The Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

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THE EXILE OF CLOUDLAND.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

When I was a dweller in Cloudland,
I dwelt in a rich and a proud land;
I was lord of the clime,
I was king of the time;
And the sun and the shower,
The leaf and the flower,
All came at my bidding in Cloudland.

I was monarch supreme in my Cloudland,
I was master of fate in that proud land;
I would not endure
That a grief without cure,
A love that could end,
Or a false-hearted friend,
Should dwell for an instant in Cloudland.

My Cloudland, my beautiful Cloudland,
I made there a great and a proud land;
With skies ever bright,
And with heart ever light;
Neither sorrow nor sin
Found a harbor within,
And love was the law of my Cloudland.

But, alas for myself and my proud land!
There came revolution in Cloudland;
My people, untrue,
Broke my sceptre in two,
And, false to their vow,
Took my crown from my brow,
And banished me far from my Cloudland.

My Cloudland, my beautiful Cloudland,
How happy was I in that proud land!
And the wisdom I've won,
Since my realm was undone,
Is but poor to repay
What I lost in the day
When I turn'd my last look upon Cloudland.

O, ye thoughts and ye feelings of Cloudland!
Ye died when I quitted that proud land!
I wander discrown'd
On a bare chilly ground;
An exile forlorn,
Weary, weary, and worn,
Never more to revisit my Cloudland.

For the Republican.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

LYNN, Feb. 23, 1857.

The report of the State Superintendent of Common Schools is before me; and to me there is no surer index to our intelligence and good common sense than this same report, made up as it is of the reports of the several County Superintendents. It is a map of the State. There are the broad, rich bottoms, the fertile uplands, the rugged mountains, and the arid plains, with no streams and no vegetation. In other words, there are the districts where intelligent and high-minded men employ good teachers, and pay them for their labor; there are the districts where they are doing well, but ought to do better; there are the districts where they are just beginning to learn that children need more education than they give their oxen and horses; and there are the districts where few if any live who ever dreamed that man is more than any other animal.

Now, good people of Susquehanna county, would not the farms and town lots of each and every one of you be increased in value as much as twenty per cent. above their present value, if there was, convenient to each and every one of you, a good district school, kept open at least eight months in the year, taught by a competent teacher who makes teaching a business and therefore has more interest in his business than one who only follows it when he or she can get nothing else to do? You yourselves know that your schools are *not half* as well taught by teachers who make teaching a sort of make-weight, as they would be by persons who are trained to teaching and intend to make that the business of their lives. Fifteen dollars per month is a greater price to pay a transitory, half-qualified teacher than thirty is to a well qualified professional teacher; and yet your County Superintendent's annual report says you have paid your male teachers an average of $16,59, and you female teachers an average of $7,77, and what is worse than that, only kept your schools open five months in the year 1856.

Let in contrast this county with Lancaster county; there male teachers received the average of $28,22, and female teachers the average of $22,22, per month, and the schools were kept open six months in the year (not long enough by four months). It is not absolutely certain that they get any better schools in every case, but they are much more likely to. Their Superintendent reports some ninety professional certificates given. And the county which can boast of ninety men, well qualified, who are to devote their lives to the cause of education, has got a fair start toward that ideal bliss when every school district shall have a teacher whose head and heart are in the work for a life-battle.

Now, men of Susquehanna County, how are we going to get such teachers? If any man supposes, by paying fifteen dollars per month for five months in the year, he has only to see if such means have done any thing toward it in years past. I am bold to say that $25 per month and ten months in the year are less than we ought to pay such teachers as we need.

But I hear an hundred and fifty of you say, "where is all the money to come from?" If I didn't know a good many of you have lived a good while without learning that your sons and daughters are better off, infinitely better off, with five hundred dollars worth of the right kind of education in their heads than with a thousand dollars in their pockets, and no education, I would tell you. But I will tell you, you are better able to pay your school teachers thirty dollars per month, than your fathers were to pay theirs eight.

I hear some complain that the County Superintendent "don't do any good." I believe he is a good man for the work, and got a heart in it, and if the people generally would try to help him, they would soon see that his labors are productive of much good. But two many are like guns of a seventy-four tied to his coat tail; they hinder instead of help.

I hope that the next year's report will tell a better story for the intelligence of the people of Susquehanna County.

