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TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1847,

Vol. 5.—No. 10.

MOONLIGHT THOUGHTS.

BY PARK BENJAMIN.

How coldly bright the silent moon
Above yon cloudy pillar shines;
How sweetly, on the trembling wave
Reflected, glow her silver lines!
The air is still, and from each sphere
Of sapphire in the distant skies,
Like diamond sparkles, soft and clear,
Look down a myriad starry eyes!

Above, the heavens are all undim'd:
Below, save on the horizon's verge,
Where one gold-tinted vapor surges,
There drifts no pale and misty surge;
Around, save where the forests throw
Their dark, collected shadows down,
The landscape's broad and smiling brow
Seems not to wear a single frown.

The peaceful silence of the night
Into my secret soul descends,
And dreams of high and holy thought
This scene of love, transporting, lends.
I would not give an hour like this,
In heavenly musing sweetly passed,
For days and years of common bliss,
Or earthly joys that cannot last.

In such an hour my spirit goes
Beyond the narrow bounds of Time,
And soars away, on tireless wing,
To realms unfading and sublime:
To realms where pure and perfect light
Is faintly pictured in each gem
That glitters on the zone of Night,
Or gleams upon her diadem.

29TH CONGRESS.

Second Session.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

WASHINGTON, January 7.
UNITED STATES SENATE.

The resolution of Mr. Cameron directing the Secretary of the Treasury to report to the Senate upon what articles in the tariff of '46, the duties can be increased beyond the existing rates, so as to augment the revenue, and to what extent the said duties can be increased, and what additional revenue would accrue therefrom, came up for consideration.

Mr. Cameron made some remarks in support of the resolution, and quoted the articles of coal, iron, copper and sugar, among others, as those upon which he thought a large increase of revenue would arise from an increase of duty.

Messrs. Breese and Spleight made some remarks upon the position taken by Mr. Cameron.

Mr. Davis thought the revenue could be increased by a further reduction of duties, and suggested a modification of the resolution so as to embrace an inquiry upon what articles the duties can be reduced so as to increase the revenue.

Mr. Niles condemned the financial policy of the Administration, as every way wrong, anti-democratic and inconsistent. The feeble prosecution of the war was, he thought, owing to the feeble state of the Treasury. The Government needed loans to the extent of thirty-five millions annually, and yet no provision was proposed for meeting the interest on such loans. Under these circumstances every man could see that the credit of the country must suffer.

There was one way in which he thought we could obtain loans in the present emergency, and that was by sanctioning a paper currency in the form of Treasury Notes, which would be taken by the people in the course of business, though not for investment by capitalists.

The resolution having been amended so as to ask also upon what articles in the free list, duties shall be laid for revenue—upon what articles duties can be reduced, to produce revenue, and whether the imposition of duties upon articles now free, will increase their cost to the consumer, how much? was adopted.

ENLISTMENTS FOR THE ARMY.

Mr. Benton, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to encourage enlistments in the regular army.

The bill provides that the term of the enlistment should be for the war, or for five years at the option of the recruit, and also that he shall receive a bounty of \$12—one-half on enlisting and the other half upon joining regiment.

Mr. B. stated that these provisions would, he thought, have the invaluable effect of filling up the ranks of the army which was so much needed at this time. The actual force now in service was 11,500, and 5,000 more were required to fill up the ranks.

Mr. Crittenden said that as at present advised he should vote for the bill. But he desired to ask the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations what was the prospect of the continuance of the war? and whether any information had been received from the Mexican Government or Congress in reply to the pro-

position of this Government for a negotiation?

Mr. Benton observed that the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations (Mr. Sever) was not in his seat.

Mr. Crittenden said he was there when he rose and he had not observed his departure. He was very anxious to see an end to this war. The best mode would be to adopt such means as were now proposed.

There was another way, and that was to fall back upon some portion of the territory which we have taken, and let the Mexicans make war upon us. But this would leave it in doubt when the war would be ended. He wished he could be convinced that this was the most effectual mode. But, however deplorable was the continuation of the war, he must say that in his opinion the only way to obtain peace was to carry on a vigorous war—to adopt the fullest measures, and to vote for the most ample supplies of men and money.

Mr. Archer said that no information had been given to the Committee on Foreign Relations of any answer of the Mexican Congress to our offers to negotiate, and he believed there were no advices from Mexico on the subject.

After some further remarks from Messrs. Archer and Crittenden, the bill was passed through all its stages and sent to the House, from which it was afterwards returned with a slight amendment which was concurred in. It therefore only wants the President's signature to become a law.

