THE LANCASTER DAILY INTELLIGENCER, WEDNESDAY MORNING JANUARY 26, 1870.

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THE LANCASTER INTELLIGENCER.

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Poetry.

PRETTY LINES.

The Louisville *Journal* says, "We defy the tasteful lover of poetry to read the following lines, without exclaiming, 'How Beautiful!'"

My soul this sacred hangle keeps,
My midnight dreamsare all of thee;
Or natural loveliness sweet
And silence broods o'er land and sea;
Oh, in that still mysterious hour
How oft from waking dreams I start,
To find thee but a lonely flower,
Thou delighted Moll Bell's heart!
Thus hast thou ever thought and dream of mine,
Have I in turn one thought of thine?
No!
For ever thine my dreams will be,
Whate'er may be my fortune here,
I feel no love—I think from thee;
Only one boon, a gentle tear;
May blessed visions from above
Play brightly round thy happy heart,
And may the beams of peace and love
Ne'er from thy jewelled breast depart.
Farewell! all dreams were still with thee!
Hast thou one tender thought of me?

My joys like summer birds may fly,
My hopes like summer blooms depart;
But there's one flower that bloom'st nigh,
Thy holy memory in my heart:
No dews that one flower's cup may fill,
No sunlight to its leaves be given,
But it still live and flourish still,
As deathless as a thing of Heaven:
My soul greets thine, unmasked, unsought,
Hast thou for me one gentle thought?

Farewell! farewell! my far-off friend!
Between us broad, blue rivers flow,
And forests wave and plains extend,
And mountains in the sunlight glow:
The wind that breathes upon thy brow,
Is not the wind that breathes on mine,
The stars beams shining on thee now
Are not the same that on me shine.
But memory's spell is with me yet—
Can't thou the holy part forget?

The bitter tears that thou and I
May shed whenever by anguish bowed,
Exalted into the mountain sky,
May meet and mingle in the cloud;
And thus, my much loved friend, though far,
Far, far apart must live and move,
Our souls, where God hath set them free,
Can mingle in the world of love.
This were an century to me—
Say—would it be a joy to you?

THE BEAUTIFUL GATE.

I have read and dreamed of a beautiful gate,
Moving on hinges of purest gold,
On the other side of the River of Death,
Where waters are dark, and dreary, and cold.

Many have reached that deep, dark stream,
On life's quiet brink to watch and wait,
For the messenger pale, to bear them across
Its waveless tide to the Golden Gate.

The first one that left our household band
Was one who had eyes of deepest blue,
With a brow as fair as the pale spring flower,
And a heart as pure as the morning dew.

Long she lay on a bed of pain,
Weary-eyed, she would listen and wait,
My angel sister, where is she now?
She has entered in at the Golden Gate.

An angel came, and within her arms
He bore her away to her home above;
I caught the gleam of a glittering band,
And heard sweet words from a hymn of love.

But the angel guest soon came again,
And another one left our broken band—
Another one passed through the Golden Gate
Into the beautiful shining Land.

Mother, oh! mother, I cried in my grief,
How long on earth must I weep and wait?
"Till it pleaseth God," a voice replied,
To call thee home through the Golden Gate.

Thus one by one they all passed away,
While I am left, lonely and desolate
How I long for the Angel of Death to come
And bear me too through the Golden Gate.

In fancy I see my mother's face,
And my gentle sister's violet eyes;
And the brother left me, I see them too,
Looking down at me from the azure skies.

When the slanting rays of the setting sun
A glory of molten gold create,
A child's soft whisper reaches my ear:—
"We are waiting for thee, at the Golden Gate."

When the sun moves south in the autumn sky,
And the leaves their branches all forsake,
I know that I like them will die,
And pass to my rest through the Golden Gate.

Miscellaneous.

The Site of the National Capitol.

Old residents of Washington, when spoken to about the effort making to remove the Seat of Government, say, "Oh, that is nothing; we are used to it; we have heard that all our lives." A review of the struggle does show that it dates back to the foundation of the city. Its phases are, moreover, full of interest as real history, and from them the glimpses which they give of the character and anticipations of our forefathers.