G. C. L.

SPIRITUALISM AND DR. BURDELL.—The New York correspondent of the Boston Transcript says:—

"You will be relieved and glad to know that Dr. Burdell has been called up in a circle in this city, under the direction of one of the most distinguished *media*, and distinctly and unequivocally pronounces that he was murdered by Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham. He says they threw a handkerchief over his face and killed him with a dagger."

A KNOCK-DOWN ARGUMENT.—A boy was caught in the act of stealing dried berries in front of a store the other day, and was locked up in a dark closet by the grocer. He commenced begging most pathetically to be released, and, after using all the persuasion that his young imagination could invent, proposed, "Now, if you'll let me out and send for my daddy, he'll pay you for the berries and lick me besides!" The appeal was too much for the grocery man to stand out against.

DARN.—When tired, and your patience is worn completely threadbare, then—"darn" it.

INFORMATOIN FOR EMIGRANTS TO KANSAS.

OFFICE NATIONAL KANSAS COM.,
CHICAGO, February 16, 1857.

At a general meeting of the National Kansas Committee, recently held in New York City, Prof. E. Daniels was elected Agent of Emigration, and empowered to make the necessary arrangements, on behalf of the Committee, for facilitating the Emigration from the Free States to Kansas Territory, for the ensuing season. Prof. D. is a Geologist by profession and has spent considerable time in various parts of the Territory, for the purpose of ascertaining its physical resources and condition. The information which he may from time to time lay before the public, can be regarded by those who design to make Kansas their future homes, and by the friends of Free Kansas generally, as authentic and reliable. We especially commend attention to the accompanying Circular.

H. B. HURD, Sec. Nat Kan. Com.

The Territory of Kansas extends from 37th to 40th deg. north latitude, and from the state line of Missouri 800 miles westward, embracing an area of 112,000 square miles. It lies in the same belt as northern Kentucky and Virginia, and southern Indiana and Illinois.

The description which follows applies to the eastern portion of the Territory extending 200 miles west from the eastern boundary. It is the portion which is now open for settlement.

SURFACE, SCENERY, &c.

The surface of the country rises from the deep valleys of the streams by a series of steps or terraces, stretches away in smooth slopes and culminates in gently undulating up-lands about 900 feet above the sea. Between each terrace are intervals, often several miles in breadth, smooth as if leveled by the roller, but inclined toward the valleys. Near the large streams the land is sometimes broken, but leaving the immediate banks there is scarcely an acre of land where the surface is incapable of cultivation. It is one unbroken stretch of arable land, with a drainage so perfect that not a pond or swamp exists over its whole extent.

The scenery, though less varied than in rugged and mountainous districts, is exceedingly picturesque and beautiful; the swelling surface of the prairie dotted with island groves; lofty table lands overlooking great rivers belted with luxuriant forests, green flowery plains and vales of quiet beauty walled in by the eternal battlements of nature; bluffs and hills lifting their bold graceful outlines against the sky, everywhere delight the eye, and redeem the landscape from monotony.

GEOLOGY.

The rocks of this district consists of limestones, sandstones, clay, &c., belonging to the coal formation; they are usually horizontal or but slightly inclined, and can be cheaply quarried on nearly every hillside, furnishing excellent stone for building or lime-burning. Scarcely a square mile can be found where they do not come to the surface; the beds alternate with each other so that sand, lime and good clay for brick can be procured almost everywhere.

Coal is also very generally distributed; it is a soft, free-burning bituminous coal, generally quite free from sulphur and already used extensively by blacksmiths. The seams thus far opened nowhere exceed three feet in thickness, but are sufficient to furnish fuel to the population for centuries. Iron occurs in several localities; saline springs occur on the upper tributaries of the Kansas, and also extensive deposits of gypsum.

SOIL.

The soil of Kansas is equal to the best soils of Illinois and Iowa; it is quite uniform in composition, everywhere preserving the character of a rich heavy loam.

The first terrace above the rivers is covered with an alluvial soil often 4 to 6 feet in depth. The higher terraces and uplands have the common prairie soil of the west. The subsoil is usually a stiff clay, in some localities mixed gravel. Patches of sandy soil occur, but they are rare; lime is everywhere a prominent ingredient of the soil.

WATER, STREAMS, &c.