The rest of the day was consumed in debating a report from the Committee on Printing against printing a memorial from sugar planters in Louisiana for a repeal of the tariff of '46, in which Mr. Johnson, of Md., made some hits that told, in reference to Mr. Polk's denunciations of treason against those who exercise their right to question his course in the inception of the war.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Leaman, of N. Y., gave notice of a Bill (to be reported to-morrow if possible), to prevent the importation of foreign paupers and criminals into the United States.

ARMY BILL.—DEBATE UPON SLAVERY.

Mr. Dargin, of Ala., went on to make a speech that commanded much attention. It was mainly upon the great question of Slavery, and took high ground in reference to it. Slavery, he said, was now the question that threatened this Union. Slavery, which was brought to us from England and from the North. The North had thought proper to get rid of the Institution, and the condition of master and slave yet retained with the South, but it did not follow that England and the North were free from all forms of oppression.

In regard to the Missouri Compromise, Mr. D. said he held it as most sacred, and would abide by it. But would the North—would Northern men—upon this floor, say they were ready to abide by this Compromise; not one of them.

Mr. Vinton, of Ohio asked the gentleman to allow him to explain. He denied that the North had violated the Missouri Compromise. There had been no free territory made South of 36 30, since the Missouri Compromise, and much of the territory beyond was not now in the Union. Moreover the Missouri Compromise applied to the country then in the Union, and not to the country which had been acquired from foreign countries.

Mr. Dargin went on and said the country did not understand the Compromise, and he repeated that the Northern men were ready to abandon it. Even more than this. They would violate this compromise which had now been preserved for twenty-seven years, and never violated by the South. And there was not one Southern man who would violate it or suffer it to be violated.

Mr. Douglass. I am not willing to be misunderstood by my silence. I am willing to abide by the Missouri Compromise. I recognized it in the Texas Resolutions. I recognize it now, and shall always recognize it.

Mr. Dargin, coming to the war question, said that he regretted that the Army had ever crossed the Rio Grande after the battles of the 8th and 9th. If his hand could have controlled the action of other men, they should never have crossed.—And having crossed, he did not think it necessary that the Army should go to the Halls of the Montezumas. He would rather mark out a line and defend it, and thus show to the world that we had gone to war for the sake of securing peace.

By this remark he did not mean to censure the Administration, but only to express his own opinion. And now he would ask, shall we take any territory from Mexico if the north will not divide it with us? Shall our sons from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and elsewhere fight battles to make free States.

I desire, said Mr. D., to see this question settled here, and that we may now know for what we fight, and whether for the North and South, or for the North alone. Give us the territory south of 36—30 for a slave country. This, he said, to Northern men. If they refuse

to do this, this Union at once must sink. There could be no doubt of this whatever. The Union was instituted for our good and our common good. If the Missouri compromise was to be violated, from the day it was done we might date the downfall of the American Union.

Take this as the admonition of a man who may not address you again or represent his constituents hereafter upon this floor. His honest conviction was that the Union could not last one day after the Compromise was violated. He therefore beseeched all men to act up to this compromise, and to preserve the Union. But there were real dangers hanging over the country at this time, and it was time for men, without regard to party, to rally as one man to remove the difficulties.

Mr. Seddon of Va., continued the debate, and thanked the member for the cool, temperate and timely remarks he had made. He concurred in all that had been said. For himself he was a Southern man in birth, in feeling and in education, and when he heard some of the remarks which had been made upon this floor, he found it difficult to restrain himself.

Mr. S. then went on to speak of the Slave question as a momentous one, and as one which the North had no right to interfere with.

The North had no right to say all this territory shall be free; and the country could not carry on a war upon this aspect of the question.

Mr. Grover of N. Y., continued the debate in a speech in reply to the two which had gone before. He thought there was no danger of dissolving the Union, and he believed the Union would last—that even these Southern men would rally under it and enjoy it for ages to come. Mr. G. argued this question with such earnestness and independence as to call up

Mr. Boyd of Ky., Mr. Chapman of Alabama, Mr. Sedden of Va. all of whom were disposed to put most pointed questions to him, but all of which he answered by declaring that he was in favor of the war—in favor of the acquisition of territory, but that he would demand as he believed the whole Democracy of the North would, that all territory hereafter annexed should be free territory.

He would vote to put Slavery upon no soil where it did not now exist. The Compromise did not require that foreign Country, now free should be converted into Slave territory and it was selfish to ask it. He had voted for the admission of Texas with Slavery, because the Institution already existed there, but there was no Slavery in Mexico, barbarous as that Nation was.

Correspondence of the Cumberland Citizen.
WASHINGTON, Jan. 7, 6 A. M.

