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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON THE KANSAS QUESTION.

I have received from General Calhoun, the President of the late Constitutional Convention of Kansas, a copy, duly certified by himself, of the expression of a hope that I would submit with the view of securing the admission of Kansas into the Union as an independent State. In compliance with this request, I herewith transmit to Congress, for its consideration, the Constitution of Kansas, with the ordinance respecting the public lands, as well as the letter of Gen Calhoun, dated December 14th ultimo, by which they were accompanied.

Having received but a single copy of the Constitution and ordinance, I send this to the Senate.

A great delusion seems to pervade the public mind in relation to the condition of Kansas. This arises from the difficulty of inducing the American people to believe the fact that any portion of them would be in a state of rebellion against the Government under which they live. When we speak of affairs in Kansas, we are apt to refer merely to the existence of two violent political parties in that Territory, divided on the question of slavery, just as we speak of the same parties in the States. This presents no adequate idea of the true state of the case. The dividing line there is not between two political parties, both acknowledging the full and perfect existence of the Government, but between those who are loyal to the Government and those who have endeavored to destroy its existence by force and usurpation; between those who sustain and those who have done all in their power to overthrow the Territorial Government established by Congress. This Government they would destroy since have subverted had it not been protected from their assaults by the troops of the United States. Such has been the condition of affairs since my inauguration. Ever since that period a large portion of the people of Kansas have been in a state of rebellion against the Government, with a military leader at their head, of the most turbulent and dangerous character.

They have never acknowledged, but have constantly denounced and defied, the Government to which they owe allegiance, and have been all the time in a state of resistance against its authority. They have all the time been endeavoring to subvert it and establish a revolutionary Government, under the so-called Topeka Constitution in its stead. At this very moment the Topeka Legislature is in session. Whoever reads the correspondence of Gov. Walker with the State Department, recently communicated to the Senate, will be convinced that this picture is not overdrawn. He always protested against the withdrawal of any portion of the military forces of the United States from the Territory, deeming its presence absolutely necessary for the preservation of the regular Government, and the execution of the laws. In his very first speech to the Secretary of State, dated Dec. 2, 1857, he says:

"The most alarming movement, however, proceeds from the assembling of the so-called Topeka Legislature, with the view to the enactment of an entire code of laws. Of course, it will be my endeavor to prevent such a result as would lead to an inevitable, disastrous collision, and, in fact, renew civil war in Kansas." This was with difficulty prevented by the efforts of Gov. Walker, but Gen. Harney was required to proceed to the city of Lawrence; and this, for reason that he had received authentic intelligence, verified by his own actual observation, that a dangerous rebellion had occurred, and the evolution of the laws, and the establishment of an insurgent Government in that Territory."

In the Governor's despatch of July 15th, he informs the Secretary of State "that the movement at Lawrence was the beginning of a plan originating in that city; to organize an insurrection throughout the Territory, and especially in all towns, cities, and counties where the Republicans have a majority. Lawrence is the hot-bed of all the Abolition movements in this Territory. It is the town established by the Abolition societies of the West, and whilst there are respectable people here, it is filled by a considerable number of fanatics who are paid by the Abolition societies to perpetrate and diffuse agitation throughout Kansas, and prevent the peaceful settlement of this question. Having failed in inducing their own—the so-called Topeka State Legislature—to organize this insurrection, Lawrence has commenced it herself, and if not arrested, the rebellion will extend throughout the Territory."

And again: "In order to send this communication immediately by mail I must close warning you that a spirit of rebellion pervades the great mass of the Republicans in this Territory instigated, as I entertain no doubt they are, by Eastern societies, having in view results most disastrous to the Government and the Union and that the continued presence of General Harney is indispensable as originally stipulated by me with a large body of dragoons and several batteries."

On the 20th of July, 1857, General Lane, under the authority of the Topeka Convention, undertook, as General Walker says, "to organize the whole so-called free-State party into volunteers, and take the names of all who refuse enrolment. The professed object was to protect the poles at the election in August of the new insurgent Topeka State Legislature." The object of taking the names of all who refuse the enrolment was to terrify the free State conservatives into submission. This is proved, by the recent atrocities committed on such men by the Topekaites. The speedy location of large bodies of regular troops here with two batteries is necessary. The Lawrence insurgents await the development of this new revolutionary military organization."