The principal streams are, the Missouri river, which is the boundary line for about 100 miles, from Nebraska to the mouth of the Kansas, and the Kansas, which with its tributaries waters the northern portion of the Territory; the Osage, Neosho and Arkansas which water the south. The Kansas river is navigable for small boats eight months in the year. Small streams are crossed every few miles, which carry off and distribute the surplus waters; they are clear except at the flood season and furnish everywhere abundant and excellent water for stock. Many of them dry up partially in summer, but still furnish pools of clear water in the deeper portions of their channels. Wells can be obtained by digging from 12 to 40 feet, even upon the highest lands. The water is always hard, but sweet and excellent.

Water-powers are found upon many of the streams, but are not frequent. The coal, however, will furnish a cheap motive power.

CLIMATE.

The climate of Kansas is somewhat different from that of the same latitude further east. Its distance from the ocean gives us here the purely continental climate. Its atmosphere is remarkably pure and dry. The amount of rain and snow that falls is smaller than in the Atlantic States. A cloudy day is very rare, and a whole month often passes without a shower. The temperature is generally mild in winter, but an occasional cold spell occurs, of short duration. The winter is confined to its proper months, rarely commencing before December, or extending into March. The heat of summer is tempered by the fresh breezes which, rising and falling with the sun, render this a delightful season. April and May are the rainy months. Frosts have never been known to trouble the crops.

HEALTH.

The dryness, purity and free circulation of the air, the absence of swamp and stagnant waters, which we find in Kansas, are conditions favorable to health. The experience of early settlers also indicates a healthy climate. Cases of bilious fever and ague occur more frequently than in older settled countries, but in most cases they are the result of gross ignorance or carelessness. Let the settler take only reasonable care of himself and family, and he will rarely suffer in acclimation. On the contrary, as has been the experience of many, he will find himself rejuvenated, old complaints gone, and endowed with a fresh fund of constitutional vigor. Let him build his house in the uplands, dig his well if he cannot get spring water, eat, sleep and bathe regularly, avoid the poisoned alcoholic drinks of the West, and he will come out right.—Persons afflicted with pulmonary and rheumatic complaints generally experience relief in Kansas. Not more ague occurs than in Wisconsin, the healthiest of the Western States.

TIMBER.

The Timber is mainly confined to the valleys, but is occasionally dispersed over the uplands in groves and parks of rare beauty. It occurs in belts from a few rods to several miles in width, following the valleys to their termination.

Oak, hickory, cottonwood, black walnut, ash, basswood, elm, locust, hackberry, coffee tree and sycamore are the most common trees. Chestnut, maple, cedar, buckeye, paw paw, persimmon and pecan nut occur. The amount of timber has been greatly underrated by superficial observers: though not as abundant as could be wished, it will meet the wants of the country, if properly husbanded. Kansas is better timbered than northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, and when it is remembered that the coal will supply fuel, and the hedge and stone, fencing and building material, no fears need be entertained on account of the scarcity of timber. It would be difficult to find a point anywhere more than 4 miles from wood.

PRODUCTIONS.

The soil and climate of Kansas are adapted to most of the grains, grasses and fruits raised in the North. Winter wheat, corn, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, potatoes, sweet potatoes and all common garden products, pumpkins, squashes, melons have been tried, and succeed admirably. Hemp and tobacco may be profitably cultivated, and the new Chinese sugar cane would probably be at home there.

Among fruits may be mentioned apples, pears, peaches, plums, cherries, apricots, grapes, currants and strawberries. The choice and tender varieties of these fruits may be grown successfully. The grape culture promises to be a profitable branch of business.—The dryness of the atmosphere ripens the fruit and concentrates its juices to the finest flavors.

A fine nutritious grass grows everywhere, yielding even on the dry prairies, two tons of hay per acre. Clover, timothy and redtop grass do well where tried. The winters are short and attended with so little snow that cattle are kept without fodder in many parts of Kansas. To those who wish to raise cattle, horses and sheep for market, the best in-

MARKETS.

Where is your market? is the anxious enquiry of many of our eastern friends, who have not learned that during the early settlement of any new country the home demand created by new comers will very soon absorb every surplus product. The California and Santa Fe routes pass through Kansas and the mighty trade that flows along them will be mainly sustained by her people. This trade requires 40,000 teams of mules, horses and oxen; at least one-third of these must be replaced annually. The government purchases extensive supplies for the western posts, which would naturally be procured in Kansas. The rapid influx of population will take everything that remains. The experience of farmers in other western States which have settled rapidly warrants the expectation of a ready home market at high prices, for everything that the Kansas farmer can raise for years to come.

COST OF OPENING FARMS, LIVING, &c.

