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TOWANDA:

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[From the New York Tribune.]

Mr. Atherton's Lecture on California.

About eight hundred persons assembled in the Tabernacle, on Friday evening, 16th inst., to hear Mr. Atherton's Lecture on California, or rather to see a live Californian—a man who had actually been at the "diggins," both "wet" and "dry." Although Mr. Atherton would have doubtless felt more at home, in the Valley of the Sacramento, as he himself suggested, the plain straight-to-the-mark manner in which the sum and substance of his knowledge was imparted to his hearers might be copied to advantage by many persons who have had more experience in public speaking than Mr. Atherton. A gentleman, whose name we were not able to ascertain, having made a few introductory remarks, introduced to the audience Mr. Atherton, who commenced:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: On my arrival in this City, three or four days since, I was applied to by large number of persons for reliable information in reference to California. All the information I have in reference to that country, I have freely imparted to the extent of my ability, to all who have sought it; but if I were to answer all the inquiries that have been put to me, I should have no time left to attend to the business for which I left California.—Numerous letters have been sent to me, requesting me to give a public lecture; several of the papers of this city have called on me to do so, and personal applications have been made to me to the same effect. I consented; but, gentlemen, I assure you that it was reluctantly. I would willingly decline the honor, even now, if it were possible. I have reduced to writing a portion of what I have to say to you, that it may be presented with some method, and in proper order; after which it will give great pleasure to answer any question which may be put to me. As my appearance in public as a lecturer is unusual, I beg you to excuse my many imperfections. I shall make of this lecture four general divisions, as follows:

First—The face of the country, climate, productions of California, its healthfulness, River Sacramento and branches, price of freight, launches, government of the country, &c. &c.

Second—The mines, manner of procuring the gold, average quantity per man, probable supply, wet and dry diggings compared, and some instances of success within my own personal observation.

Third—Advice to Emigrants to California, articles necessary for an outfit, &c. &c.

Fourth—The different routes to California, the expence of each, with full particulars of the route through Mexico, (over which I travelled on my return from San Francisco,) with distances, expenses and manner of travelling in Mexico, and which is the most advisable route.

Under the first general division of my subject, I will remark that the soil is generally good and capable of producing all the ordinary grains. It is a good wheat country. The red worm, which destroys so much of the wheat here, is unknown in California, so far as my knowledge extends. When I first went to California, in the month of January, 1847, land at Bandage, which is about thirty miles north of San Francisco, was worth two dollars an acre only—when I left, it was worth twenty dollars an acre. San Francisco, or Yerba Buena, as we call it, stands, as you know, on the large and beautiful bay of San Francisco, and contains the most magnificent harbor in the world, and the only safe harbor in all Upper California, except San Diego. All the navies of the world and its commercial marine could ride in perfect security and repose on its bosom. The harbor is entered from the ocean by a narrow passage about one or two miles wide, with high bluffs on each side. This bay extends about sixty miles to the east of the town of San Francisco, and about one hundred miles to the north west, and is from five to fifteen miles wide. The town is four or five miles from the ocean. In January, 1847, there were about six hundred inhabitants in San Francisco. In April last, just before the gold placers were discovered, there were about one thousand inhabitants there. There were, in May and June, only a few women and children, the majority of the population having gone to the mines. When I left, many had returned. The town was filled by emigrants arriving from Oregon, Sandwich Islands, Valparaiso, and all the neighboring places. There are several other towns on this bay The principal ones are Sonoma, San Raphael, Santa Clara and San Jose. I have visited all these places, but my residence has been at San Francisco from January, 1847, up to the 10th day of December, 1848.

