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Sailing Song.

BY J. H. MATTHEWS.

Again, my lads, our vessel carves
Her way with easy motion;
Again we ride the merry tide
To lands beyond this ocean.

We leave, perchance, a mother dear;
A sister's arm, or daughter's;
Perchance the love revealing tear
Is mingled with the waters.

We leave behind each earthly home;
The friends that boyhood found us;
We break, the careless seas to roam,
The dearest ties that bind us.

The wind shall agitate the sea,
The waves be wild and frantic,
But let us trust in God, as we
Float on the blue Atlantic.

And as we frolic dash along
Among the waves that know us,
Let's rouse a cheering parting song,
And join in hearty chorus.

A LEAF FROM HISTORY.

THE BATTLE OF THE MOODKEE.

The very river Sutledge, on the banks of which occurred the bloody fight between the English and the Sikhs, of which we have just received the intelligence—is the Hyphasis which proved the boundary of Alexander's conquests, and beyond which his army would not follow him.

The easy victories and profuse precious spoils, which in the softer & sunnier plains of Persia or Western Asia, had rewarded the valor and satisfied the avarice of the Greek soldiers—had indisposed them for fiercer conflicts, unredeemed by captured treasures—which awaited them among the harder and poorer tribes of India. Yet for a time and while there seemed some definite limit to the ambition of their leader, they followed Alexander without murmuring, even to the foot of the Himalayas.

On the banks of the Hydaspes—the northern tributary of the Indus—the Macedonians encountered the great King Porus, who reigned over the region south of that river, and whose ambition was dreaded by all the Indians dwelling on its northern banks, and between it and the Indus. These eagerly hailed the approach of Alexander as a protection against tyranny—real or apprehended—of Porus; just as England at this day makes battle now against the Afghans, and now against the Sikhs, to avenge some real or supposed wrong to some native tribes or princes, vindicators like Alexander of minor wrongs by the infliction of wrongs tenfold greater.

On the left bank of the Hydaspes Porus sat down with his army, composed of 40,000 foot, six thousand horse, two hundred war chariots, and more than two hundred elephants. The force of Alexander, like that of England in the late battle, was largely native, but with a European basis and core; besides his Macedonians and other Greeks, he had the cavalry of Asia, from Bactria, Scythia, Sogdiana, &c., and a considerable force of native infantry. His main army however, was cavalry.

Not daring to cross the river in front of so formidable an army; and especially dreading the effect of the elephants upon his cavalry, Alexander, by favor of a dark and stormy night, and of an island happily interposed between the banks of the river, above the position of the enemy, and which had at once the advantage of concealing and facilitating the attempt of the Greeks, threw five thousand horse and as many foot across the river, & leading them in person turned the flank of Porus's army and utterly defeated it, with great slaughter to the Indians; making the barbarian king prisoner, and himself losing—differing therein very much from the English battles—only eighty foot soldiers and two hundred and twenty horse.

A new city, called Nikea, built on the spot of the battle, commemorated this victory, and another, called Bucephala, became a monument of Bucephalus, wounded in the passage of the Hydaspes, and who died there.

Porus brought before Alexander and interrogated how he expected to be treated, answered, "like a king." He was not disappointed; for Alexander made him a friend and ally and greatly increased his dominions. The fame of such generosity united to such valor, opened the hearts of the Indian nations of the Punjab to him. He was everywhere submitted to and welcomed, and having organized a naval expedition to descend the Indus one thousand miles to the sea and proceed through the Persian Gulf to the mouth of the Euphrates and ascend it (the famous voyage of Nearchus)—he continued his march through Punjab, aiming as he professed to reach the Ganges. But when the army came to the banks of the Hyphasis, they refused to cross it and enter

upon a region of unknown extent and endless conflicts. In vain did Alexander argue, implore, entreat and promise.—"Follow me," said he, "but to the Ganges and the Indian Ocean, while our fleet shall circumnavigate Africa—and then the bounds of our empire will be those which God has made the bounds of the Earth."

The Greeks were immovable, the thoughts and longings of home had come over them. They resolutely refused to cross the Hyphasis—and Alexander after erecting altars on its bank to commemorate his progress thus far East—wept that he could conquer no other world—and turned his march homeward.

These backward glances will not be without interest to our readers,—since the same theatre is now the scene of like events, except that in the recent battles the barbarians, if so we may call the Sikhs, were the assailants. They it was who crossed the Hyphasis or Sutledge, and on its left bank the English received the assault—and so fearfully struggled for the victory they won.