This will of course depend upon the location in great measure, but a few general facts may be of use. Breaking costs from $2,50 to $4 per acre; rails from $2 to $3 per hundred; sod fence from 30 to 40 cents per rod; stone fence 80 cents to one dollar per rod; hedge set, 32 cents per rod, growing in five years to an efficient fence; timber sells for from 25 to 30 dollars per thousand, one-half of which cost is in sawing. Oak, black walnut and cotton wood are generally used.—Brick will be cheap when business is fairly started. Working cattle sell at from 80 to 100 dollars per yoke; horses from 75 to 150 dollars; mules from 100 to 200 dollars per head.

Rents are of course high; board from $3 to $5 per week.

MECHANICS, MANUFACTURES, &c.

Masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, wagon makers and cabinet makers are in great demand and will find abundant employment and good prices. Every branch of common mechanical labor can be profitably pursued. Masons and carpenters secure from $2,50 to $3,00 per day. Rough stone, or concrete, as it is called, is a favorite building material, and every man who can lay stone, will find constant work.

Grist and saw-mills and machine shops are greatly needed and would be excellent investments.

There is only one flouring mill in Kansas. Factories and tanneries would pay well.—Tradesmen will find Kansas a profitable field of adventure. The business is cash with few risks. The fruit and nursery business in all its branches will yield sure returns.

TIME FOR EMIGRATING.

If you conclude to go to Kansas the sooner you start after navigation opens, the better. If you go in March or April, you can secure a claim—break some portion of it and get in a few acres of corn, beans and potatoes.—Planting commences about the 15th of April, and may be continued until the 1st of June. Corn planted on the sod yields from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre, or about half its yield in old land. Any farmer of ordinary capacity, having his team and tools and being on the ground by the first of April will be able to raise food enough to keep his family through the winter, till another harvest. The land is ready for the plow in March, and continues so till the first of December. The ground may be worked for all agricultural purposes during nine months of the year.

The Missouri river is always open as early as the 1st of March, and affords a cheap, comfortable and easy transit to Kansas.

WHAT TO TAKE.

This will depend upon the time you go and the place where you start. In all cases carry such articles of necessity and convenience as you have, unless very heavy or bulky. Carry abundant bedding, good strong clothing, a few chairs, and a table, the stove if you can take it to pieces, a few dishes, and whatever is necessary for house-keeping, judged by the pioneer standard.

Carry also garden seeds, and fruit seeds of all kinds. Procure a hundred or two root grafts, apple and pear, plum, cherry, peach and grape roots, currants, ornamental shrubs and other small fruits in cuttings or roots.

Pack them in damp saw dust in a box and take them with you. You will find some place to set them and they will pay you a hundred fold, and surround your new home with comfort and beauty. If you have tools take them. If not, you can purchase quite as cheap at St. Louis or in Kansas as in the East.

Your coarse stuff should be shipped by some transportation company to reach Kansas as cheap as possible.

Freights up the Missouri to Kansas are from 30 cts. to $2,50 per hundred, according to the stage of the water. The highest rates occur in March, October, and November.—Lowest in May and June. Present rates are $1,00.

ROUTES.

Arrangements have been made with the following lines of transportation for the issuing of through tickets to Kansas Emigrants at a reduction of 25 per cent from the regular prices, viz:

Fall River route from Boston to New York.

New York & Erie R. R., New York to Dunkirk or Buffalo.

Lake Shore R. R. from Buffalo and Dunkirk to Cleveland or Toledo.

From Cleveland to St. Louis by the Cleveland, Columbus & Cincinnati, Bellefontaine & Indiana, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh & Cleveland, Terre Haute & Richmond, and Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis R. Roads. Persons wishing to do so can go through Columbus by the Columbus & Xenia R. R., and proceed from Terre Haute by the Ohio & Mississippi R. R. to St. Louis.

From Toledo to St. Louis by the Toledo, Wabash & Western and Terre Haute & Alton R. R's., or via Michigan Southern and Chicago, Alton & St. Louis R. R's.

From St. Louis by Steamers or by the Pacific R. R. to Jeffersor City and thence by steamers to Kansas.

Through tickets will be sold at the principal ticket offices on these routes, either to single individuals or companies. These tickets entitle the holder to first class fare with meals and berths on the Missouri river boats, and 100 pounds of baggage to each person.