In relation to the climate of California, I can safely say that it is not an unhealthy country. Fever and ague is somewhat prevalent along the banks of some of the rivers; but I hazard nothing in saying that the valley of the Sacramento is much more healthy than the valley of the Mississippi, or the State of Illinois. I am asked about the "sickly season." There is what is called a "rainy season," which lasts about four or five months—from November to April—and continued exposure, want of food and irregular habits would, of course, in a rainy or dry season, strongly predispose to disease, and during all seasons it is necessary to exercise ordinary prudence and care in relation to health.—During the "dry season" as it is called, the climate is clear and delightful. The atmosphere is bracing, and though sometimes warm, is not weakening to the system, as it is in some of our Southern States. I would remark, however, that in the summer season heavy fogs are prevalent on the coast. The River Sacramento and San Joaquin are the great rivers of Upper California. The Sacramento is a most beautiful stream. At its mouth it is about two-thirds as wide as the East River at Fulton Ferry. There is a small island in the middle of the river, at its mouth. It has a middle bed, and is navigable for three or four hundred miles above its mouth. I have never been on that river above Sutter's, which is about one hundred and fifty miles above San Francisco. It is navigable for ships drawing eight feet, to the mouth of the American Fork, and a steamboat drawing two or three feet of water could go two hundred miles still farther up. A branch of the Sacramento called the "American Fork" empties into the Sacramento, about 150 miles from its mouth. Capt. Sutter's Mill is 40 miles above the mouth of, and on, the American fork. This is the place where the gold was first discovered. The discovery was made by some of Capt. Sutter's men who were employed to dig a race to discharge the waste water from the mill. All articles of merchandise are carried in what are called launches, which are large boats that will carry from eight to fifteen tons. It takes about a week or ten days to go from San Francisco to Sutter's, and back, in one of these launches, and when I left the freight on a barrel of flour was $14. A common steamboat could make the trip in two days. When I left California, a launch which but a short time before could have been bought for $500, could not be hired for one trip to Sutter's for that sum. The price of passage was $10—each passenger to carry his food and bed with him, if he had any to carry. Nothing is found for the passengers, except passage. Every man has to do as the Irishman did, "eat himself," on the passage. It is quite unnecessary for me to allude to the political regulations of California. You are well aware that, as yet, we have no government there. Congress neglects to provide a Territorial Government for the country, and although the Alcaldes are obeyed, the people are not at all obligated to obey them.

I now approach that portion of my lecture which will probably be of the greatest interest to you, to wit: the mines, manner of procuring the gold, average quantity per man, probable supply, wet and dry diggings, and some instances of success within my own personal observation. I may very safely tell you that the accounts you have in the papers, from California, are not exaggerated, however well they may be calculated to stagger belief in them. Gold is found in great abundance over an extent of country 300 miles by 1,000. I have explored only a small portion of the vast area, and new discoveries are constantly being made. The first gold was discovered in February, 1848, about one year ago; but although it was reported in San Francisco that gold was found, yet it did not at first seem to make any impression on the people at that city. They did not believe the reports, or rather they did not realize the fact that gold was found in such abundance, so near them. It was not till April and May that the whole population became fully awakened to the subject, when all the men, and many of the women and children, went to the gold diggings:—It was not till people came down with the gold dust and reported $3 to $10 per day, that the people of San Francisco credited the reports. In the first six weeks of the rush commenced, $600,000 were collected. The quantity collected by each person varied from one ounce to $1,000 per day. It is now ascertained that gold exists on both sides of the Sierra Nevada from latitude 41 north to as far south as the San Joaquin, and although the country has not been fully explored, there is no doubt that the gold region extends 1,000 miles along the valley of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, and still farther to the south. The supply of gold is absolutely inexhaustible. In my opinion, one hundred thousand people could not exhaust the supply in ten or twenty years. The ore is in its virgin state, and is found among the sands and gravel bed, in slate and granite rocks, also in good tillable soil. Some machines were used when I left, but tin pans were generally preferred. Some Indian baskets were also used, and were considered good, being very light and handy. I saw, yesterday, a machine invented by a gentleman of this city living, I believe in Eldridge st. which I considered a superior one; and I would advise those who intend going to the gold diggings to examine it. It is very simple and easy to transport. The quantity of gold now extracted is estimated at about four millions of dollars. The labor of washing the gold is very severe. People wash gold as long as they can stand up, often paying no attention whatever to the demands of their health, living without adequate food and sleep, or when they do sleep it is in the open air, and thus nature gives way, and the individual sickens and perhaps dies.