In this case as in all like ones—our sympathies are with those who defend their own home, and the rivers, and mountains which God has assigned to them—and whether it be Abdel Kader in Africa—or warriors of northern India—we feel that victory should be with them.

That such will be the result may be possible in both cases. As to Algeria, it has cost France millions of treasures and tens of thousands of lives—and yet the great Arab chief is as little subdued as at the beginning. So though the field of battle and the trophies of Moodkee remained with the British, it is far from certain that the victory is final and decisive. A passing glance at the relative means and numbers of the contending parties will show this.

According to the last authorities upon which we have been able to lay our hands, the total number of European troops in all India is about 31,000 whom 20,000 are of the regular army, and the residue recruited in Great Britain for the Company's service. This European force is distributed throughout the vast possessions—unsular and continental of the East India Company.

The Native troops in the service of the Company, amount, it is believed, to something like ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND MEN. These are composed indiscriminately of Hindoos and Musselmans—mixed up together in the same regiments, and under the command, as to Company officers, of their own people—though superior command is wholly in Europeans, to such an extent that the youngest ensign of the British army takes rank of the oldest Native officer.

These Native troops are brave and faithful. It is a point of honor with Native artillery men, never to desert their guns. The Cavalry are as adventurous as, and much better riders than the European Cavalry, and take better care of their horses.

The army of Runjet Singh, the Chief of the Sikhs, was computed by the British authorities some few years ago at seventy-three thousand—of which more than one half were Cavalry—they have also a numerous artillery—as was made manifest in the late conflict.

When it is considered that the region of this contest is far away from supplies that it is strong in natural features for defence—that it is inhabited by a brave and warlike race, and that the sympathies of all Northern India must be with the Sikhs—and when both Russia and France may possibly see their interest in permitting means to be furnished that may prolong a war so costly and perilous to English supremacy in the East, it does not seem quite clear, notwithstanding the firing of the Park and Tower guns in London over the victory of Moodkee—and the vote of thanks in Parliament to the Conquerors, that the work is decisive or complete.—The next late accounts from India cannot fail to be looked for with great interest.—N. Y. Courier.

FROM CENTRAL AFRICA.

Letters from Fernando Po, of November 9, have been received in England from Dr. King and Capt. Becroft, giving the results of their new attempt to open a commercial traffic with the natives of Central Africa. The expedition had returned from the Niger to that island, having remained on the river nearly 4 months. They found the aspect of things changed for the worse, in consequence of deaths and feuds and wars among the chiefs.—Rabbah, the largest and most flourishing town on the river in 1840, is now deserted in ruins. The mission has consequently been less commercially successful than was anticipated.

CONNECTICUT.—The New York Tribune of last Friday, states that the allied powers of Liquor and Locofocoism have triumphed in the election for Legislature of Connecticut, and will be enabled to elect their minority Governor. Some of the Birneyites voted openly for the Locofoco ticket at the last trial.

The Legislature will stand—Senate; Whigs 10, Locos 11. House—Whigs 108, Locos 114. Loco majority on joint ballot, 8.

[From the Richmond Whig "WHERE IS HENRY CLAY?"

The U. S. Gazette in answer to this question flippantly put by some opponent of Harry of the West, makes an excellent reply, which we regret to have mislaid. The Gazette thinks they will have occasion to ask, hereafter, in many an anxious crisis, as well as now, "Where is Henry Clay?" If any thing more is necessary to answer the question, we will try to gratify the curiosity of the inquirer.

"Where is Henry Clay?" At present, sir, he is in New Orleans, pursuing with that system and energy for which he is distinguished, the duties of his profession. You will be glad to learn that, though an old man, time deals kindly with his constitution, and that the winter of advancing years, while it scatters snow flakes upon his brow, has not chilled the genial fountain of his generous heart. His frame is still erect, his footsteps firm, and that same frank, noble and impressive face continues still the faithful image of his fearless soul.

A few days since the people of New Orleans were assembled in a spacious church to witness the inauguration of their new Democratic Governor. There was a great crowd. Statesmen, orators and men in office attended. There were beauty, wealth and fashion; military pomp and civic display congregated to do honor to the Governor elect. In the midst of this gorgeous scene a door is gently opened. An aged citizen, in plain garb, unattended and alone, quietly enters. Instantly, and as if by some electric impulse, the whole audience start to their feet! The rafters ring with their enthusiastic shouts. The old man becomes the center of a thousand burning eyes.—There was Henry Clay!