The unanimity of the House of Representatives, on Tuesday, in adopting the report of the Committee of Military Affairs, asking to be discharged from so much of the late message of the President as relates to the appointment of a Lieutenant General of the Army and to lay it upon the table, was intended more to show Mr. Polk that he does not possess the confidence of that branch of Congress, than as an expression of opinion upon the merits of that proposition which he had presented for their consideration.

A motion was accordingly made yesterday to reconsider the vote, which was agreed to by a majority of two—years 86 nays 84—and the report being again before the House, a motion was made to lay it upon the table, which was negatively—years 93, nays 97—and the whole subject was then referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Persons ignorant of the views of a majority of the House upon the subject, may be apt to form a conclusion from the proceedings of yesterday, that there is a probability of the proposed measure passing the House—but I repeat to you, what I said in my last, that, in my opinion, it is destined to meet with a certain rejection. The reason for reviving the subject again, was that it would afford members an opportunity of presenting their views upon it.

The Military Committee in the Senate (of which Col. Benton is Chairman,) will, I understand, report a bill for the appointment of a "Major General commanding in Chief," in accordance to the recommendation of the President, (who, you will have perceived, does not designate the title with which he desires his "Military Ambassador" to be clothed) and it is thought probable that the bill will be passed by a majority of one or two votes, not so much on account of the merits of the proposition, as from a friendly feeling towards Col. Benton.—I regret that Senators should permit personal feeling to influence them upon a question so important, and trust that a measure so full of injustice towards Gen. Taylor and Gen. Scott may yet fail to receive the sanction of that body. Although it should not, as I think it will not, become a law, its sanction by the highest branch of the National Legislature, would certainly be galling to the just pride of those gallant officers.

I stated in my last that the ground upon

which the President asks for the creation of this high office, is that the volunteers are not satisfied to be led by any officer of the regular army. This ground is not taken in the message, but it is the ground upon which the measure is urged privately, and the fact was communicated to me by an administration member, upon whom it was urged in soliciting his vote.

The monthly statement of the balance in the Treasury has not yet been published. Upon inquiry being made at the Treasury Department yesterday, the reply was, as I am informed, that it had been published last week in the Union—but on looking over a file of that paper I find that no such publication has been made. I am informed, however, that the balance on the last week in December was about 3,200,000 dollars. This will keep the Government afloat for the balance of this month and a portion of next, but what is to be done then? This is the question, and it is a question demanding serious consideration.

Mr. Walker takes the refusal of the House to tax tea and coffee in no very amiable spirit, and, it is said, is determined to submit no other proposition but to let the harmonious Locofoco majority take their own course in devising the mode of raising the Ways and Means.—He knows full well that money cannot be raised without a repeal of the Sub-Treasury end yet he doggedly refuses to ask for it. Necessity will bring him to it, however, before the month is out.

The slavery question, in connection with the Mexican war, has been again introduced in the House by some of the Northern Locofocos, and, as the Union says, threatens "to shiver the Democratic party to pieces." It is a topic I will not dwell upon, and regret its introduction. The "Democratic party" will be shivered without its aid. The Union must not be permitted to forget, however, the elation it displayed upon the re-election of Mr. Wilmot, by whom it was first introduced.

Ex-Senator Young, of Illinois, has been appointed Commissioner of the General Land office and was yesterday confirmed by the Senate.

CALVERT.

The Tariff—Mr. Edie's Resolutions

The following are the resolutions submitted in the House of Representatives a few days ago, by Mr. EDIE, of Somerset. They embody the sentiments of Pennsylvania on this great and important question, and will meet with but little, if any opposition.

Whereas, The Tariff of 1842 answered all the purposes of the Revenue, and yielded to American industry, the encouragement necessary to the development of the great resources of the country; and whereas, a bill has passed the Congress of the United States and become a law, which has injuriously affected the important staple productions of this Commonwealth, and retarded the great Agricultural and manufacturing interests of the nation, therefore:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, That our Senators in Congress be, and are hereby instructed, and our Representatives requested to use every effort to procure the repeal of the Tariff act of 1842, and the restoration of the act of 1842.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

A HIT.

The following resolutions, introduced into the Illinois House of Representatives by Mr. Linder, on the 21st ultimo, excited a loud and general laugh. We are afraid they will hardly pass that Loco Foco body.

Whereas, as appears from the message of President Polk to the Congress of the United States, Santa Anna has been guilty of the most black hearted treachery, in failing to perform and make good certain promises made to President Polk; (the consideration of said promise being a passport to Mexico,) one of which was that, on his arrival at Mexico, he would get up a fight with Paredes and thereby bring the war between the United States and Mexico to a close. Therefore,

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois, the Senate concurring herein, that we deeply sympathize with President Polk, inasmuch as his reasonable expectations have not been realized in consequence of the treachery of the aforesaid Santa Anna.