Arrangements are being made for a similar reduction over other routes which will be announced when completed. All baggage should be carefully marked and checked days of it being spent on the Missouri steamers which are among the best boats on our waters.

Freight may be consigned with proper directions to "Care Simmons & Leadbeater, St. Louis, Mo."

An estimate of the expense of reaching the territory by these routes may be formed by noticing the prices of tickets from the following points:

Boston to Kansas (approximately)	$34,00
New York or Albany	30,00
Buffalo or Dunkirk	24.00
Cleveland	21,00
Chicago	16,00

Children under 12 years of age half price.

OVERLAND ROUTE.

Persons wishing to go with their own teams can make a safe and easy transit across Iowa or Missouri. The principal routes cross the Mississippi at Dubuque, Davenport, Muscatine, Burlington, Hannibal, Mo. and St. Louis. Either of these are good wagon routes, and the choice will be determined by the starting point. A loaded team will make 25 miles per day, the distance from the farthest point named bing about 400 miles.—It is hardly safe to start before the 1st of May, as the teams must depend mainly upon green feed. The exense is trifling if provision is made for camping. In warm weather this trip can be take even by females, without exposure to serve hardships. No difficulty will be encountred in finding the route from any of the above starting points. Every party should has a tent, cooking utensils and abundant bdding. They can live in their wagons and tents after arriving in the territory, until home is secured.

LANDING POTS IN KANSAS.

Persons wishing to go up the Kansas valley, or to the southern portion of the territory, should stop at Wyandotte City or Quindaro, two new towns in close proximity with each other, and locad on the Missouri river, just above the mou of the Kansas. Col. Eldridge, late proprietor of the Free State Hotel, will run a line of hacks daily from Wyandotte to Lawnce; fare three dollars. A steamer recently purchased by Thaddeus Hyatt, Esq., of N. will make regular trips from Quindaro to Lawrence, three times a week, carrying passgers at three dollars a piece. At these pts teams can be obtained for any part of the territory, and purchases of stores can be made. Leavenworth City 25 miles high up. Atchison 10 miles beyond, Doniphan and Iowa Point, connect with the Northern portion of the territory, and communicate stage with the interior.

CLAIMS, PRE-EMIONS, LAND ENTRIES.

Persons not familar with the method of acquiring titles to lds in new States are apt to over estimate the difficulties, and suffer much needless anxiety. The following hints as to Kansas land may be of use to settlers, or persons wishing to invest. Any person, who is a citizen of the United States, or has filed notice of intetion to become such, who is either the head of a family, a widow, or a single man over 2 years of age, may enter upon 160 acres of government land, wherever he or she may chose to select it, if not already occupied, and by residing upon it and improving it, secure the same at $1,25 per acre. It is necessary only to make an actual residence on the land, to file a notice of intention to preempt the same, and to be ready to make payment before the public sale, which will be advertised for three months.

The land offices of Kansas will be opened soon, but what precise time it is impossible to say. Three months are allowed for the payment of pre-emptions after the offices are open. The land is then offered at public auction, after which it is liable to private entry. Land Warrants can probably be used in payment for pre-emptions. No man who has made and kept a claim by a genuine residence need be in fear of losing it. The Settlers will protect each others claims while necessarily absent for their families or on business. The Indian reservations are not now open for settlement. The Shawnee lands south of Kansas river and near its mouth, will be open for pre-emption in a few weeks, and offer excellent chances for farms. The 16th and 32d sections of every township are reserved for school purposes, and cannot be pre-empted or entered at the land office.—Those who settle on these lands will have a long time for payment, but must expect to pay a high price. We shall soon be in receipt of more accurate information, as to opening of land offices.

Persons not residing in Kansas, but wishing information as to investments may address the undersigned at Chicago.

LOCAL INFORMATION, MAPS, &c.

The emigrant to a new country, feels at once the need of accurate local information. To meet this want, Messrs. E. B. Whitman and A. D. Searl have opened offices at Wyandotte and Lawrence. W. F. M. Arny, Esq., will also have a similar office at Lawrence. They will furnish guides and teams on reasonable terms. They have an extensive knowledge of the country, and will give reliable information to all who seek it, for a small fee. Mr. Searl will be found at Wyandotte ready to serve all who desire his aid. Whitman & Searl's map is the best yet published. Every one should procure it who travels in Kansas. An excellent pamphlet by Dr. Webb, of Boston, and a book on Kansas by the Rev. C. B. Boynton, contain much valuable matter.