"Where is Henry Clay?" We said he was in New Orleans—but no, that is a mistake. He is not there alone. In the frozen mountains of the North, in the vast prairie of the West, in the crowded cities of the East, in the sunny plains of the South, go ask the question. "Where is Henry Clay?" and a million hands will be clapped upon warm hearts, and a million voices will answer, here! Tell us not that he is out of office; that he is a defeated candidate; that he never can attain the imperial purple. It may all be true, but here, deep in the breast of the patriotic people, he has an empire more powerful and enduring than any office on earth could give. We love the man, and in loving him, we feel that we love our country, truth, honor, courage—all that can ennoble the human race. We love him now even more as his glorious sun, every cloud of calumny vanishing from before its face, goes down in calm and majestic beauty. Alas for the country, when that luminary descends, and the shadows of night close upon the scene, with nothing to irradiate his gloom but the feeble light of glow-worm politicians!

"Where is Henry Clay?" Above and beyond the reach of his unforgiving foes, his History is identified with that of his country. She will point with pride to the statesman who has twice saved the Republic from the yawning vortex of civil discord. Future patriots, when assailed by persecution, and tempted to despair, will remember the unshrinking fortitude of Henry Clay; in the face of desperate opposition—how, in the forefront of the fight, trod that man of mark, his head towering above the conflicting hosts, his broad breast a target for every foe, while the poisoned arrows of vindictive adversaries rattled in vain upon the bright shield of his spotless fame. The Republic will point her young men to his example. Poor, friendless and unknown, they will recall his early career—How in obscurity his young days were passed; like some gem hidden deep under the ocean waves, and tossed and buffeted by many an angry billow, but brought at last from its concealment, and after being polished and made more brilliant by the rude assaults of adversity, placed as the crowning pearl in the diadem of the country's glory. "Where is Henry Clay?" Future ages will give the answer pointing to the highest name upon the scroll of American statesmen. Where then will be his traducers? Where the petty politicians who now fume and fret upon the stage of public affairs, endeavoring to carry a continent upon their Lilliputian shoulders? Echo will answer "where!" Their very names will have passed into oblivion, or if they are remembered, it will only be to crimson the cheek of posterity with the thought that for them, and such as them, an immortal patriot, world-renowned for his wisdom and virtue, was ostracised and condemned.

GALLANT.

"A gallant was was lately sitting beside his beloved, and being unable to think of any thing else to say, turned to her and asked her why she was like a tailor.—"Don't know," said she with a pouting lip, unless it is because I am sitting beside a goose."

The President's Message.

We copy the following abstract of the President's Message relative to the Secret Service Fund, from the Baltimore American:

The message was read, beginning with a recital of the resolution calling for the items of the secret service fund. The President says that, with an anxious desire to furnish the information, if it were consistent to do it, he must decline. The foreign intercourse Act of 1810, in pursuance of which information was communicated, was stated.

The law required the public items to be given publicly, and the private items to be given privately. The President's certificate only was required to be presented to the accounting officer to secure the payment of the same. Had the public items been called for they would have been communicated with great pleasure.—But the secret expenditures cannot be made public without injury to the public interest. Some of his predecessors have not specified for what the secret service fund was expended.

His predecessor had declared that the sum of \$5,450 was expended for foreign intercourse. Mr. Polk says the question is whether the resolution can be answered at all with propriety. As a general rule, it should not be done, and whether it could be done under any circumstance or not, is a subject of serious consideration. The President may keep the information in his own hands if he chooses, in which case the items do not become public records by being filed away. They are not seen by the accounting officer.

The provisions of the law of 1789 were then stated and explained, when Mr. Polk says that if called upon to answer this Resolution, he would be under the necessity of answering all such calls, whether under one administration or another, or whether in Peace or in War. The President says that he is aware of the prejudices against keeping anything secret, but there are circumstances which may require it.

While in office, says Mr. Polk, I have had no account settled upon the President's certificate, and it would be an extreme case that would allow him to use his certificate. Still, if there was a necessity for this, he should most cheerfully take the responsibility of doing so.—The House, as the Grand Inquest of the nation, have a right to investigate the conduct of all public officers, but it must always be by a committee. Such a committee would have the right to demand the appearance of every public and private paper, but they would not communicate what was done to the injury of the public interest.

No communication is found upon the files of the Department, in reference to the special mission to England, says Mr. Polk, and therefore this part of the information is not given, as desired, by Mr. Polk. All public papers (and they cover forty or fifty pages) are communicated.

Important Arrest.

