled up, and the ship cleared for action.—At this time the chase had backed his main-top-sail, waiting for us to come down. As soon as the Constitution was ready for action, I bore down with an intention to bring him to close action immediately; but on our coming within gun-shot she gave us a broadside and filled away, and wore, giving us a broadside on the other tack, but without effect; her shot falling short. She continued wearing and maneuvering for about 3 quarters of an hour, to get a raking position, but finding she could not, she bore up, and ran under her top-sails, and gib with the wind on the quarter.—I immediately made sail to bring the ship up with her, and 5 minutes before 6 P. M. being alongside within half pistol shot, we commenced a heavy fire from all our guns, double shotted with round and grape, and so well directed were they, and so warmly kept up, that in 15 minutes his mainmast went by the board and his main yard in the slings, and the hull, rigging and sails very much torn to pieces. The fire was kept up with equal warmth for 15 minutes longer, when his mainmast and foremast went, taking with them every spar, excepting the bowsprit; on seeing this we ceased firing, so that in 30 minutes after we got fairly alongside the enemy, she surrendered, and had not a spar standing, and her hull below and above water so shattered, that a few more broadsides must have carried her down.

After informing you that so fine a ship as the Guerriere, commanded by an able and experienced officer, had been totally dismantled, and otherwise cut to pieces so as to make her not worth towing into port, in the short space of thirty minutes, you can have no doubt of the gallantry, and good conduct of the officers and ship's company. I have the honor to command; it only remains, therefore, for me to assure you, that they all fought with great bravery; and it gives me great pleasure to say, that from the smallest boy in the ship to the oldest seaman, not a look of fear was seen. They all went into action, giving three cheers, and requesting to be laid close along side the enemy.

Enclosed I have the honor to send you a list of killed and wounded on board the Constitution, and a report of the damages she has sustained; also a list of killed and wounded on board the enemy, with his quarter bill, &c.

I have the honor to be, &c.
ISAAC HULL,
Hon. PAUL HAMILTON, Sec. of the Navy.

RETURN OF KILLED & WOUNDED ON BOARD THE CONSTITUTION.

KILLED.
Wm. S. Bush, 1st Lieut. of Marines; Jacob Sago, seaman; Robert Brice, ditto; John Brown, do; Jas. Read, do; Caleb Smith, do; James Ashford, do.—Total killed 7.

WOUNDED.
Charles Morris, 1st Lieut. dangerously; John C. Aylwin, master, slightly; Richard Dunn, seaman, dangerously; G. Reynolds, Ordinary seaman, dangerously; Daniel Lewis, do dangerously; Owen Taylor, do. do.; Francis Mullen, marine, slightly.—Total wounded 7.—Total killed and wounded, 14.
ISAAC HULL, Captain.
T. J. CHEW, Purser.

(Here follows a List of the wounded, killed and missing on board the Guerriere.—Wounded, 62, among the rest Captain Dacres and Lieut. Kent.—Killed 15, including 2nd Lieut. Missing 24.—Total Killed, Wounded and Missing on board the Guerriere, 101.

Patriotic Address.

The following Address to the President of the United States, was unanimously adopted by both branches of the legislature of South Carolina, at their late session.

To the President of the United States.

SIR,—In a government like ours, which emanates from the will of all, is strong or weak in proportion to the current of public opinion in its favor; it cannot but be deeply interesting to the servants of the people, to know the light in which their conduct is considered by those who have invested them with power. Under this impression, and influenced by the consideration that those who have the right to censure, where censure is deserved, ought not to pass over with the silence of indifference the merit of their agents, where that merit is conspicuous; the Legislature of S. Carolina, called together by the late change in our political relations, cannot separate without expressing the lively approbation they feel at the dignified and decisive appeal to Arms, adopted by the President and a majority of Congress, in vindication of our long outraged rights, and violated sovereignty as a nation.

In other governments; it has been the constant effort of the real friends of the people, to curb the angry passions of their rulers—to interrupt the vain dreams of national glory and foreign conquest, by the melancholy exhibition of ruined husbandmen and starving manufacturers; and to shade the deceitful picture of splendid victories and triumphal arches, held up to dazzle and mislead a giddy populace, by introducing on the canvass the more faithful and certain representation of individual misery. It was reserved for the United States to present the spectacle, so consolatory to distressed humanity, of a government uninfatuated by the illusions of national aggrandizement, or the glory of conquest; anxious only to promote the true happiness of the people, and in deciding on the great question of peace or war, weighing every drop of blood likely to be shed in the last resort, with the same caution, the same solicitude, as though each drop were to be drawn from the veins of those themselves, on whom rested the decision. If the signal for battle can be supposed to have been ever registered in "Heaven's chancery," with any other emotions than those of horror or contempt for human wickedness or folly, it was on the 18th day of June, 1812. Influenced by no lust of dominion, no unjust spirit of encroachment; but impelled to arms by wanton and continued violations of our best rights, our vital interests—if ever a war deserved to be denominated holy, it is this.—It is a war of right against lawless aggression, of justice against perfidy and violence. Thus driven to hostilities, it is in vain that faction would repress the energy and spirit of the nation, or disaffection depreciate the resources of our country. The glory of the issue will be commensurate with the righteousness of our cause.

If we cannot, at this moment, contend with our enemy for the empire of the ocean, individual valor and enterprise, at length permitted to be exercised, will ensure to our citizens no inconsiderable indemnity for the spoliation so long