And be it further resolved, That Santa Anna is unworthy the further confidence of President Polk, and that we most respectfully recommend to the President to place no further reliance upon the promises of Santa Anna to bring the war to a close.

And be it further resolved, That inasmuch as Santa Anna has heretofore, on all occasions, been governed by a strict regard to truth, fidelity, and honor in his conduct, that President Polk had good

reason to believe he would hold sacred his word, thus solemnly pledged, and which we still believe he would have done had he received the two millions of dollars as per contract with the President.

Position of the Whigs.

On the presentation to the Senate of a memorial from the State of Delaware, praying Congress to use steady and efficient means for terminating the war and securing an honorable peace,

Mr. Clayton remarked, that the memorial was numerous signed by men of both political parties. These petitioners were not men who have any conscientious scruples about engaging in war, when war became necessary; but they spoke merely as patriots—as men having the interests of all American citizens at heart, and prayed that all proper measures might be taken for the purpose of bringing about a speedy and honorable peace. But in the position in which he stood as one of the Senators of the United States, he felt bound to say that he did not see any efficient means of procuring an honorable peace, except by fairly fighting out the war. He should therefore, without any hesitation or reluctance whatever, give his support to all measures which might be proposed by those who ought best to know what was indispensable for carrying on vigorously, and to a successful termination, the existing war. He said nothing now about furnishing the means for purchasing foreign territory, or in any other way aggrandising the country; he spoke simply of the supplies which were necessary for carrying on the war; and, in this respect, he should not be a whit behind his colleagues in supporting the efforts of the Executive. He had heard it stated, and had seen it stated in many of the public prints, that there exists in parts of the country, factions devoted to party interests and hostile to the true interests of the nation, and ready to take part with Mexico in the existing war.—He did not believe a syllable of it. He did not believe there existed any such party. He did not mean to say that there might not be some individuals who entertain such feelings; but if there were any, he had no doubt they were very few.

That there was any such feeling in the great party which was opposed to him in political opinions, or that there were portions of that party prepared to take part with the enemies of the country, he did not believe; and he rejected the supposition even as degrading to American character. Least of all did he believe that the great whig party of the country was ready to espouse the cause of any foreign power at war with this country. He held, and he firmly believed, that although there was a majority of their political opponents at this time taking part in the councils of the nation, yet that the whig party were, and did, constitute at this moment a majority of the people of the country; and that they were capable of lending themselves in aid of a foreign power was impossible. But the charge had been made that such a party existed, and it might be true that those who made the charge desired to bring about that very result; it might be that the wish was the father to the thought; but no such accusation—no such railery or calumny would ever drive the whig party of the nation into hostility with the government of the country in prosecution of a war with a foreign nation. With regard to the means to be employed in the prosecution of the war, those who understood the subject better than he did might devise the means of bringing about a speedy and honorable peace with Mexico; he was not prepared to speak on this subject at present, but would only say generally that he was ready to co-operate with all who could produce measures aiming and calculated, in the view of responsible men, to effect an honorable peace. But in his humble opinion, at present it appeared to be their duty to strengthen the arm of the government by every fair and honorable means in prosecuting the war so far as in their power.

At mass this morning the building was crowded with visitors from the camp, officer and soldier, Protestant and Catholic, realizing for once the equality of man in the temple erected to the worship of his Creator. Here, too, the master and man kneel side by side, murmuring the same prayers, bending their knees upon the same ground, sprinkling themselves with the same holy water, and figuring the same crosses upon their persons.—The attitudes of the females when kneeling, with eyes bent on the images of the Saviour, are strikingly beautiful. Some of their dresses were rich; none wore bonnets, but instead silk shawls or rebosas, or tapalos of various but not gaudy coloring. These were thrown over the head and drawn down closely upon the brow by the hand. What was most remarkable among them, the belles wore bustles of no insignificant size, the first I had seen since I left New Orleans.—The costume of the males is simple and picturesque, partaking of the oriental character. It consists of white shirt and pantaloons, the latter very large and flowing, over which leathern ones are drawn, with the exterior seam open from the knee down. Sandals are the most common protection to the feet, though shoes are also worn.