BOGUS DEALERS CAUGHT.—On Saturday last, E. V. Root and L. W. Brown were arrested in this city, on charge of selling, making and operating in Bogus money. The circumstances attending this important movement are these:

Some three or four weeks ago the above men called at the tailoring establishment of J. & S. Colby, to get some mending &c. done; at their different calls they showed Mr. Colby some well executed half dollars, and Mexican dollars, and at last told him they could be purchased at a certain price, affording a profit. Mr. C. gave information to the Marshal and was informed how to proceed in order to "trap" these would be speculators in counterfeit coin. The proceedings closed by their arrest, as before stated.

We saw, in the possession of Mr. Colby, several pieces of the spurious coin. It is pronounced the most perfect ever seen in the city, and was considered good by one or two of the banks! It stood the test of acids—has a good "ring," and is said not to be deficient in weight! It is doubtless made of some new composition which it will be important to enquire into for the safety of the public.—Cin. Com.

FROM CHINA.

The latest overland mail to England brings advices from Canton to January 21, ten days later than the sailing of the RAINBOW, which arrived last week at New York. The latest instalment of the Chinese indemnity was paid, and by the terms of the treaty the English were to evacuate the Island of Chusan. But the Chinese had refused the admission of foreigners into Canton, who are pelted with stones, piled up at the gates for the purpose, if they attempt to enter. A notification in the Government paper intimates that Chusan will be retained until the city is opened, and that a despatch from Sir JOHN DAVIS to KEYING, the Chinese Commissioner, gave him notice of this determination.

MR. WEBSTER.

As we, and no doubt all our readers, anticipated, the Tory Ingersoll has totally failed in making good his charges against Mr. Webster. On Tuesday last, a Message was received from the President, in answer to the resolution of Mr. Ingersoll, requesting information in reference to the disbursement of the Secret Service Fund, during Mr. Webster's administration of the Secretaryship of State. The message simply states the amount expended during the time Mr. Webster was in office, some \$5,000, but does not say for what purposes the money was used, alleging it to be improper, and not compatible with the public interest, to divulge the purposes for which this fund is used. After the reading of the message, which very evidently floored Mr. Ingersoll in his lame and impotent attempt to exculpate himself from the miserable dilemma in which his malice and malignity had placed him, he rose and said that "the President had not answered the call as he had expected," but that "he could yet make good his charges." This starting it out against the facts and the opinions of the House, but excited the pity and contempt of all honorable members. He persisted in asserting "that Mr. Webster had written to Mr. Adams and Mr. Cushing, then members of the Foreign Relations Committee, requesting the adoption of a bill creating a special mission to London to settle the Oregon question, and stated that his researches in the Department had led him to offer the resolution of inquiry."

Mr. Adams stated his disbelief that Mr. Webster had sent to the committee any letter or letters, as charged, asking for this mission. He had never seen any such letter himself, or heard of it, until this charge was made.

Mr. T. Butler King addressed the House in reply to Mr. Ingersoll. He affirmed Mr. Webster stood clear and triumphant against each and every charge brought forward by the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Ingersoll,) and he was only astonished that after so complete an overthrow, the gentleman should still insist that he could make the charges good!

Thus ends the miserable attempt of a driving demagogue to tarnish the reputation of one of the most illustrious statesmen our country has produced. It has ended as every true-hearted American, from the depths of his inmost heart could have wished it to end. The fame of Daniel Webster belongs to his country—to that country it is sacred, and the man who perils his reputation by assailing it, deserves to meet a fate as ignominious as that which has fallen to the lot of Charles J. Ingersoll.—Wash. Rep.

Novel Mode of Emigration.

Our attention was arrested, on observing moving through our streets, on last Saturday afternoon, a frame shantee, of the proportions of some 10 by 16 feet, placed upon wheels, and drawn by four Conestoga wagon horses, in admirable condition. This unique dwelling consisted of one story, about 8 feet high, and was inhabited by the family—ten in number—of Abraham M. Epler, of Mount Harrison, Dauphin county Pa., and destined to Indianapolis, Indiana. It contained the beds, furniture, and necessary cooking utensils, with a stove in which a cheerful fire glowed, and which, in the absence of a better mode, answered very well for cooking. At evening, if remote from a dwelling, or public house, Mr. Epler has but to unhitch his horses, kindle a fire on the road side, cook, and partake of the evening meal with his family and retire to rest in his own humble domicile! This comparatively comfortable mode of emigration was entirely new to us, and we could not but admire the ingenuity and perseverance which originated and carried out the plan. This family, when once arrived at its place of destination, have nothing to do but to dislodge from the wheels their fragile dwelling, and they are at home! A safe journey to them, and may health and prosperity attend them in their new home!—Wash. Rep.

FINAL ACTION ON THE OREGON QUESTION IN CONGRESS.