If a person has sufficient strength of mind to build his house before commencing to procure gold, and can be contented to work only a reasonable time every day, devoting proper time to cook suitable food and a proper time to sleep, he may be sure of retaining his health and amassing a fortune. The difficulty is that every body is crazy, frantic with excitement for gold. Each fears that his neighbor will get more than himself The Captain of the vessel in which I came from San Francisco to San Blas (Capt. Blanchard) gathered in three weeks gold dust to the value of $10,000, and of this sum $3,000 were gathered by him in the last three days he was at the mines. This amount he had on board the vessel (the brig Laura Ann.) He informed me that in washing out the last, he must have thrown away 2 or 3 ounces from each tin-pan full of earth, as it would pay better not to wash it carefully. The largest lump of pure gold I ever saw weighed seven pounds. It was obtained by some Indians in the employ of a man by the name of Weaver. I saw it weighed, and it was pronounced 19½ carats fine. A statement was published in the California Star, a few days before I left, that one man obtained $12,000 in six days, and that three others obtained 26 pounds in one day. Of the truth of this I have no doubt whatever It may seem impossible, even ludicrous, but such is the fact. Such occurrences are by no means uncommon. The "dry diggings" are considered preferable to the wet.—The gold can be procured in the winter or rainy season as well as in the dry season. In case the miners provide themselves with houses and a supply of food.

In the present state of society in California, or rather in the absence of all law, but "Lynch law," mining, especially in the winter or rainy season, should be carried on in companies, say from ten to fifteen in each, with adequate buildings for their protection, and a good supply of food. Companies larger than ten or fifteen would be likely to break up. So far, they have not succeeded as well as smaller companies. Those of you who have read the official communication of Commodore Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, of the 22d Dec. 1848, twelve days after I left San Francisco, may have observed the following remark, "Incredible quantities of gold are yet daily collected, and scarcely a week elapses without some new discovery of the precious metal, more startling than any previous one." The Commodore also alludes to the fact that a few days previous to the date of his dispatch a small party of five or six persons obtained, in two days, $30,000 worth of pure gold. I have no more doubt of the truth or the statement by Commodore Jones than I have of the fact of my existence. Yet, to one who has never seen similar instances of success, such an announcement seems absolutely incredible. Gentlemen I think it can hardly be necessary for me to say more to you of the actual existence of gold in immense quantities and comparatively easy of access in California. Whatever may be the effect upon the money market of the world, other persons than myself can better determine, but I am perfectly satisfied that the supply is immense. The gold region, part of which has been explored, embraces, as you have observed, a larger area than the State of New-York, and new discoveries are being made daily There are, I am told, a little less than 50,000 square miles in the State of New-York, and if two persons only were digging on each square mile, you would have 100,000 persons. Now it is possible, though hardly probable, to my mind, that during the next summer there may be 100,000 persons in the gold region digging for gold. But they will be scattered over a large extent of territory, and you may depend upon it, gentlemen, that there will be room enough for all. If a Government and a Mint could only be established in California the gold would be as valuable there as in New-York But such is not the case at present. As an evidence of this, I may say that lots in San Francisco when I left were held and actually sold at prices higher than lots of the same size in Wall-st. That portion of the mining district which I have visited, extends along the valley of the Sacramento and American Fork, about fifty miles above Sutter's, and covers an area of about a hundred miles. One panful of common dirt in which the gold is found, when carefully washed, yielded on an average about half an ounce of gold. It usually took about fifteen or twenty minutes to wash a panful, provided the dirt was procured near the river or washing place. Of course it takes some time to dig the earth and carry it to the water.—I have known instances of persons going in search of gold, who came back disappointed, unsuccessful. They did not fall into the right "digging" and did not get enough to pay their expenses. Those who fail are generally those who go in too large companies, or those with delicate constitutions, who break down under fatigue and exposure. It is something of a lottery to find good "diggings." When a person or a company has found a right spot, others are not allowed to dig in the same hole, but they may dig near it. The exclusive right to dig in the spot selected is, however, only allowed while actually occupied by the digger. There are but very limited facilities for storing goods at San Francisco. I should by all means recommend that materials for a fire proof building or storehouse be sent around Cape Horn.