In the Convention which framed the present Constitution of the United States, at Philadelphia, on Wednesday, 5th September, 1787, Mr. Briarly, from the committee of eleven, made a report a part of which reads as follows;

"4. Immediately after the last clause of Section 1, Article 7, insert, 'To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such district not exceeding ten miles square, as may, by cession of particular States, and the acceptance of the Legislature, become the seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards and other needful buildings.'"

The foregoing quotation is from the notes of Mr. Madison, who states further: "So much of the fourth clause as related to the seat of Government was recited, new, and, without one contradicting, or without debate. It accordingly became part of the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, and is all which that instrument contains upon the subject. Hence in this shape it passed to the first Congress, which met at New York city, on the 4th of March, 1789.

The Legislatures of Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, which States comprised the entire area within which it was thought the Capital could be located, had each meanwhile passed laws transferring to the United States exclusive jurisdiction over any district within their respective States which Congress might choose for the seat of Government.

On the 3d of September, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Scott, of Pennsylvania, moved:

"That a permanent residence ought, to be fixed for the General Government of the United States at some convenient place, as near as the centre of wealth, population, and extent of territory as may be consistent with convenience to the navigation of the Atlantic Ocean, and having due regard to the particular situation of the Western country."

The House at once went into Committee of the Whole upon this motion. Mr. Goodhue, of Massachusetts, introduced the following:

"*Resolved*, That the permanent seat of the General Government ought to be in some convenient place on the east bank of the river Susquehanna, in the State of Pennsylvania; and that until the necessary buildings be erected for the purpose, the seat of Government ought to continue at the city of New York."

Mr. Lee, of Virginia, introduced the following:

"*Resolved*, That a place, as nearly central as a convenient communication with the Atlantic Ocean, and an easy access to the Western territory will permit, ought to be selected and established as the permanent seat of the Government of the United States."

This "place is nearly central" meant upon the Banks of the Potomac; and it was so understood, and piloted against the former proposition for the Susquehanna. The Eastern members of the House were geared on the Susquehanna; the Southern members were agreed on the Potomac. The two localities were rivals for the second choice of the remaining members, whose first choice would perhaps have been for Philadelphia. The debate was vigorous and interesting.

Mr. Sedgwick, of Massachusetts, declared, "It is the opinion of all the Eastern States that the climate of the Potomac is not only unhealthy, but destructive to Northern constitutions." He thought "the centre and influence of government ought to incline to Northern interests and a poor soil, because such parts are the nurseries of soldiers and sailors, and the sources of that energy which is the best security of the Government."

Mr. Wadsworth, of Connecticut, "did not dare to go to the Potomac. He feared that the whole of New England would consider the Union as destroyed."

Mr. Ames, of Massachusetts, said: "The Susquehanna is the centre of common convenience——West of the Ohio is almost an unmeasurable wilderness. Gentlemen will pardon me if I think it perfectly romantic to make this decision depend upon that circumstance——It would give me no uneasiness to think that a hundred years hence it would be liable to be removed."

Mr. Vining, of Delaware, said: "I declare that I look on the Western territory from an awful and striking point of view. To that region the unpolished sons of the earth are flowing from all quarters; men to whom the protection of the laws and the controlling force of the Government are equally necessary. From this great consideration, I conclude that the banks of the Potomac is the proper station."

Mr. Stone, of Maryland, said: "Now the Potomac, as I am informed, connects with the Youghiogeny, a river less rapid than the Allegheny, and it itself communicates with the rivers of Ohio; that case the Potomac will be the highway for such vast quantities of wealth as to give it exceeding importance. It may be the more necessary as we may hate to keep the boundary line distinct between the Spanards and savages."

Mr. Lee, of Virginia, said: "I shouldn't be afraid that the Northern States did consult their partial interests, and form combinations to oppress them, the faith of all south of the Potomac would be shaken."

"Mr. Madison, of Virginia, said, "I a prophet had risen in that body, the Convention, of Virginia, and brought the declarations and proceedings of this day into view, I am firmly believe Virginia might not have been a part of the Union at this moment."