CONGRESS has at length made a final disposition of the Oregon subject, and in a manner which, next to have refrained from any action at all, will receive, we doubt not, the general approbation of the country.

The two Houses yesterday settled their differences in regard to the form of authorizing notice, by adopting (with two unimportant changes in the phraseology, recommended by the conferees) the Preamble and Resolution of the Senate. These changes consisted simply in substituting the words "all proper measures" for "renewed efforts," and the word "adjustment" for the word "settlement." These changes, if they affect the sense of the resolution at all, strengthen rather than impair the force of the Senate's original proposition. Thus reported, the recommendation of the conferees was agreed to by the Senate by a vote of 42 to 10; and by the House of Representatives by the very decisive vote of 142 to 46.—Nat. Intel.

The Subtreasury Bill.

Our readers and the whole commercial and business community will feel indebted, we doubt not, to Mr. Webster, for his important and very opportune inquiries made in the Senate, yesterday, of Mr. Lewis, chairman of the Committee on Finance, respecting the Subtreasury bill, and obliged to Mr. Lewis, also, for his ready, frank, and very important replies. We look upon this conversation as one of the most gratifying occurrences of the whole session, thus far. It is as a bright light sprung up in the midst of gloom. The information given by Mr. Lewis is highly important in itself; and we trust, moreover, that we may regard it as an indication that rash and ruinous measures will not be adopted, at least in the Senate; but that the proceedings of that body may be marked by deliberation and prudence, and a proper regard for the public convenience and interest.—Truly did Mr. Webster say that the general prosperity of the country was now great; and all will agree with him that the adoption of any measures by Congress calculated to check or to depress this prosperity is greatly to be deprecated.—Nat. Intel.

Mexico.

The New York American Sentinel gives the following extract from a letter from a young officer, dated

"POINT ISABEL, April 1st.

"The Mexicans are about to fight us. They have crossed the Rio Grande, to attack this post with 700 men.

Major Monroe has only one company here.

Capt. May started from Gen. Taylor's last night, with two companies, to reinforce Major Monroe. We are expecting an attack every moment. The Sultens have formed a company to defend the goods.

If the Mexicans succeed in taking Point Isabel, Gen. Taylor will have no line of retreat. I have been on guard two nights out of the picket. Our guard went out four miles from camp, & lay in the grass. An express has just arrived from Gen. Taylor's company. He had all the army throwing up works the whole of last night. His camp is only three hundred yards from Matamoros. The Rio Grande runs between.

The United States ship Lawrence has sent all the men she can spare to man the fleet. Dick Ogden has four men on guard.

P. S.—I open this letter to say that the wagon has just come in from Gen. Taylor's camp. There is nothing new, except we are certain of a fight. We will send three wagons up with the returning train. Two hundred wagons in a train two miles long, is a fine sight. We have entrenched ourselves."

Hon. Daniel Webster.—Again.

"The following statement," says the National Intel., "which we find in the regular Washington correspondence of the N. Y. Tribune, agrees substantially with what we have related here, and have reason to believe correct."

"When Mr. Webster left the State Department, in place of being a defaulter as has been charged it appears that there was a balance paid over to him long after he left. When Mr. Webster left Mr. Tyler's Cabinet, he requested the clerk, who has the care of the contingent fund, to settle up the account and see how it stood. The clerk wrote to Mr. Webster that there was the sum of \$1,000 for which there was no voucher. Mr. Webster said the proper voucher would yet be found, but in the meantime he wished the accounts of the Department fully settled up, and for this purpose he sent on \$1,000, and the accounts were settled. The proper certificates afterwards appearing, the \$1,000 were refunded to Mr. Webster. So that, in place of being a defaulter, he had actually overpaid the Department, and this overpay was refunded."

The citizens of Monrovia (Liberia) gave a Public Dinner to Captain C. H. BELL, and the other officers of the United States ship Yorktown, on the 17th of January, at the Government House. This dinner was given as expressive of the sentiments the Liberians entertain for Captain BELL's vigilance in seeking out and putting down the slave trade on the coast and especially in capturing the late slave ship Pons. The invitation was extended to the officers of the Dolphin, who were in port at the time; but, having made arrangements to depart the day previous, they could not attend. Says the Luminary:

"Captain BELL's conduct cannot be too highly lauded for the immense benefit he has conferred upon all interested in the suppression of the slave trade, upon the great and important results that will affect the colony here, and upon the heaven that now again breathes his native air."

The United States brig Dolphin returned to Monrovia on the 5th of February, from a cruise to the windward; officers and crew all well.