

# The Montrose Democrat.

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the loan, or reform the notes. Hence they have continued in circulation, have been paid into your public offices, and again paid out of the treasury, until they are wholly unfit as a currency for the citizens. The amount now in circulation, is presumed to be about six hundred thousand dollars. It is respectfully suggested, that the worst of these notes, as they are paid into the treasury, should be retained, and in their stead, an equal amount of new notes, of the same denominations, under an arrangement with any of the banks of this Commonwealth, to be put into circulation for a period by the quarterly destruction of fifty thousand dollars, to absorb the whole amount of the issue. A measure of this character would relieve the currency of those unfit for use and have the effect of raising the value of the whole issue of currency. I would earnestly press upon the legislators the passage of such laws, as would prohibit in their mutilated and defaced condition, the payment in the treasury. Should it be deemed desirable, the State should be allowed to issue a new currency, to loan the currency of the entire issue, by a bond of any bank, at the present season, that it makes a loan at a low rate of interest to the government, to be used in redeeming and cancelling the whole, or such part as might be deemed desirable. An arrangement on the subject you may devise, to relieve the people. This currency, shall receive my cordial approbation.

The payment of the interest on the public debt, by a bonded convertible currency, is of great moment to the credit of the State. This demand on the treasury has, heretofore, by a large extent, been met by payments in depreciated paper, by which the holders of State bonds have suffered pecuniarily. An issue of this nature, demands a speedy and effectual remedy. The relief notes originally intended to be temporary in their existence and local in their circulation, should not be forced from their legitimate purpose, or paid from the treasury in discharge of the interest of the public debt.

No great inconvenience could be felt in withholding an amount so small as their present circulation, from such application. To secure an object so desirable, the revenue of the State should be collected in such funds only as admit of ready convertibility into specie without loss.

The relief notes, as well as the notes of all specie paying banks of this Commonwealth, should be received in payment of the State debt, while other paper money, under any act, at the place designated for the payment of interest on the public debt, should be refused, unless, upon notice that such effect of the State Treasurer, arrangements by the banks issuing the same were made to reflect it at such point as he might designate. The State Treasurer should be authorized to require the banks to pay the place of paying the interest, to make arrangements to redeem their notes at par, at the point designated, and on their failure to do so, to demand specie funds at their counters. It is respectfully suggested, that the kind of notes, would be issued, and in rendering the notes of all the equal value in all parts of the Commonwealth, the general circulation among the citizens and tend to exclude the depreciated paper of foreign institutions. A measure of this nature, which would give increase of worth to the currency, and give the State more facility to comply with its contracts, is worthy the serious consideration of the Legislature.

Intimately connected with the subject of the public debt, are the assessment and collection of the taxes. The present system of the State, is a concern of the highest importance, and should be re-organized and arranged in such form as to insure equality and uniformity in the several counties of the State. The manner of assessing and equalizing the valuation of property for taxation is a concern of deep interest to the people, and should, as far as possible, be left in the hands of their immediate representatives. Assessors, it is suggested, should be required in a full and accurate statement of the various products of *Ferrous and Manufacture*, of the kind, nature and amount of the supposed annual value of the productive industry of each district; of the amount and nature of the local and general trade and business, with the manner and cost of carrying the nearest market, and the value of the articles in market, at the nearest point to the district. Should an annual statement of this nature be deemed too expensive for practical utility, a triennial return might answer the purpose intended. Returns of a nature so general, of the resources and needs of the State, while it would afford valuable information to the public officer, would place before him, such facts as would enable him to detect gross errors in the uniformity of the assessments, and would leave in the hands of the officer, the duty of valuing and taxing the property, instead of casting a labor so important into the care of irresponsible boards.

The importance of legislative action on the subject is enhanced by the fact, that an examination of the ordinary revenues and expenditures for the last few years, furnishes evidence that the necessities of the treasury require increased resources. A statement from the auditing department is as follows:

Item	Amount
Amount of relief notes issued, 1841-1844	\$2,200,000.00
Amount of relief notes redeemed, 1841-1844	1,800,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1841-1844	400,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1845-1848	1,200,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1849-1852	1,500,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1853-1856	1,800,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1857-1860	2,100,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1861-1864	2,400,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1865-1868	2,700,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1869-1872	3,000,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1873-1876	3,300,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1877-1880	3,600,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1881-1884	3,900,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1885-1888	4,200,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1889-1892	4,500,000.00
Amount of relief notes in circulation, 1893-1894	4,800,000.00

It is worthy of remark, that had the cancellation of these notes been made, as required by law, less than half a million of the original issue, would now be in existence, a large portion of which has doubtless been mislaid and lost. It will be perceived also, that the set requires the destruction of the most depreciated. In using this term, the legislature must have intended those notes defaced. The laws on the subject of these notes, having pledged the faith of the state for their redemption, it is not readily seen how they could become depreciated in value, while on the other hand, many of them had become defaced, torn and unfit for use. At the passage of the act of May 31st, 1844, about fourteen hundred thousand dollars of this issue, were in circulation, and as it required the cancellation and destruction of two hundred thousand dollars per annum only, it prolonged the period of their circulation to seven years, when by the original act of May 4th, 1841, but two years remained of the period of their duration. The act of May 31st, 1844, is attributable, therefore, the continuance in circulation of these notes, after they had become torn, defaced and unfit for use. The other legislation had not been constructed by subsequent legislation provided the necessary means for the redemption of these notes, through the banks on or before the 4th day of May, 1846, and the failure of these banks, by the act of the 21st of May, 1844, thereby demonstrating that the treasury had not been, also that, in a condition to repay

thoroughly making them an issue on the part of the Commonwealth, redeemable at the treasury alone, contravened the Constitution clearly given a different position to the question, however unpleasant the task of performing the duties of the office without the endorsement of the people's will they would have been faithfully executed.