To the emigrant and the capitalist alike, Kansas holds out the most tempting inducements. Its magnificent physical resources, its central position, its genial climate, its proximity to the great river of the continent, its prospect of a speedy Railroad connection with the Atlantic cities, and especially its 40,000 capable, enterprising and intelligent people, guarantee a sure and rapid growth. The school, the church, and the refined social circle are already there to nurture, protect, and develope the growth of a model commonwealth. There, if anywhere in the West, life will be surrounded with fine conditions, and enterprise and industry will reap a sure harvest with competence and wealth.

EDWARD DANIELS,
Agent of Emigration, Nat. Kansas Com.

Any communications relating to emigration or matters treated of in this circular may be addressed to me at Chicago, Ill.

ASBESTUS.—This is one of the most singular productions of nature. Formed of the hardest rock elements—of silicia and magnesia, with a little alumnia of lime—its texture is such that one would suppose it to consist of which are extremely delicate, flexible, and elastic, can only be compared to lint or white thread of the most beautiful kind. It is sometimes, on the contrary, hard, brittle, and colored in a way to be confounded with fragments of wood broken in splinters. In these two cases it is marked by very opposite characteristics; in one the tenacity and strength of so firm a thread, in the other a woody texture, and sometimes sufficient hardness even to scratch glass. Now compact and elastic as cork,—here in masses of a dirty white, like that of dried paste, and there with filaments like locks of hair, it received from mineralogists of old the different names of mountain cork, leather, and fossil paper. Chemists call it living linen, or salamandrine wool.

Asbestus was esteemed precious by the ancients; they employed it to make tissues which served to envelope the body when it was burned after death, and to preserve its ashes unmingled with those of the fuel by which it was consumed. A large marble urn was discovered in 1791, in a vineyard near Rome, containing a piece of this asbestus cloth more than two yards in length, by one and three-quarters in width; it resembled cloth made of hemp, but it was as soft and glossy as silk. It contained the half burnt bones and skull of some ancient worthy; it was placed in the library of the Vatican.—Obtained from Persia at great expense, the custom of burning the corpse in a tissue of this substance could only be current in the richest families. Pliny considered it in effect reserved for royal sepultures. Superior qualities of it served for cloths for the sacred lamps, and for the table linen of the wealthy; after use it was said to be thrown into fire by the servants to be cleaned.

Pliny was ignorant of the nature of asbestus; he classed it with vegetable substances, and called it unchangeable linen. He compared its value to that of fine pearls and added that it was prepared to sustain the heat of fire by the broiling sun of the India deserts, where it grew.

We are surprised to find the ancients giving credit to tales so absurd. Pliny, the Roman naturalist, believed, on the testimony of the sage Anixilaus, that a tree enveloped in a tissue of asbestus could stand without injury the blows of an axe.

In modern times, some industrious individuals have occupied themselves in spinning asbestus, and have succeeded in making it into cloth by resorting to the expedient of mixing it with cotton or linen, without which the thread has not sufficient strength to be woven. They then put it into the fire, and draw it forth a tissue of pure asbestus. This roundabout way would probably have been unnecessary if they had known and applied the kind of asbestus best fitted for the object.

Madame Perpenti has succeeded in Italy for some years past, in fabricating from it cloths, paper, and even lace. A book was deposited in the French Institute, printed entirely on paper thus manufactured by this lady. The process of manufacture is described as quite simple and not very expensive. This paper is very good either for writing or printing—by employing an ink composed of manganese and sulphuret of iron, the writing will be preserved even after having passed through fire, and the paper has the great value of securing precious documents from destruction by the flames. Asbestus has also been employed for various other useful purposes, of which we have not room to speak.

☞ That was a very natural, but a very ludicrous remark of a venerable lady, now in her one hundreth year, on the death of her daughter, who had attained the good old age of eighty. The mother's griet was great, and to a friend who came to condole with her, she could only say: "Oh dear! oh dear! I knew I never should be able to rear that child!"