I will now speak to you of the articles necessary for an outfit to California. In the first place, an Indian Rubber Tent is, I consider, indispensable. This can be procured in San Francisco at a less price than it would cost to buy it here and transport it there. Every man who is going to *dig* wants a pair of India Rubber long stockings. These can be had in San Francisco; also in this city. A pair of thick shoes should be worn over the India Rubber stockings, to prevent the gravel from cutting the feet of the stockings, and thus admitting the water. The India Rubber stockings would prevent perspiration, from being checked to suddenly, as the labor of digging up the earth will necessarily cause perspiration, which, if checked to suddenly, would certainly produce colds and fevers. Every emigrant should take or send furniture sufficient for his own use, but not more than is necessary, for freight is very high to San Francisco and up the river. I would not advise any man to go to California who is doing well here. If he is doing well enough, let him stay. The inconveniences will be very great, such as always attend the settlement of every new country. There will be a great many privations and difficulties; but to such as have good health, who are accustomed to labor and are doing nothing I say by all means go to California. The laboring man will succeed best in California. I would not recommend that wooden frames for dwelling houses be shipped to California to be put up in San Francisco. The whole town is built of wood, and when the houses are compact, as they will be very soon, all would almost inevitably be consumed if one should take fire during the prevalence of the strong northwest winds that occur during the Summer. Brick houses ought to be built. There is a great abundance of good clay within two miles of San Francisco, and lime is easily procured. The only difficulty in building brick houses is the great scarcity of labor. I would not recommend any extra amount of clothing to be taken to San Francisco by the emigrant, as it can be had there as cheap as the cost here with the freight added. Don't go to any unnecessary expense for clothing. There is plenty of provisions at San Francisco—beef and flour in abundance. The flour comes from Chilli and Oregon. Provisions are high at the Mines, but only in consequence of the difficulty and expense of transportation. Farmers would do well to go to California. The soil is so well adapted to Agriculture that a great deal of money might be made by farming on an extensive scale. A friend of mine at San Raphael, on the bay of San Francisco raised green peas, and has them every month in *the year*—all raised in the open air. Grapes are also raised great abundance, from which excellent wine is made, and fully equal to the best Port Wine. Houses could not be obtained at San Francisco when I left. The influx of population is so great that every house was overflowing, as there are but few houses in San Francisco, perhaps not over two hundred and fifty, and those very small. There is no schools in San Francisco. A good school, with a teacher who could speak the Spanish language, would be well patronized, and get scholars from Chili, Peru, and the whole Pacific coast. To those who intend to settle in California without reference to the gold excitement, I would simply say, that the country affords every inducement to such settlers. In Monterey and other towns than San Francisco, there would be no difficulty in obtaining houses at a reasonable rate—at a rent of from one hundred dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars a year.

I will conclude by speaking of the different routes to California; and first of the route from Vera Cruz by the way of the City of Mexico to Mazatlan or San Blas. A description of my journey from San Francisco to Vera Cruz will be exactly what you will meet on a journey from Vera Cruz to Mazatlan. I will therefore give you the particulars of my journey. I left San Francisco for San Blas on the 10th December last, and arrived at San Blas on the 20th of December in the Brig Laura Ann. The price of passage is $100. The price of board and lodging in Mazatlan is $45 a month. From San Blas I took a conveyance on horseback to Guadalaxara; one mule for the baggage and one for the servant. The journey to Guadalaxara from Mazatlan is made in six days, and cost $50 besides expenses for food and lodgings—about $2 per day. From San Blas to Tepic is about sixty miles. The journey is performed in one day. From Tepic to Guadalaxara is 5 days journey—expense $35 beside rooms and food.—The rooms at the stopping-places from San Blas to Guadalaxara are furnished with two chairs, and a bench to sleep on. No beds, no knives, forks, or spoons. The food furnished you from San Blas to Guadalaxara consists of eggs, tortillas, beans, jerked beef, and poultry; no potatoes or bread. Tortillas are made of Indian Corn, and, like Buckwheat cakes, baked on a sort all tin or iron pan—very tough when cold, very good when hot. From Guadalaxara to Mexico, by stage-coach, the fare is $60. Time, six days, exactly. Here is the stage ticket from Guadalaxara to the City of Mexico, with coach regulations on the back. Also from Mexico to Vera Cruz.