In Governor Walker's despatch of July 27th, he says:

"Gen. Lane and his staff everywhere deny

the authority of the Territorial laws, and counsel a total disregard of these enactments. Without making further quotations of similar character from other despatches of Gov. Walker, it appears by a reference to acting Governor Staunton's communication to Secretary Cass, under date of the 9th of December last, that the important step of calling the Legislature together was taken after Governor Walker had become satisfied that the election ordered by the Convention on the 21st inst., could not be conducted without collision or bloodshed. So intense was the disloyal feeling among the enemies of the Government established by Congress, that an election which afforded them an opportunity, if in the majority, of making Kansas a free State, according to their own professed desire, could not be conducted without collision and bloodshed. The truth is that until the present moment the enemies of the existing Government still adhere to their Topeka revolutionary Constitution and Government. The very first paragraph of the message of Governor Robinson, dated 7th of December, to the Topeka Legislature now assembled in Lawrence, contains an open defiance of the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The Governor says: "The Convention which framed the Constitution at Topeka originated with the people of Kansas Territory. They have adopted and ratified the same twice by a direct vote, and also indirectly through two elections of State officers and members of the State Legislature." Yet it has pleased the Administration to regard the whole proceeding as revolutionary." This Topeka Government, adhered to with such treasonable pertinacity, is a Government in direct opposition to the existing Government, as prescribed and recognized by Congress. It is an usurpation of the same character as it would be for a portion of the people of any State to undertake to establish a separate Government within its limits, for the purpose of redressing any grievance, real or imaginary, of which they might complain, against the legitimate State Government. Such a principle, if carried into execution, would destroy all lawful authority and produce universal anarchy.

From this statement of facts, the reason becomes palpable why the enemies of the Government authorized by Congress have refused to vote for delegates to the Kansas Constitutional Convention, and also afterwards on the question of slavery, submitted by it to the people. It is because they have ever refused to sanction or recognize any other Constitution than that framed at Topeka. Had the whole Lecompton Constitution been submitted to the people the adherents of this organization would doubtless have voted against it, because, if successful they would thus have removed an obstacle out of the way of their own revolutionary Constitution. They would have done this not upon consideration of the merits of the whole or part of the Lecompton Constitution but simply because they have ever resisted the Government authorized by Congress, from which it emanated.

Such being the unfortunate condition of affairs of the Territory, what was the right as well as the duty of law-abiding people? Were they silently and patiently to submit to the Topeka usurpation, or adopt some necessary measure to establish a Constitution under the organic law of Congress? That this law recognized the right of the people of the Territory, without the enabling act of Congress, to form a State Constitution, is too clear for argument. For Congress "to leave the people of the Territory perfectly free, in framing their Constitution, 'to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States,' and then to say they shall not be permitted to proceed and frame a Constitution in their own way, without the express authority of Congress, appears to be almost a contradiction of terms. It would be much more plausible that the people of a Territory might be kept out of the Union for an indefinite period, and until it might please Congress to permit them to exercise the right of self-government.

This would be to do it, not their own way, but the way which Congress might prescribe." It is impossible that any people could have proceeded with more regularity in the formation of a Constitution than the people of Kansas have done. It was necessary first, to ascertain whether it was the desire of the people, to be relieved from a Territorial dependence and establish a State Government. For this purpose, the Territorial Legislature, in 1855, passed a law for "taking the sense of the people of this Territory upon the expediency of calling a Convention to form a State Constitution," at the general election to be held in October, 1856. The 'sense of the people' was accordingly taken, and they decided in favor of a Convention. It is true, that at the election the enemies of the Territorial Government did not vote, because they were then engaged at Topeka, without the slightest pretext of lawful authority, in framing a Constitution of their own, for the purpose of subverting the Territorial Government.

In pursuance of the decision of the people in favor of a Convention, the Territorial Legislature, on the 27th of February, 1857, passed an act for the election of delegates on the third Monday of June, 1857, to frame a State Constitution. This law is as fair in its provisions as any that passed a legislative body for a similar purpose. The right of suffrage at this election is clearly and justly defined. "Every bona fide inhabitant of Kansas," on the third Monday of June, the day of the election, who was a citizen of the United States above the age of twenty-one, and had resided therein for three months previous to that date, was entitled to vote. In order to avoid all interference from the neighboring States or Territories with the neighborhood and fairness of the election, a provision was made for the registry of qualified voters, and pursuant thereof, nine thousand and fifty-two voters were registered. Gov. Walker did his whole duty in urging all this qualified citizens of Kansas to vote at this election.