"Mr. Scott, of Pennsylvania, said: "If it were possible to promulgate our laws by some instantaneous process, it would be of less consequence where the Government might be placed."

Mr. Clymer, of Pennsylvania, said: "There was a communication by the Juniata, with around actually laid out of about forty miles; hence you descend the Kiskiminetas to the Alleghany, and thence to Pittsburg, is thirty miles."

Mr. Lee moved to strike out "the east bank of the river Susquehanna," and insert "the north bank of the river Potomac," which was lost; and after several days' controversy, and numerous attempts to change its tenor, the original resolution was finally passed the House by a vote of 31 to 17, and was so sent to the Senate.

On the 26th of September the bill came back from the Senate, where it had been, without recorded debate, amended to read: "A district of ten miles square, bounded on the South by a line running parallel at one mile's distance from the city of Philadelphia."

Thereon a good deal of wrath was expended in the House, which refused to concur in the amendment; and the matter dropped for the session. The action of the Senate was determined, after a the vote in that body, by the casting vote of the Vice President, Mr. Adams, but for whom the Capitol of the United States would now stand "on the banks of the Delaware," probably at Wrightsville, in York county, opposite Columbia.

On the 31st of May, 1790, a bill was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Butler, of South Carolina, "to determine the permanent seat of Congress and of the Government of the United States." The bill passed the Senate on the 1st of July, providing "that a district on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern Branch and Conococheague, be and the same is hereby accepted for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States." This was by a vote of 14 to 12, and, as before, without recorded debate. The bill further provided that the temporary seat of Government should be at Philadelphia until the year 1800, buildings meanwhile to be prepared on the Potomac. Efforts were made to keep it at New York till 1800, till 1794, till 1792, but all without avail.

The President was also directed to appoint commissioners, who, under his direction, should survey and purchase lands within the District for the capital, and provide the necessary buildings. He was also, for defraying the expense of "such purchases and buildings," "authorized and requested to accept grants of money."

The acceptance referred to in the bill related not only to the phraseology of the Constitution, but also to the act of cession by the Legislature of the State of Maryland. The Maryland Legislature also granted $72,000, and the Virginia Legislature $120,000, in pursuance of the suggestion contained in the bill. So the bill went to the House.

Mr. Sherman, of Connecticut, at once moved to strike out the Potomac and insert "a district to include the town of Baltimore."

Mr. Burke, of South Carolina, preferred Baltimore. "There was no political necessity for removing from New York or Philadelphia. The measure would excite the most turbulent passions in the minds of the citizens of New York." He spoke in handsome terms of the State of Pennsylvania. "He had as high an opinion of the people of that State as any man whatever; but he was afraid of their influence. A Quaker State was a bad neighborhood for the South Carolinians."

Mr. Lawrence, of New York, "adverted to the *funding business*, and very strongly intimated that these and other important matters which remain to be decided on were to be determined according to the fate of this bill."

Mr. Madison, of Virginia, said: "It is not in our power to guard against a repeal. Our acts are not, like those of the Medes and Persians, unalterable. A repeal is a thing against which no provision can be made. I am not under apprehensions of repeal; but if danger of repeal does exist, it is of that kind against which we can not guard."

Mr. Gerry, of Connecticut, said: "It appears pretty evident the advocates of the bill are sure of a majority; it is very evident that it has had a very pernicious influence on the great business of funding the public debt." He ridiculed the idea of fixing the Government at Connecochegue, "where it is now). "He did not think there was any serious intention of ever going to that Indian place. He considered the whole business as a mere manœuvre."

Mr. Hartley defended the Quakers, "remarkable for their moral laws, for the mildness of their manners, and their benevolence. Nay, should the gentleman go to Philadelphia, he will find that these people will treat him as well as any other society."

Mr. Page, of Virginia, with primitive credulity, remarked: "There is not a city in the world in which I would sooner trust myself and Congress than in New York; for it is superior to any place I know for the orderly and decent behavior of its inhabitants."

Mr. Gerry, of Connecticut, continued: "That taking so southern a situation [*i. e.*, as the Potomac] would amount to a disqualification of many of the Northern members, who would forego their election rather than attend the National Legislature on that river."