[The lecturer here translated to his audience the stage ticket, which owing to the length of the lecture, we omit. It was an unique affair, verbose, in short, Spanish all over.]

The first principal town from Guadalaxara is Guanaxuato. The greatest silver mines in Mexico are here—also a Mint. Then comes Queretaro, where Congress met while the Americans held Mexico—then Mexico. Good stopping-places and beds have been established by the owners of stages, as good as here. You dine at 6 P. M. You get a cup of chocolate on starting in the morning, stop at 9 or 10 A. M. for breakfast, and then travel till dinner. You go about 100 miles a day—average six or eight miles an hour, and change horses every hour. You can buy fruit at all of the stopping places. Stages run three times a week from Guadalaxara to Mexico, and from Mexico to Vera Cruz every other day. The route from Mexico to Vera Cruz is well understood. It would take five or six days for a person unacquainted with the route to go to Mexico on horseback; by stage he could go in four days.—From Mexico to Guadalaxara it would take six days by stage, and about twelve days for one not accustomed to travel. The stage fare from Vera Cruz to San Blas is $110.

Mr. ATHERTON exhibited more patience than we thought it possible for a man to possess. The questions came pouring in upon him from all sides of the house, from persons of all ages, and in every variety of voice.—Several of them excited a good deal of merriment, especially that from a gentleman who very much resembles in personal appearance the canvasser of the "Temperance League." He wanted to know if the Mexican authorities would allow him to carry a barrel of rum through the country.

DAUGHTERS.—When a young woman behaves to her parents in a manner particularly tender and respectful, I mean from principle as well as nature, there is nothing good and gentle that may not be expected from her, in whatever condition she is placed. Of this I am so thoroughly persuaded, that were I to advise any friend of mine as to his choice of a wife, I know not whether my first counsel would not be "look out for one distinguished by her attention and sweetness to her parents." The fund of worth and affection indicated by such behavior, joined to the habits of duty and consideration thereby contracted, being transferred to the married state, will not fail to render her a mild and obliging companion.

BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.—The setting of a great hope is like the setting of the sun. The brightness of our life is gone. Shadows of evening fall around us, and the world seems but a dull reflection—itself a broader shade. We look forward into the coming lonely night The soul withdraws into itself. The stars arise, and the night is holy.

LIFE.—Look not mournfully into the Past; it comes not back again. Wisely improve the Present: it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy Future, without fear, and with a manly heart.—*Longfellow's Hyperion.*

NOTHING so contagious as enthusiasm; it is the real allegory of the tale of Orpheus; it moves stones; it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it.

[From the *London Sunday Times.*]

A NEW GOLD SONG.—AIR, "YANKEE DOODLE."

"What is here?
Gold!—yellow, glittering, precious gold!"—TIMON.

Now's the time to change your clime,
Give up work and tasking;
All who choose be rich as Jews,
Even without asking.
California's precious earth
Turns the New World frantic;
Sell your traps, and take a berth,
Across the wild Atlantic.
Every one who digs and delves,
All whose arms are brawny,
Take a pick and help yourselves—
Off to California.

Yankee Doodle all agog,
With the golden mania,
Debts no longer prove a clog—
Happy Pennsylvania!
Those who about stocks and mans
Kicked up such an old dust,
Live to the very stones
Come down with the gold dust.
Every one who digs and delves,
Join the Indians tawny,
Take a pick and help yourselves,
In happy California.

Shakspeare of undying fame,
Whom they're going to play so,
Gave to gold a naughty name,
Or made Timon say so.
And the mob their trade lands leave,
Corn and canes and taters,
To appear, lest it deceive,
As Californicators.
Every one who digs and delves,
Wear your hands quite horny.
Take a pick and help yourselves—
Off to California.

Gold is got in pan and pot,
Soup-tureen or ladle,
Basket, birdcage and what not,
Even to a cradle!
El Dorado's found at last,
Turba sed virorum,
Lose their dazzled heads as fast,
As Raleigh did before 'em
Choose your able-bodied men,
Navies bold and brawny,
Give them picks and spades and then
Off to California.