In his inaugural address, on the 27th of May, he informed them that "under our practice the preliminary act of framing a State

Constitution is uniformly performed through the instrumentality of a Convention of delegates chosen by the people themselves; that the Convention is now about to be elected by you, under a call of the Territorial Legislature, created, and still recognised by the authority of Congress and clothed by it, in the comprehensive language of the organic law with full power to make such an enactment. The Territorial Legislature then in assembling this Convention, were fully sustained by the act of Congress, and the authority of the Convention is distinctly recognised in my instructions from the President of the United States."

The Governor also clearly and distinctly warns them what would be the consequences if they did not participate in the elections. "The people of Kansas," then he says, "are invited by the highest authority known to the Constitution to participate freely and fairly in the election of delegates to frame a Constitution and State Government. The law has performed its entire and appropriate function when it extends to the people the right of suffrage, but it cannot compel the performance of that duty throughout the whole Union, however, and wherever free government prevails, those who abstain from the exercise of the right of suffrage authorize those who do vote to act for them in that contingency, and absentees are as much bound, by the law and Constitution, where there is no fraud or violence, by the act of the majority of those who do vote, as if all had participated in the election. Otherwise, as voting must be voluntary, self-government would be impracticable, and monarchy or despotism would remain the only alternative."

It may also be observed at this period, any hope, if such had existed, that the Topeka Constitution would ever be recognised by Congress, must have been abandoned. Congress had adjourned on the 3d of March previous, having recognised the legal existence of the Territorial Legislature in a variety of forms, which I need not enumerate. Indeed, the delegate elected to the House of Representatives, under a Territorial law, had been admitted to his seat, and had first completed his term of service the day previous to my inauguration. This was a propitious moment for settling all the difficulties in Kansas. This was the time for abandoning the revolutionary Topeka organization, and for the enemies of the existing Government to conform to the laws and unite with its friends in framing a State Constitution. But they refused to do, and the consequences of their refusal to submit to lawful authority, and vote at the election of delegates, may yet prove to be of the most deplorable character. Would that the respect for the laws of the land, which so eminently distinguished the men of the past generation, could be revived. It is a disregard and violation of the law which have for years kept the Territory of Kansas in a state of almost open rebellion against the Government; it is the same spirit which has produced actual rebellion in Utah. Our only safety consists in obedience and conformity to the law. Should a general spirit against its enforcement prevail, this will prove fatal to us as a nation. We acknowledge no master but the law; and should we cut loose from its restraints, and every one do what seemeth good in their own eyes, our case is indeed hopeless.

The enemies of the Territorial Government are determined still to resist the authority of Congress. They refused to vote for delegates to the Convention, not because, from circumstances which need not detail, there was an omission to register comparatively few voters who were inhabitants of certain counties in Kansas, in the early spring of 1857, but because they had predetermined, at all hazards, to adhere to their revolutionary organization, and defeat the establishment of any other Constitution than that which they had framed at Topeka; the election, therefore, was suffered to pass in default. But of this result the qualified electors who refused to vote can never justly complain.

From this review, it is manifest that the Lecompton Convention, according to every principle of constitutional law, was legally constituted and invested with the power to frame a Constitution.

The sacred principle of popular sovereignty has been invoked in favor of the enemies of law and order in Kansas. But in what manner is popular sovereignty to be exercised in this country, if not through the instrumentality of established laws. In certain small Republics of ancient times people did assemble in primary meetings, passed laws, and directed public affairs. In our country this is manifestly impossible. Popular sovereignty can be exercised here only through the ballot-box, and if people will refuse to exercise it in this manner, as they have done in Kansas at the election of delegates, it is not for them to complain that their rights have been violated.

The Kansas Convention, thus lawfully constituted, proceeded to frame a Constitution, and, having completed the work finally adjourned on the 7th of November last. They did not think proper to submit the whole of this Constitution to the popular vote, but did submit the question whether Kansas should be a free or a slave State to the people. This was the question which had convulsed the Union and shaken its very centre.

This was the question that had lighted the flames of civil war in Kansas, and produced dangerous sectional parties throughout the Confederacy. It was of a character so paramount, in respect to the condition of Kansas as to rivet the anxious attention of the people of the whole country upon it alone. No person thought of any other question. For my own part, when I instructed Gov. Walker in general terms, in favor of submitting the Constitution to the people, I had no object in view, except the all-absorbing question of slavery. In what manner the people might regulate their own concerns was not the subject which attracted any attention. In fact the general provisions of the recent State Constitutions, after an experience of eighty years, are so similar and excellent, that it would be difficult to go so far wrong, at the present day, in framing a new Constitution.