But the "determined majority" of which he spoke had their way nevertheless; and on the 16th of July, 1790, by a vote of 32 to 29, the bill became a law. Whence the majority came from is a curious piece of semi-private history.

The references to the "Assumption Bill" are full of meaning. In the compilation of Hamilton's writings it is stated that, "it being ascertained that in a certain contingency there was a majority in favor of this Assumption in the other House, a bill finally passed the Senate providing that the seat of Government should remain at Philadelphia until the year 1800; and that it should be permanently established, after that time, near the Potomac—a decision in which regard to the personal wishes of Washington had weight."

This may be true, but not such weight as the "contingency," however. Mr. Monroe wrote from Virginia to Mr. Madison: "The Assumption will be disliked here under any shape it can assume. I believe, however, a satisfactory adjustment of the other business [the Potomac] would make this [the Assumption] more palatable here." But for a full explanation we must hear Mr. Jefferson.

"This game was over, and another was on the carpet at the moment of my arrival [from France to become Secretary of State]; and to this I was most ignorantly and innocently made to hold the candle. This fiscal measure was known by the name of the Assumption. Independently of the debts of Congress the States had, during the war, contracted separate and heavy debts. This money, whether wisely or foolishly spent, was pretended to have been spent for general purposes, and ought therefore to be paid from the general purse. This measure produced the most bitter and angry contest ever known in Congress before or since the Union of the States. I arrived in the midst of it. But, a stranger to the ground, a stranger to the actors in it—so long absent as to have lost all familiarity with the subject, and as yet unaware of its object—I took no concern in it. The great and trying question, however, was lost in the House of Representatives.—So high were the feuds excited by this subject that on its rejection business was suspended. Congress met and adjourned from day to day without doing any thing, the parties being too much out of temper to do business together. The Eastern members particularly, who, with Smith of South Carolina, were the principal gamblers in these scenes, threatened a secession and dissolution. Hamilton was in despair. As I was going to the President one day I met him in the street, he walked with me, and communicated his fears. We turned and walked back to his house, he took for his dinner, and I went to the President. The President was in great agitation, for he had just received a letter from Hamilton, stating the critical state of the business, and that it was in my hand he had placed the only remedy. I was ignorant of all this, and had not even heard of the dinner at Hamilton's house, which, I believe, was the first meeting between the two men after a long intermission of social intercourse. The President asked me what was the news? I knew none, but what I had just learned from Hamilton. He then opened the subject, and I, of course, became a party in it. We agreed that it was a case for the exercise of the dispensing power, and that the President should call a few friends to his house that evening to consult on the measure. The President accordingly invited Mr. Adams, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Madison, who came to his house that evening, and we laid the foundation of the measure which was afterwards adopted. The President undertook to sound the members, and to work them into a majority. This was done by the agency of Robert Morris with those of the Middle States, effected his side of the engagement." So "twenty millions of stock were divided among favored States," and the Capital went to the Potomac.

The above is from Jefferson's diary. Later, in the letter to Washington, he adds: "I was duped by the Secretary of the Treasury, and made a tool for forwarding his schemes; and of all the errors of my political life, this has occasioned me the deepest regret."

A later hay, at Washington's suggestion, so changed the boundaries as to include a portion of Virginia with the town of Alexandria.

How far Washington had engaged in this contest does not appear, although the project was at the time denominated by his "hobby-horse." It it said the spot attracted him during his early life while surveying, and that he afterward encamped there during Braddock's campaign against the Indians. It is certain that he entered on the work with vigor, and that no one was more busy for the preservation of the liberty and happiness of the country, unite in sincere and fervent prayers that this deposit, and the walls and arches, the domes and towers, the columns and entablatures, now to be erected over it, may endure forever. God save the United States of America!"