How this flush of gold will end
We have statements ample;
Perhaps a few sacks they will send,
Only for a sample,
But we hope this golden move
Really is all true sirs,
Else will Yankee Doodle prove
A Yankee doodle doo, sirs.
Every one who digs of delves,
Stout and tough and brawney,
Buy a pick and help yourselves—
Off to California.

MODE OF EXTRACTING GOLD FROM ORE.—At most of the productive gold mines of the world, the precious metal is taken from the solid rock, of granite. This is first removed from its bed by blasting, and is broken by laborers into small pieces, about the size of stones put upon macadamized roads, after which it is conveyed to a sort of stamping machine to be reduced to powder. This machine consists of a number of perpendicular shafts placed in a row and heavily loaded below with large blocks of iron; these, being alternately lifted up to a certain height by a notched cylinder, turned by a powerful steam engine, fall down and crush the stones to powder. A small stream of water, constantly made to run through them, carries away the pulverized matter to what is called the sluices, a wooden platform slightly inclined, and divided into a number of very shallow compartments of fourteen inches in width, the length being about twenty-six feet. The floor of these compartments is covered with pieces of tanned hide, about 3 feet long and 16 inches wide, which have the hair on; the particles of gold are deposited along the hairs, while the earthy matter, being lighter, is washed away. The greater part of the gold dust is collected on the three upper skins, which are changed every four hours, while the lower skins are changed every six or eight hours, according to the richness of the ore. The sand which is washed from the best skins is collected and amalgamated with quicksilver in barrels, while that from the lower skins is conveyed to the washing house, and concentrated over stakes of similar construction to those of the stamping mill, till it be rich enough to be amalgamated with that of the best skins. The barrels into which this rich sand is put together with the quicksilver, are turned by machinery, and the process of amalgamation is generally completed in the course of forty-eight hours. When taken out, the amalgam is separated from the earthy sand by washing; it is then pressed in chamois skins, and the quicksilver is separated from the gold by sublimation. In the whole process the loss of mercury is small. The metallic grains found in the sands of rivers in California, do not require to be submitted to a metallurgic process.

Whatever, says an eloquent writer, tends to soften the heart, meliorate the disposition, or inspire with fortitude the understanding: whatever tends to lessen misery, or increase happiness, to animate to obedience, or cheer amid the frowns of the world, is a good which should be ardently and anxiously pursued till we have made the blessing our own. Happiness is the pearl of great price, we are all searching after, and if happiness is goodness, and goodness content, we shall find that pure content springs only from the bosom of religion, and deprived of her renovating influence we may search in vain for the bliss of content.

TRUTH.—Who knows that Truth is strong, next to the Almighty, needs no policies, no stratagems, no licensing to make her victorious! Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we injure her to misdoubt her strength! Let Truth and Falsehood grapple: who ever knew Truth put to the worst, in a free and open encounter?

TASTE AND SENTIMENT.—There is religion in every thing around us—there is a calm and holy religion, not only in the animate, but in the inanimate unbreathing things of nature, and we would be wise to consider it. It is a mock and blasting influence, stealing as it were upon the heart. It has not arms, if leaves not the passions; and is unprovoked by the creeds and superstitions of men.

In the middle of the nineteenth century after Christ, a nation, vaulting itself over all creation, as the only free government on earth, happens to acquire a vast territory from a neighboring power. That territory, when acquired, is free. Not a solitary slave appears within its wide borders. It is, moreover, in common consent, in every respect unadapted to the introduction of slavery. Its original inhabitants petition their new rulers to save them from so horrible a curse. According to a long line of venerable precedents, according to both the spirit and letter of its constitution, and according to the inherent necessities of the case, the supreme national legislature proceeds to establish over this new territory, a provisional government, which must serve to give an indelible impress to its future social and political destinies. The world watches with an intense scrutiny.