I then believed and still believe, that under the organic act the Kansas Convention

were bound to submit this all-important question of slavery to the people. It was never, however, my opinion that independently of this act, they would have been bound to submit any portion of the Constitution to the popular vote in order to give it validity. Had I entertained such an opinion, this would have been in opposition to many precedents in our history, commencing in the very best age of the Republic. It would have been in opposition to the principle which pervades our institutions, and is every day carried into practice, that the people have the right to delegate to representatives chosen by themselves, their sovereign power to frame Constitutions, enact laws, and perform any other important acts, without requiring that these should be subjected to their subsequent approbation.

It would be a most inconvenient limitation of their own power, imposed by the people upon themselves, to exclude them from exercising their sovereignty, in any lawful manner they may think proper. It is true the people of Kansas might, if they had pleased, have required the Convention to submit the Constitution to a popular vote, but this they have not done. The only remedy, therefore, in this case, is that which exists in all other similar cases. If the delegates who framed the Kansas Constitution have, in any manner, violated the will of their constituents, the people always possess the power to change their Constitution or laws, according to their own pleasure.

The question of slavery was submitted to the election of the people of Kansas on the 21st of December last, in obedience to the mandate of the Constitution. Here, again, a fair opportunity was presented to the adherents of the Topeka Constitution, if they were in the majority, to decide this exciting question, 'in their own way,' and thus restore peace to the distracted Territory. But they again refused the right of popular sovereignty, and again suffered the election to pass in default.

I heartily rejoice that a wiser and better spirit prevailed among a large majority of these people on the first Monday of January, and that they did that day vote under the Lecompton Constitution, for Governor and other State officers, member of Congress, and members of the Legislature. This election was warmly contested by parties, and a larger vote was polled than at any previous election in the Territory. We may now reasonably hope that the revolutionary Topeka organization may be speedily and finally abandoned, and this will go far towards the final settlement of the unhappy differences in Kansas. If frauds have been committed at this election, by one or both parties, the Legislature and the people of Kansas, under their Constitution, know how to redress themselves, and punish these detestable, but too common crimes, without outside interference.

The people of Kansas have, then, "in their own way," and in strict accordance with the organic act, framed a Constitution and State Government, have submitted the all-important question of slavery to the people, and have elected a governor, member of Congress, members of the State Legislature, and other State officers. They now ask for admission into the Union, under this Constitution, which is republican in its form. It is for Congress to decide whether they will admit or reject the State which has thus been admitted. For my own part, I am decidedly in favor of its admission, and thus terminating the Kansas question. This will carry out the great principle of non-intervention recognized and sanctioned by the organic act which declares, in express language, in favor of the "non-intervention of Congress with slavery in the States and Territories," leaving "the people perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States." In this manner, by localizing the question of slavery, and confining it to the people who are immediately concerned, every patriot expected this question to be banished from the halls of Congress, where it has always exerted a baleful influence through out the country.

It is proper that I should refer to the election held under the act of the Territorial Legislature, on the first Monday in January, on the Lecompton Constitution. This election, held after the Territory had been prepared for admission into the Union as a sovereign State, and when no authority existed in the Territorial Legislature which could possibly destroy its existence, or change its character, the election, which was peacefully conducted under my instructions, involved a strange inconsistency. A large majority of the persons who voted against the Lecompton Constitution were at the same time and place recognizing its valid existence in the most solemn and authentic manner, by voting under its provisions. I have, as yet, received no official information of the result of this election.

As a question of expediency, after the right has been maintained, it may be wise to reflect upon the benefits to Kansas and the whole Union which would result from its immediate admission into the Union, as well as the disaster which may follow its rejection. Domestic peace will be the happy consequence of its admission, and that fine Territory, hitherto torn by dissensions, will rapidly increase in population and wealth, and realize the blessings and comfort which follow agricultural and mechanical industry. The people then will be sovereign and can regulate their own affairs in their own way. If the majority of them desire to abolish domestic slavery within the State, there is no other possible mode by which it can be effected so speedily as by its prompt admission. The will of the majority is supreme and irresistible, when expressed orderly and in a lawful manner. It can unmake Constitutions at pleasure. It would be absurd to say they can impose fetters upon their own power which they cannot afterwards remove. If they could do this, they might tie their own hands for a hundred as well as for ten years. These are the fundamental principles of American freedom, and recognized in some form by every State Constitution; and if Congress, in the act of admission, should think proper to recognize them, I can perceive no objection. This has been done