The comfortable quarters and good living which Philadelphia afforded where not altogether sufficient to reconcile without severe discontent. On the 4th of July, the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Wolcott, gives his impressions in a letter to his wife:

"The Capitol is situated on an eminence, which I should suppose was near the centre of the city, and commands a view of the surrounding country. The lots are laid off into lots, and sale is made of these lots, which by this agreement becomes public property. Nothing is to be allowed for the ground which may be occupied as streets and alleys. To these considerations all the principal landholders have agreed, and it is not doubted that the few who were not present will readily come into the measure, even the obstinate Mr. Burns."

The refractory personage last mentioned was appealed to by Washington, explaining to him the advantage he was resisting; to all which he replied: "I suppose you think people here are going to take every grist that comes from you as pure grain; but what would you have been if you hadn't married the widow Custis?"

The Father of his Country had no more to say. But the Maryland Legislature was in turn too much for Mr. Burns. The laws of Maryland were to have force within the District until Congress otherwise provided, so they went on to enact, that "whereas some of the proprietors of lots, as well as some of the proprietors of lands, have not, from imbecility and other causes, come into any [the above] agreement concerning their lands, therefore," the Commissioners were by law vested with the title to their lands on the same terms with the rest.

It does not appear that at this time Washington knew that the city would be called by his name. A few months latter the Commissioners, Johnson, Stuart, and Carroll, wrote to Major L'Ehfant, the French engineer who had been employed to lay out the city:

"GEORGETOWN, September 17, 1791.

"SIR,—We have agreed that the Federal District shall be called 'The Territory of Columbia,' and the Federal City 'The City of Washington;' the title of the map will therefore be, 'A Map of the City of Washington, in the Territory of Columbia.'"

In 1792 Washington writes: "It is with pleasure I add, as my opinion, that the roots of the permanent city are penetrating deep, and spreading far and wide. The Eastern States are not only getting more and more reconciled to the measure, but are beginning to view it in a more advantageous light, as it regards their policy and interests." In 1793 he writes: "The Federal City, in the year 1800, will become the seat of the General Government of the United States. It is increasing fast in buildings, and rising into consequence; and will, I have no doubt, from the advantages given it by nature, and its proximity to a rich interior country and the Western territory, become the emporium of the United States."

Mention was made in the Senate of "fifteen years since the Government removed here, during the first six years of which period there prevailed, not only in this country, but all over Europe, a degree of enthusiasm bordering upon madness respecting the future destines of this metropolis."

Difficulties, however, attended the whole undertaking, and calamitous disaster overtook it. The French engineer, L'Enfant, was found to be as touchy as he was thought to be talented, and was proportionately troublesome. At the first sale of lots the rumor was industriously spread that Congress never would remove to the Potomac, but would remain at Philadelphia. In 1792 Washington wrote to the Commissioners, that unless great activity prevailed, their whole previous labor might be lost.—Later he was obliged to make residence on the spot a *sine qua non* with the Commissioners. The want of money was severely felt. The $200,000 subscribed by Virginia and Maryland was all expended. In 1796 Congress authorized and guaranteed a loan by the Commissioners of $300,000, but the money was not to be paid. The State of Maryland at Washington's personal request, took two-thirds of it; but required the Commissioners to add their individual guarantee to that of the States. The Commissioners had to borrow money at six per cent. discount, and to pledge the City Lots, which had cost $100,000, and to which the State of Maryland lent $50,000. As a result of all these efforts, however, the public buildings made fair progress.

The private owners that met fare so liberally of their scores of thousands of lots, which the lands of Maryland presented, as necessary that took place on the New Jersey side of the Potomac, and in the addition of Senators from Connecticut, and Chipman, and Paine, of Vermont, and Representatives Thomas, of Maryland, and Dana, Edmond, and Griswold, of Connecticut, were taken and allowed seven children to himself; the rest of us in peace. To my excellent friend Davenport and myself was allowed a meeting and decently furnished apartment, with separate beds, on the lower floor. Our diet was various, but always substantial, and we were attended by active and faithful servants. A large proportion of Southern members took lodgings in Georgetown, which, though of a superior order, were three miles distant from the Capitol, and of course rendered the daily employment of hackney coaches indispensable.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable aspect which Washington presented on our arrival, I can not sufficiently express my admiration of its local position.—Whenever, during the six years of my connection with Congress, the question of removing the seat of Government to some other place was agitated—and the proposition was frequently made—I stood almost alone as a Northern man in giving my vote in the negative."