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
—OF—
JAMES BUCHANAN,
March 4, 1857.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—I appear before you this day to take the solemn oath, "that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." In entering upon this great office, I most humbly invoke the God of our fathers for wisdom and firmness to execute its high and responsible duties in such a manner as to restore harmony and ancient friendship among the people of the several States, and to preserve our free institutions throughout many generations.—Convinced that I owe my election to the inherent love for the Constitution and the Union, which still animates the hearts of the American people, let me earnestly ask their powerful support in sustaining all just measures calculated to perpetuate these, the richest political blessing which Heaven has ever bestowed upon any nation. Having determined not to become a candidate for re-election, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the government, except the desire, ably and faithfully to serve my country, and to live in the grateful memory of my countrymen. We have recently passed through a Presidential contest in which the passions of our fellow citizens were excited to the highest degree by questions of deep and vital importance. But when the people proclaimed their will, the tempest at once subsided, and all was calm. The voice of the majority, speaking in the manner prescribed by the Constitution, was heard, and instant submission followed. Our own country could alone have exhibited so grand and striking a spectacle of the capacity of man for self government. What a happy conception, then, was it for Congress to apply this simple rule, "that the will of the majority shall govern," to the settlement of the question of domestic slavery in the territories. Congress is neither "to legislate slavery into any territory, not to exclude it therefrom," but to leave the people thereof perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States. As a natural consequence, Congress has also prescribed that when the Territory of Kansas shall be admitted as a State it shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their own Constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission. A different opinion has arisen in regard to the point of time when the people of a territory shall decide the question for themselves. This is happily a matter of but little practical importance; besides, States, before [illegible] will, it is understood, be speedily and finally settled. To their decision, in common with all good citizens, I shall cheerfully submit, whatever that may be, though it has ever been my individual opinion that, under the Nebraska-Kansas act, the appropriate period will be when the number of actual residents in the territory shall justify the formation of a constitution, with a view to its admission as a State into the Union. But, be this as it may, it is the imperative and indispensible duty of the government of the United States to secure to every resident inhabitant the free and independent expression of his opinion by his vote. This sacred right of each individual must be preserved. This being accomplished, nothing can be fairer than to leave the people of a territory free from all foreign interference, to decide their own destiny for themselves, subject only to the Constitution of the United States. The whole territorial question being thus settled upon the principle of popular sovereignty—a principle as ancient as free government itself—everything of a practical nature has been decided. No other question remains for adjustment, because all agree that under the Constitution, slavery in the States is beyond the reach of any human power except that of the respective States themselves wherein it exists. May we not, then, hope that the long agitation on this subject is approaching its end, and that the geographical parties to which it has given birth—so much dreaded by the Father of his Country—will speedily become extinct? Most happy will it be for the country when the public mind shall be diverted from this question to others of more pressing and practical importance. Throughout the whole progress of this agitation, which has scarcely known any intermission for more than twenty years, whilst it has been productive of no positive good to any human being, it has been a prolific source of great evils to the master, to the slave and to the whole country. It has alienated and estranged the people of sister States from each other, and has even seriously endangered the very existence of the Union.—Nor has the danger yet entirely ceased. Under our system there is a remedy for all mere political evils in the sound sense and sober judgment of the people. Time is a great corrective. Political subjects which but a few years ago excited and exasperated the public mind, have passed away and are now nearly forgotten. But the question of domestic slavery is of far greater importance than of any mere political question, because should the agitation continue, it may eventually endanger the personal safety of a large portion of our countrymen where the institution exists. In that event no form of government, however admirable in itself, however productive of material benefits, can compensate for the loss of peace and domestic security around the family altar. Let every Union loving man, therefore, exert his best influence to suppress this agitation, which, since the recent legislation of Congress, is without any legitimate object. It is an evil omen of the times, that men have undertaken to calculate the mere material value of the Union, and that estimates have been presented of the pecuniary profits and local advantages which would result to different States and sections from its dissolution, and of the comparative injuries which such an event would inflict on other States and sections. Even descending to this low and narrow view of the mighty question, all such calculations are at fault—the bare reference to a single consideration will be conclusive on this point. We at present enjoy a free trade throughout our extensive and expanding country such as the world never witnessed. This trade is conducted on railroads and canals, on noble rivers and arms of the sea, which bind together the North and the South, the East and the West of our confederacy. Anihilate this trade, arrest its free progress by the geographical lines of jealous and hostile States, and you destroy the prosperity and onward march of the whole and every part, and involve all in one common ruin. But such considerations, important as they are in themselves, sink into insignificance, when we reflect on the terrific evils which would result from disunion to every portion of the confederacy. To the North not more than to the South—to the East not more than to the West. These I shall not attempt to portray, because I feel an humble confidence, that the kind Providence which inspired our fathers with wisdom to frame the most perfect form of government and union ever devised by man, will not suffer it to perish, until it shall have been peacefully instrumental, by its example, in the extension of civil and religious liberty throughout the world.