explicitly in the Constitution of Kansas. It declares, in the bill of rights, that "all political power is inherent in the people, and all free Governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their benefit, and therefore they have at all times the inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish their form of Government, in such manner as they may think proper." The great State of New York is at this moment governed under a Constitution framed in direct opposition to the mode prescribed by the previous Constitution. If, therefore, the provision changing the Kansas Constitution, after 1864, could by any possibility be construed into the prohibition to make such change previous to the period of prohibition it would be wholly unavailing. The Legislature already elected, may at its first session submit the question to a vote of the people, whether they will or not have a Convention to amend their Constitution, and adopt all necessary means for giving effect to the popular will.

It has been solemnly adjudged by the highest judicial tribunal that slavery exists in Kansas by virtue of the Constitution of the United States. Kansas is therefore at this moment as much a slave State as Georgia or South Carolina. Without this, the equality of the sovereign States composing the Union would be violated, and the use and enjoyment of territory acquired by the common treasure of all the States would be closed against the people and property of nearly half the members of the Confederacy. Slavery can, therefore, never be prohibited in Kansas except by means of a constitutional provision, and in no other manner can this be obtained so promptly, if the majority of the people desire it, as by admitting it into the Union under the present Constitution.

On the other hand, should Congress reject the Constitution, under the idea of affording the disaffected in Kansas a third opportunity to prohibit slavery in a State which they might have done twice before, if in the majority, no man can foretell the consequences. If Congress, for the sake of those men who refused to vote for delegates to the Convention, when they might have excluded slavery from the Constitution, and who afterwards refused to vote on the 21st of December, when they might, by their claim, have stricken slavery from the Constitution, it is manifest that the agitation upon this important subject will be renewed in a more alarming form than it has ever assumed.

Every patriot in the country had indulged the hope that the Kansas-Nebraska act would put a final end to the slavery agitation, at least in Congress which had for more than twenty years convulsed the country and endangered the Union. This act involved great and fundamental principles, and if fairly carried into effect, will settle the question. Should the agitation be again revived, should the people of the sister States be again estranged from each other with more than their former bitterness, this will arise from a cause, so far as the interests of Kansas are concerned, more trifling and insignificant than has ever stirred the elements of a great people into commotion.

To the people of Kansas, the only practical difference between the admission or rejection depends simply upon the fact, whether they can themselves more speedily change the present Constitution, if it does not accord with the will of the majority, or frame a second Constitution, to be submitted to Congress hereafter. Even if this were a question of mere expediency and not of right the small differences of time, one way or the other, is not of the least importance when contrasted with the evils which must necessarily result to the whole country, from the revival of the slavery agitation. If considering this question, it should never be forgotten, that in proportion to its insignificance let the decision be what it may, so far as may affect the few thousand inhabitants of Kansas, who have from the beginning resisted the Constitution and the laws, for this very reason the rejection of the Constitution will be so much more keenly felt by the people of fourteen States of the Union where slavery is recognized under the Constitution of the United States.

Again: the speedy admission Kansas into the Union would restore peace and quiet to the whole country. Already the affairs of the Territory have engrossed an undue proportion of the public attention, have sadly affected the friendly relations of the people with each other, and alarmed the ears of patriots for the safety of the Union. Kansas admitted, the excitement becomes localized, and will soon die away for want of outlet; and then every difficulty will be settled at the ballot-box. Besides—and this is no trifling consideration—I shall then be enabled to withdraw the troops from Kansas and employ their service where they are much needed. They have been kept there on the earnest importunity of Gov. Walker to maintain the existence of the Territorial Government, and secure the execution of the laws. He considered at least two thousand troops under the command of Gen. Harney necessary.

Acting upon his reliable information, I have been obliged in some degree to interfere with the expedition to Utah, in order to keep down the rebellion in Kansas, which has involved a very heavy expense to the Government. Kansas once admitted, it is believed there will no longer be any occasion there for the troops of the United States.