The death of Washington, in 1799, spared him a knowledge of this dissent. He had anticipated its direction if it should at any time exist. Perhaps his death also had checked the preparations. His memory may have also checked the agitation for removal, but in 1802 it was openly renewed by a bill for the temporary removal of the Government to Baltimore, which Mr. Wright, of Maryland, introduced in the Senate, avowedly as a spur to the inhabitants of Washington, and Mr. Jackson, of Georgia, denounced as a "bill to frighten the women and children" into the city, and calculated to defeat the very purpose of the mover.—Mr. Anderson, of Tennessee, was in favor of the bill, but allowed that "in such an event an obligation would arise to indemnify the proprietors for the losses they would thereby sustain." Mr. Linn, of New Jersey, introduced a resolution, which would make a very respectable town, not much inferior, perhaps, to the capital of Virginia, and here and there an insulated house; the whole of it, when seen from the ruins of our public edifices, looking more like the place where proud Washington once stood than where humble Washington now lies."

Mr. Fisk, of New York, introduced in the House a resolution of inquiry into the expediency of removal. The country, he said, was alarmed for the safety of Congress—it was necessary that some steps should be taken.

Mr. Lewis, of Virginia, hoped, by rejecting it, an end would be put to similar attempts hereafter, "and that the good people of this District would be permitted to continue their improvements here without the dread of being sacrificed."

Mr. Macon, of North Carolina, said that "if the seat of Government was once set on wheels there was no saying where it would stop."

Mr. Oakley, of New York, said it was true a removal might injure individuals, but he presumed no gentleman in the House would hesitate to make a fair and liberal compensation by way of indemnity to such sufferers.

Mr. Stockton of New Jersey, relied on the fifth section of the Constitution to prove his position. It is there provided that "neither House shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two houses shall be sitting." This Mr. Stockton said, "expressly admits and regulates the general power of removal."

The debate continued several days; the old plaintiff was gone over, the proposition negatived by a vote of 83 to 74, and the rebuilding set vigorously on foot.

The corporation of Alexandria, in 1804, memorialized the Legislature of Virginia, asking its consent to be retroceded, "because it is so much of the District as had been taken from that State. The Legislature at once, and by a unanimous vote, approved the proposition; and in May of that year a bill to that effect passed the House of Representatives, after an animated debate, in which the question of constitutional power was not seriously raised. In the Senate, however, the debate turned largely on that point. Mr. Haywood, of North Carolina, and Mr. Miller, of New Jersey, doubted the power of Congress in that particular. But Mr. Reverdy Johnson, Mr. Calhoun, and Mr. Hunter, of Virginia, having carefully examined the subject, were clear that there was nothing in all of the proceedings relative to the establishment of the seat of Government to prohibit the retrocession of the ten-mile square to the States from which it was taken, or any portion thereof. Mr. Calhoun, in particular, considered the right to remove the seat of Government incontestable. He, however, stated that it happened at the Memphis Convention, a body composed of six hundred members, possessed of great intelligence, and representing almost exclusively the interests of those who lived upon the soil, a resolution was offered recommending a change of the seat of the General Government. A most extraordinary sensation was produced, and when the resolution was submitted there was one loud-toned overwhelming "No" opposed to the solitary voice of the giver.

Since then, till now, the question has not been seriously raised. The "instantaneous process," which Mr. Scott reckoned the least possible of "ifs," was actually nursed to life by a Congressional appropriation, and now "disseminates the laws." The "seven large boxes" which contained the archives are increased by many thousand tons, and the personnel has become a real army. The President's wife is not now lost on the high-road from Baltimore, nor is it indispensable to live in Georgetown, nor yet do members generally have to lodge in pairs, or frequently decline election on account of the destruction of their families and the ruin of their fortunes. And though the Western traveler does not seek the Capitol Square, and being chiefly confined by an extensive and well-kept hotel, accommodated a goodly number of the members, yet the city now boasts of living with a Mr. Peacock, and of the houses on the New Jersey side, with