A Senator rises in the Capitol of the United Republic" and simply says, that in forming this provisional system, let slavery, which does not now exist, which *by reasoning*, never can exist except by positive law, be forever excluded by an express prohibition. Indeed, he goes so far as to argue the matter and show wherefore—a very superfluous thing, one would think, to be done any where at this hour of the day, and most especially under the dome of the American Capitol But not so. He has flung a fire-brand into the halls of legislation, which threatens to wrap the Union in devouring flames, and involve thirty happy republics in civil war. He has trampled the Constitution under his feet, shouted the war-cry of fanaticism, laughed to scorn the guaranties, compromises, and what not, which bind the federal brotherhood in harmony. He is opposed, not with placid dignity, but with that kind of angry frantic denunciation which justice, foully injured, is apt to employ; not by some single raving madman, but by a phalanx of grave and eloquent statesmen. His proposition is assailed, in a whirlwind of wrath, as an unheard of, wholesale violation of the rights of some millions of christian freemen. They rush together into sullen conclave—they threaten to dissolve the Union, under whose too complacent auspices the cause of slavery has alone been able to exist. The friends of human freedom stand firm. National pride, national policy, above all, the unyielding pressure of public opinion, keep them to their posts. Unlike the usual results of a conflict between these combatants, they present an iron front to the impetuous charges of southern chivalry. Neither stratagem nor force, neither stale appeals to the exhausted spirit of concession, nor the still more stale menace about dissolving the Union, which used to go through and through the nervous North like a war-whoop, seem now to avail. After thirty years of incessant, shameful retreat before the insolent flag of the South, the North has again made a stand on ground higher than any ever before taken, with something of the spirit which struggled so bravely, and yet so vainly at last, to repel Missouri from the Union, until she appeared with clean hands and spotless robes.

And this is DANGEROUS AGITATION!—incendiarism—fanaticism—an obstinate resistance to brethren—a shocking breach of fraternal duty. There are presses amongst us, that with "white lips" and hair erect, are tugging in frantic alarm at the skirts of our Senators and Representatives, beseeching them to desist from such dangerous agitation, and not drive the warm-hearted, but hot headed and most combustible South to extremities. It is a mere point of honor now—a technical, abstract question of right.—No one supposes that slavery will ever exist in fact in these new territories. So give it up, give it up, and appease the "Chivalry." A technical question? So was the stamp act that kindled the fires of Lexington and Bunker Hill. So was the Right of Search, that roused and armed us in the second War of Independence. So was that strip of worthless desert between the Neuces and the Rio Grande, which brought on the war from which we have just emerged, and these fearful questions in which we are yet plunged. Although a technical question, it is a question between the genius of our institutions and the demon that would strangle it—between the spirit of the age and besotted errors, whose vision is hemmed round by the horizon of self-interest. Let the North stick to to its ground. The Union will not be dissolved. The South is frightened at the echo of its own threats. The slave ship with its millions of mutineers on board will never part company with the convoy, on whose flag it depends for credit, and on whose guns it depends for protection.—*Hill County (Illinois) Telegraph.*

THE INAUGURATION BALL.—At Washington is designed to be the most magnificent entertainment ever given in the United States. Ample accomodations are provided for 4,000 persons, with comfortable accommodations of both Ladies and Gentlemen. The walls of the assembly and Supper Rooms are to be richly decorated for the occasion. The cost of the entertainment is estimated at over $7,000, and the Committee calculate upon the sales of 1,000 tickets at $10 each, having resolved to give what ever surplus may be left to the two Orphan Asylums. Gungl's Band is to attend in consideration of the subsequent use of the Pavilion, and other expenses which will be $330. The Philadelphia German Band is also engaged. The dancing pavillion measure 150 feet by 50, and the promenade saloon 100 by 50. The following items have been ordered for the table: A pyramid of crystalized fruits, 6 feet high; 9 pyramids (3 feet) of cream: 50 gallons of Roman Punch; 50 gallons of lemonade; 50 molds of jelly; 50 molds of blancmange: 3,000 small (tea) cakes; 120 pounds of pound cake; 40 pounds of fruit cake; 30 boned turkeys; 20 jelly hams; 40 Charlotte Russe; 2 rounds alamode; 60 chicken salads; 150 terrapins, 4 pieces, friandine and in soup, and oysters without end, raw and in every variety of dressing. This contract ($2,500) for the supper is exclusive of all wines and liquors, except the Roman punch The wines and mixed liquors will, it is estimated, cost $1,500.