I have thus performed my duty on this important question under a deep sense of my responsibility to God and to my country. My public life will terminate within a brief period, and I have no other object of earthly ambition than to leave my country in a peaceful, prosperous condition, and live in the affections and respect of my countrymen. The dark and ominous clouds now impending over the Union, I conscientiously believe, will be dissipated with honor to every portion of it by the admission of Kansas during the present session of Congress, whereas, if it should be rejected, I greatly fear that these clouds will become more ominous than any that have ever yet threatened the Constitution and the Union.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

EARTHQUAKE AT NAPLES.

The correspondent of the London Times, under date of January 2, says:

I proceed to give further details from the provinces regarding the all absorbing subject of the earthquake. The official Journal of Wednesday night enumerates sixty-one other places which had suffered in their buildings, and many in their population. Under the name of each place is given a description of the disaster, and this last report alone gives the number of several—say 4,000 or 5,000 additional known to have suffered. Then are described the other casualties—people maimed, crushed, others drawn out alive after a fearful sepulture of eight days, reminding us of how many more might have been saved, had proper exertions been made. The latest accounts, too, awaken considerable apprehensions of further disaster. The whole district of Sala is agitated by continual movements of the earth, stronger by night than by day, and these are preceded by fearful detonations. Moreover, about 9 o'clock, p. m. of the 28th ult., and 6 and 7 p. m. of the 29th ult., three strong shocks, lasting ten or twelve seconds, were felt, followed by others less intense.

In Potenza, too, on the evening of the 29th, about a quarter to 7 p. m., a strong undulatory shock was felt, and other light ones during the night. No injury was done, but the population all rushed out into some open space.

Here in Naples it is said that since the 16th ult., we have had, up to Christmas eve, 49 shocks, and may readily be believed. Almost every one finds some trace of them in his house; the shocks, too, which were felt in Potenza on the evening of the 29th, were felt in Naples, and in some cases, created great alarm. However, every one looks to Vesuvius for safety, and on that night it was in violent movement. People who reside at Resina tell me that during the whole night the shocks from the mountains were of a most violent and continuous character. Every three minutes it appeared as if a desperate man were trying to wrench open the doors and windows.—Nothing, however, took place. I have also reports to give you from private persons who have visited the scene of ruin. They describe the country in many places as crossed with fissures, which, at first had been very wide, but now had much closed. During the whole time of their visit the ground was heaving beneath them. There was universal panic and grief, and no light part of it arose from the fact that there was no one to search beneath the ruins or to bury the dead. I speak of the 21st and 22d ult.—that is to say, of six days after the date of the disaster. Letters from Brienza of the 31st ult., say that no relief had been as yet received. My informants, in wandering through Polla, could get no food, and even bread was wanting in many places. Those who were dug out alive—some after six or eight days of living burial—awoke to famine death. The details which I receive are more horrible than can be easily conceived.

Since writing the above, other and more afflicting details have arrived of the desolation occasioned by the earthquake. Lauruzana, Tito, Brienza, Marsicanuovo have almost entirely disappeared. The King himself says that upwards of 15,000 have perished, and from what I heard, says my very sensible informant, the real number must be nearly double. People who have come from the spot report that the groans of the sufferers were heard from beneath the ruins several days after the disaster, and that, horrible to relate, on some bodies being taken out, it was found that they had devoured a portion of their arms. There were none to aid them, none to extricate the dying, none to bury the dead, none to give bread to the famishing. Thousands of soldiers are maintained at the expense of the State to support 'order,' but they could not be sent to save thousands from perishing. Many steamers were lying in harbor, the expensive toys of the sovereign, but with one or two tardy exceptions, they have remained snug in port. People cannot refrain from comparing the tardiness displayed on the present melancholy occasion with the promptitude displayed in the month of June last, when rebels landed in Sapri.

Murder of a Husband to Obtain a Wife.

—A German named Schroeder, residing at New Orleans, who had been missing several days, was recently found murdered on the bank of a canal in Jefferson Parish.—The body was found lying face down, with a gunshot wound in the back, and the ground around was scratched and clawed up, evidently by the deceased, whilst trying to rise in his dying struggles. When he left home, he had a gold watch, a breast-pin and a considerable sum of money, all of which had been taken from his person by the murderer. A German barber, named R. Nolte, with whom Schroeder and his wife boarded, was arrested as the perpetrator. It appeared that for some time past, Nolte had been endeavoring to induce Mrs. Schroeder to leave her husband and run away with him, and there is little doubt that he had murdered the husband in order to remove the chief obstacle to his design. The money and jewelry taken from the murdered man were found in the possession of the accused.

Overcome evil with good.