In assuming a speaker of the Senate, the exercise of Executive functions, although not deemed it absolutely necessary, bringing the Governor, or of his representative, to a faithful discharge of the Executive duties, and an oath that effect was administered to me by the honorable the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A law requiring in all cases of death or removal, or resignation, of the Governor, or of his representative, that he is authorized and directed to select a presiding magistrate, for the event happening, the government would be left without a Constitutional officer to carry on its operations. An omission of such importance should be supplied at the earliest possible moment.

Resolutions expressive of the profound sorrow of the legislature, for the death of that illustrious patriot and sage, John Quincy Adams, and of condolence for the family in their bereavement, were passed by the Legislature, in its last session; and the Executive was directed to transmit the same to the widow and family of the deceased. The letter of the late Executive in the performance of that duty, and the reply of the venerable survivor, are herewith transmitted.

The attention of the Legislature, having been called to the neglected and suffering condition of the insane poor of the State, the 14th day of April, 1845, providing for the establishment of an asylum for the insane, was passed, and the same was directed to be placed under the management of the State.

By the act of the 4th of May, 1841, entitled "An act to provide revenue to meet the demands on the treasury, and for other purposes," certain banks were authorized to subscribe for a loan to the Commonwealth, to an amount equal to a fixed per centage, therein stated, on their respective capitals; the amount of such loan to be placed in the treasury for the use thereof, in notes of said banks of the denomination of one, two, and five dollars. By the terms of the law, the loan was redeemable at any time within five years, and was preemptory that it should be paid, and the notes authorized to be issued, withdrawn from circulation on or before the 4th day of May, 1846. The act also provided, that the banks issuing said notes should receive them at par value in the payment of debts due them by the Commonwealth; and that by making their redemption dependent on the faith of the State, as well as on that of the banks by which they were issued, a safe and reliable currency would be constituted, while the loan was redeemable at any time, and at one interest of six and six per cent, on previous occasions.

The notes thus issued, were substantially the creatures of the banks. They constituted a loan to the Commonwealth, were required to be paid into the treasury in the same manner as the law, and were redeemable at their par value at the counters of the banks; and the circumstances of the banks of the State in addition to that of the banks being pledged for their redemption, could not raise a national doubt of their solvency. By the act of the 21st of May, 1844, relieving the banks from all responsibility touching their redemption and payment,

and honor and safety of the country require it from future generations.

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, the late Governor Shunk, has sunk beneath the malady which he had suffered from. He died on the 20th day of July, 1844.

It will not be deemed improper in me to say a few words in reference to the character of the illustrious man, who has departed. The late Governor Shunk having spent a large portion of his life in the public service, and having mingled much with his fellow citizens, was generally known throughout the State, and it is with admiration, that at one period of his life, I had the honor to enjoy his intimate personal friendship.

During our intimacy, it always gave him great pleasure to aid and assist the young and to impart to his fellow men by words of kindness, and deeds of charity, a large share of happiness as his condition would allow.

His intercourse with others was courteous, his friendships were lasting, his attachments strong and enduring, his life replete with noble and generous thoughts, and his death a permanent impression in his bosom. It may with truth be said of Governor Shunk, that he was a sincere friend, a good neighbor, a pure Christian and an honest man, whose private and public life were among his fellow citizens when in intimacy with him, gave me a knowledge of his character, and although a difference of political views separated us for many years before his death, his friends at a later period of his life, have been unanimous in their expressions of affection and desire of well doing, and remained with him until the hour of his death.

The Legislature is respectfully invited to take such action in relation to the decease of that Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth, as it may deem proper. It is respectfully suggested, that the period for which he was elected, as may be deemed most appropriate to express its sympathy for the sorrow and bereavement of the surviving relatives, and to testify its respect for the memory of the virtues of the deceased.

Prior to the decease of Governor Shunk, on the 9th day of July, 1845, as appears by the records in the State Department, he resigned the office of Governor of this Commonwealth, and thereupon, under the provisions of the section of the 2nd article of the Constitution, which relates to the duties of the Governor, until another Governor shall be duly qualified, the duties of the Executive Department of the Government devolved on me.

between 41 deg. and 60 deg. There was a snow storm between the 4th and 7th doubling course through a fertile and picturesque valley, two hundred miles long.

The weather then continued unintermittently until the close of the year, with rain or snow; and during the month of November, generally clear and beautiful; nights and mornings calm a light breeze during the day, and strong winds of very rare occurrence. Snow remained only on the peaks of the mountains.

