



Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men!
E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

Layanda, Wednesday, Decm. 20, 1848.

The President's Message.

We gave to our readers last week the Message of President Polk entire—(no homoeopathic dose by the way)—and the public have by this time had an opportunity of carefully reading and forging their judgments upon it.

With the message in the main, we are greatly pleased. It is an able state paper, and does credit to its author. The close and cogent reasoning upon the tariff and the veto power, is unanswerable, and will convince every candid reader.

We cannot, however, approve of the President's recommendations in regard to the institution of Slavery in California and New Mexico. We regret that he should have seen fit to disfigure a paper which otherwise would have served as a text book by the introduction of measures so narrow, sectional and uncalculated for its strength.

Did President Polk when he signed the Oregon bill, which contained the Ordinance of 1787, believe that the right of Congress to legislate upon the question of Slavery in our Territories, was justly "questioned by many of the soundest exponents of the Constitution?"

This question is not an "abstract" one, and those who put forth the plea, do it to deceive. Would the south be so sensitive upon the re-affirmation of a principle which has received the sanction of Congress and the Executive for a dozen different times and under nearly every administration from Washington down, if he believed that "in much the larger portion of the acquired territory, it is certain Slavery could never exist, and in the remainder the probabilities are it would not?"

The whole cause of the dispute between the two parties and their separate organizations is the apportionment law passed last winter by the Legislature. This law divided Hamilton county, in which is Cincinnati, into two representative districts, and apportioned to the city one Senator and two Representatives, leaving to the remainder of the county, including the two out wards of Cincinnati, a Senator and three Representatives.

It will be seen by our columns, that the value of the Reporter, as an advertising medium, on account of its circulation, is appreciated by our business men, and others wishing to lay "before the people," a knowledge of their own wants, or their ability to minister to the requirements of the public.

PROTECTION TO EMIGRANTS.—We are indebted to Rev. J. Foster, for the Report of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors of the Emigrant's Friend Society of Philadelphia, containing an interesting account of the operations of the Society, and much information in regard to the iniquitous and wholesale system of plunder practiced upon the Emigrants who seek upon our shores a protection from the rapacity of Tyranny.

Newspaper Postage.

It is the duty of the Country Press to exclaim against the measure which has been proposed to the House of Representatives, and Congress shall pass a law allowing papers to go free of postage within the County where they are printed.

Congress once went several steps towards establishing a low rate of postage, which would benefit and reach all classes of community, by allowing newspapers to go free of postage for 30 miles—but the very next session repealed this most beneficial feature of the act.

As the law now stands, it operates unequally, and is a disgrace to our American institutions. It has reduced the postage of business men, whose letters are a harvest of wealth to them, more than one-half, and relieved them proportionally from defraying the expenses of the post office department.

Such things should not be—it is the duty of government as far as is consistent with its functions, to place within the reach of all, the rich and the poor alike, the means of knowledge.

The Buckeye State is experiencing great trouble in the organization of the Legislature, with a fair prospect for a Buckshot war. In fact there seems no prospect that the Legislature will organize at all, and consequently no appropriations can be made to keep the wheels of government in motion.

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Free Territory in Congress.

Congress has at length got fairly at work. Now, that the question of the Presidency is settled, we may expect that the People's servants will attend to the business of their Masters.

On the 19th inst, it will be seen by a reference to our Congressional proceedings, the question of Free Territory achieved a glorious victory in both Houses. It is a blessing that the will of the people is sometimes spoken, and that members have an opportunity of learning that fidelity to their interests seldom goes unrewarded, or sympathy and reciprocity unrequited.

The scene in the Senate shows how false and hypocritical have been the arguments and professions used by those who seek to blast the territory acquired by the blood and treasure of the Nation by the foul stain of Slavery.

It is not uncommon to be obliged to wait a month at Panama for a passage up the west coast, so that this delay may be looked for. The overland route via St. Louis, Independence and Santa Fe, may be made by those who are able to bear the rough and tumble of wild woods travel in three months, at an expense ranging from \$100 to \$200.

Those who intend going by the Panama or Santa Fe route with baggage, should secure it in parcels weighing not more than 150 pounds each, for male transportation. Large packages, especially in crossing the Isthmus in canoes and with mules, cannot be transported to advantage.

From the American Law Journal, we learn that the commissions of the following President Judges expire during the term of Governor Johnston, and will have to be filled by him:

Hon. GEORGE W. WOODMAN, President 4th District, appointed 9th April, 1841.
Hon. BENJAMIN PATTON, President 5th District, appointed 20th of March, 1840.

THE WEATHER.—The middle of December finds us in the enjoyment of Spring-like weather. The memory of the "oldest inhabitant" goes not back to the like. It seems as if the blustering and grim December, had made way for the gentler and milder April, with the accompanying showers.

THE MISSING GIRL.—Miss Marietta Smith, whose singular disappearance we published a week or two since, has been recovered in Boston. She was engaged in that city learning the mantuamaker's trade, and since her arrival there she had departed herself correctly.

Mon. David Wilmot.

From the Independent (N. H.) Democracy & Progress: Few men in the Nation are more deserving of honor than the intrepid champion of freedom.

But we already honor David Wilmot for what he has achieved, as a part of a glorious manhood. By his uncompromising defiance of that iron Despotism which has hitherto palsied alike the arm of the mighty and the timid—that Despotism which has sought not only to crush his, but the old spirit of Liberty itself.

That moment when he rose above party and placed himself upon his Manhood, in defiance of those insatiable and unchangeable rights which are older than parties, and which belong to "all men" of all climes and complexions—that moment was one of moral sublimity.

Col. SNEY S. BAILEY, to be Post-Master at Tawanda, in the place of E. W. Baird, resigned.

CONGRESS.—The last session of the 30th Congress, promises to be of unusual interest. We shall endeavor to keep the readers of the Reporter well advised of the principal movements, taking the important part for their edification, and not compelling them to wade through columns of local and uninteresting matters.

THE CHOLERA.—The Cholera seems to be steadily increasing in New York. Three or four cases are reported daily.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13. The Health office at quarantine reports six new cases of Cholera and three deaths since yesterday. No cases in the city.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. William L. Brew, Clerk of the District Court, died last night.

THE POPULATION OF SAN FRANCISCO, California, in July last, was 5000 souls. The Government troops and passengers who have since gone out and are going, will swell the number by June next to 9000.

Proceedings of the XXXth Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. The Senate was called to order at the usual hour by the Vice President, who laid before the Senate a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, relating to the estimates for the support of the Navy, and also his annual report on the state of the public finances.

Mr. King, of Alabama, presented the credentials of Ben. E. Fitzpatrick, Senator from the same State, nominated by Governor Chapman to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of Dixon S. Lewis who was sworn in and took his seat.

Mr. Dickinson offered a resolution relative to the establishment of a transfer office for Government stock in the city of New York, which was adopted.

Mr. Douglass, on leave, introduced a bill for the admission of California into the Union as a State, which was read and laid on the table.

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Latest Telegraphic News.

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OF HONESTY BE ON ME, YET I WIT More honor by it, than the blinded train Who hug their willing servitude, and bow Unto the weakest and the most profane."

HONORED, THIRDS HONORED BE DAVID WILMOT.—We felt that this passing tribute was due to one whose unshaken firmness in the hour of trial, to one whose name honored wherever beats a free heart a name, to use the striking language of another, "truly historical in the life-time of its owner; and already glorious in his youth."

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