The weather is extremely disagreeable—the mornings raw, bleak and chilly—the noontime hot and scorching—the evening cold and cheerless. Winter creeps not upon us with the slow and solemn pace which precedes its advent in more northern climes. There is nothing of the mellowness of autumn, the dreary hours which the dim and hazy atmosphere of an Indian summer always creates; no foliage, rich in its green and golden hues, picturing the struggles between the reign of youth and the decrepitude of old age. Nature, indeed, presents the look of life, but it is life-worn and haggard.

The country through which we have passed is a barren wild, immense mountains on every side, with valleys rich only in a thousand varieties of cactus. These plants are frequently seen bursting from the same point, rearing their horrid forms like the hydra from a single stem. Custom cannot "stale their infinite variety." You here find every gradation—all with herbs and needles for the torture and terror of man and beast and creeping things. Yet in the language of fiction, of poetry and ignorance, "this is the land where Nature has done so much and man so little; the land of golden suns and purple skies; the land of the olive and the vine; the land where the sublime and beautiful are contending for the mastery, where the plains are garnished with perpetual verdure and enamelled with flowers of peculiar loveliness, and the mountains are crowned with an eternal diadem of snow." Alas! "the enchantment is due to distance," and language seems but an unmeaning mockery when thus perverted to "point a moral or adorn a tale."

Adjutant General Jones gives the following as the amount of troops, regulars and volunteers, now in service.

ARMY—REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS.

REGULARS.

In the field, officers and men, including general staff, 6,615

Troops at sea, and under orders to join the army, 1,998

Recruits en route for the seat of war, 762

Aggregate regulars in campaign, 8,445

VOLUNTEERS.

In the field, 16,745

At sea, for California, 766

Aggregate volunteers in campaign, 16,514

This makes the total force at that time within a fraction of 25,000. Of these, we learn from the Union, Maj. Gen. Taylor has 18,332 under his command; Gen. Wool, 2,660, and General Kearney, 3,992. Add to these, nine additional regiments recently called into service, it makes the whole amount to more than thirty thousand.

Correspondence of the N. O. Mercury.

GEN. WOOL'S ENCAMPMENT.

PARRAS, (Lat. 25,26.) Mexico, Dec. 7.

After a most fatiguing and distressing march we have reached Parras, one of the most considerable towns in Coahuila, and long celebrated for its superior wines.—We have encamped in a beautiful valley two miles from town. From this point a very comprehensive view of the town is obtained; you trace its narrow and crooked streets, which appear to have been planned without method and built without meaning; you see its flat-roofed buildings, with the long lines of water-gutters projecting from each front, having the appearance of guns from a fortification; you see the hospital, now going as many of its inmates have gone before it; the college, the lesser churches in ruins, and the great cathedral towering above all.

The houses are, with few exceptions, of ADobe, the walls generally plastered & of great thickness. Rude attempts at sculpture are common among the better class of houses; the doors and windows are frequently elaborately carved. There seems to be no particular order of architecture adopted, but the houses have a general resemblance, strength and durability being the ends principally aimed at. Each one is a castle of itself, and capable of being strongly defended. Parapets to the roofs are common, from behind which the most effective fire could be poured upon an enemy, without exposing the person of the defender.

The shops of Parras have been well patronized, and the people, perhaps, have not seen such prosperous times since the Viceroy of Spain rehearsed in their streets the mock heroics of majesty.—Our presence has been to them a jubilee rather than a devastation, and we should be hailed as deliverers rather than be regarded as enemies. The cathedral of Monclova is a building of imposing magnitude, being nearly 100 feet in front, and about 175 feet in depth. The roof is formed by six arches, and supported by massive pillars, elaborately carved into an architectural resemblance of the composite order; a stone wall encloses the front, with several niches, in which crucifixes are placed. The front is plain, the door large and elaborately carved.

At mass this morning the building was crowded with visitors from the camp, officer and soldier, Protestant and Catholic, realizing for once the equality of man in the temple erected to the worship of his Creator. Here, too, the master and man kneel side by side, murmuring the same prayers, bending their knees upon the same ground, sprinkling themselves with the same holy water, and figuring the same crosses upon their persons.—The attitudes of the females when kneeling, with eyes bent on the images of the Saviour, are strikingly beautiful. Some of their dresses were rich; none wore bonnets, but instead silk shawls or rebosas, or tapalos of various but not gaudy coloring. These were thrown over the head and drawn down closely upon the brow by the hand. What was most remarkable among them, the belles wore bustles of no insignificant size, the first I had seen since I left New Orleans.—The costume of the males is simple and picturesque, partaking of the oriental character. It consists of white shirt and pantaloons, the latter very large and flowing, over which leathern ones are drawn, with the exterior seam open from the knee down. Sandals are the most common protection to the feet, though shoes are also worn.

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