Next in importance to the maintenance of the Constitution and the Union, is the duty of preserving the government free from the taint or even the suspicion of curruption. Public virtue is the vital spirit of republics; and when the love of money has usurped its place, although the forms of free government may remain for a season, the substance has departed forever.

Our present financial condition is without a parallel in history. No nation has ever before been embarrassed from too large a surplus in its treasury. This almost necessarily gives birth to extravagant legislation. It produces wild schemes of expenditures, and begets a race of speculators and jobbers whose ingenuity is exerted in contriving and promoting expedients to obtain public money. The purity of official agents, whether rightfully or wrongfully, is suspected, and the character of the government suffers in the estimation of the people. This is in itself a very great evil. The natural mode of relief from this embarrassment is to appropriate the surplus in the Treasury to great national objects, for which a clear warrant can be found in the Constitution. Among these I might mention the extinguishment of the public debt, a reasonable increase of the Navy—which is at present inadequate to the protection of our vast tonnage afloat, now greater than that of any other nation—as well as to the defence of our extensive sea coast. It is beyond all question the true principle that no more revenue ought to be collected from the people than the amount necessary to defray the expenses of a wise, economical and efficient administration of the government. To reach this point, it was necessary to resort to a modification of the tariff, and this has, I trust, been accomplished in such a manner as to do as little injury as may have been practicable to our domestic manufacturers, especially those necessary for the defence of the country. Any discrimination against a particular branch for the purpose of benefiting favored corporations, individuals or sections, would have been unjust to the people, and inconsistent with the spirit in which a revenue tariff ought to govern in a republic. But the squandering of the public money sinks into apparent insignificance, as a temptation to corruption, when compared with the squandering of the public lands.—No nation in the tide of time has ever been blessed with so rich and noble an inheritance as we enjoy in the Public Lands. In administering this important trust, whilst it may be wise to grant portions of them for the improvement of the remainder, yet we should never forget that it is our cardinal policy to preserve these lands, as much as may be, for actual settlers, and this at moderate prices.—We shall thus not only best promote the prosperity of the new States and Territories, by furnishing them a hardy and independent race of honest and industrious citizens, but shall secure homes for our children and our childrens' children, as well as for those exiles from foreign shores who may seek in this country to improve their condition and to enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty. Such emigrants have done much to promote the growth and prosperity of the country. They have proved faithful both in peace and in war. After becoming citizens, they are entitled, under the Constitution and laws, to be placed on perfect equality with native born citizens; and in this character they should ever be kindly recognized. The Federal Constitution is a grant from the States to Congress of certain specific powers, and the question whether this grant should be liberally or strictly construed, has more or less divided political parties from the beginning.—Without entering into the argument, I desire to state, at the commencement of my administration, that long experience and observation have convinced me that a strict construction of the powers of the government is the only true, as well as the only safe theory of the Constitution. Whenever, in our past history, doubtful powers have been exercised by Congress, these have never failed to produce injurious and unhappy consequences. Many such instances might be adduced, if this were the proper occasion. Neither is it necessary for the public service to strain the language of the Constitution, because all the great and useful powers required for a successful administration of the government, both in peace and in war, have been granted either in express terms or by the plainest implication.—Whilst deeply convinced of these truths, I yet consider it clear, that under the war-making power, Congress may appropriate money towards the construction of a military road, when this is absolutely necessary for the defence of any State or Territory of the Union against foreign invasion. Under the Constitution, Congress has power "to declare war"—"to raise and support armies"—"to provide and maintain a navy," and to call forth the militia to "repel invasion." Thus endowed in an ample manner with the war-making power, the corresponding duty is secured that "the United States shall protect each of them (the States) against invasion." Now is it possible to afford this protection to California and our Pacific possessions, except by means of a military road through the territories of the United States, over which men and munitions of war may be speedily transported from the Atlantic States to meet and repel the invader? In the event of a war with a naval power much stronger than our own, we should then have no other available access to the Pacific coast, because such a power would instantly close the route across the Isthmus of Central America. It is impossible to conceive, that while the Constitution has expressly required Congress to defend all the States, it should yet deny to them by any fair construction the only possible means by which one of these States can be defended.—Beside, the government, ever since its origin, has been in the constant practice of construct-