On the western side of the basin, along the base of the Sierra Nevada, during two weeks, from the 25th November to the 11th December, the mean temperature at sunrise was 17°, and at sunset 24°, and at sunset 23° to 21°, and at sunset 23° to 44°. For ten consecutive days of the same period, the mean temperature at noon was 47°, ranging from 33° to 53°.

The water of the basin, within the basin, was remarkable for the same open, pleasant weather rare interrupted by thin or snow and other fish and from a small lake. In fact, there is nothing in the climate of this great interior region, elevated as it is, and surrounded and traversed by snowy mountains, to prevent civilized life, or making it less so, and flowing in its arable parts the means of a comfortable subsistence; and this the Mormons will probably soon prove in the parts about the Great Salt Lake, the progress of their settlement is already great. In the first of April of the present year, they had 3,000 acres in wheat, seven and a half million seven hundred bushels in a fourth of an acre of sixty acres, stock and other commodities of a flourishing settlement.

Such is the Great Basin, heretofore characterized as a desert, and in some respects denoting that appellation; but already demonstrating the qualification of great exceptions, and deserving the bill examination of a thorough exploration.

It is, therefore, gratifying to know that the war has happily terminated, and that Peace, the rational desire of all, shall again blessings on every portion of our country. To the Almighty Father, who in mercifully turned the hearts of the rulers of both countries, to lay aside the sword, to cultivate the spirit of brotherly kindness, and to establish peaceful relations between the citizens of their respective governments, we owe the deepest and most fervent gratitude. The abundance of our harvests, the blessings of continued and general health, and the preservation of our civil and religious rights, as guaranteed to us by the free institutions of our country; while destitution, misery, and convulsed governments, and precarious civil and religious institutions, harass the people of other lands, should produce in our hearts a fervent acknowledgment of His superintending kindness and mercy.

In the late contest with Mexico, this Commonwealth was called upon by the National Government, to furnish a portion of the troops deemed necessary by the constituted authorities to carry the war to a successful issue. With this requisition it is scarcely necessary to state, our Commonwealth complied with the alacrity which has furnished our country with her young her republics. A large contingent was instantly placed at the disposal of the National Government, and it is a matter of just pride to their fellow citizens, that in its discharge of every duty, these volunteers maintained the honor of the State, and the respectability of the Nation. A volunteer who fortunately escaped death, and returned to his family and friends, after having earned for himself and the State, a reputation for undaunted bravery, for enduring the patient suffering, and many and heroic virtues, that the future annals will delight to record, and which will be a source of honor to his country.

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G. C. HENPSTEADT, Editor and Proprietor.

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THE POOR MAN'S GRAVE.

No sable, pall, no weeping plume;  
No torches, nor lights to illumine  
No funeral march, or busy throng,  
Are seen to fall upon his bed.

There is not one of kindred clay  
To watch the coffin as it lay;  
No mortal form, no human breast,  
Cares where the paper's dust may rest.

But one deep-mourner follows there,  
Whom grief outlives the funeral prayer;  
He does not sigh, he does not weep;  
But he will leave the funeral heep.

'Tis he who was the poor man's mate,  
And amid him more content with fate;  
The mourner did that should be just,  
Is all that stands head-to-head.

He looks his last long look as though  
He thought he had a love to lose;  
He mourns to meet a friend so kind,  
And wonders that he's left behind.

The sun goes down, the night is here—  
He needs no food, he seeks no cheer;  
He stretched upon the death-bed,  
With faithful howl calls back the dead.

The passing gaze may easily fall  
On him that holds a mark so pale,  
A couple built on death-yard earth,  
An stained by tears, and dim with death.

But who would mark such funeral woe,  
Who would not mark such funeral woe,  
Such love and faith to good his grave,  
Brooklyn, Dec. 1843.

## Geographical Memoir

### UPPER CALIFORNIA.

BY JOHN CHARLES FREMONT.

(Continued.)

Rivers of the Great Basin.—The most considerable river in the interior of the Great Basin is the Great Salt Lake. It is called Humboldt river, as the mountains at its head are called Humboldt river mountains, so called as a small mark of respect to the "Astor of scientific travelers," who has done so much to illustrate North American geography, without however being upon any of its remarkable features. It is a river, long known to hunters, and sometimes sketched on maps under the name of Mary's, or Oregon's, but now for the first time has been known by its present name. It rises in the west, and has many characteristics of an Asiatic river—the Jordan, for example, though twice as long—rising in mountains and being itself in a lake of its own, after a long and solitary course. It rises in the mountains of the west of the Great Salt Lake, which unite, after some fifty miles, and bears westward along the northern side of the basin towards the Great Sierra Nevada. These mountains are found and land in their outline, except in some of the greater part of the valley, well covered with grass and wood, and abundant in water. The stream is a narrow line, without alluvial banks, being by absorption and evaporation as it goes, and terminating in a marshy lake, with low shores, fringed by the brush, and whitened with saline crustations. It has a moderate current, is from 2 to 6 feet deep in the dry season, and probably not fordable anywhere below the junction of the forks during the time of melting snow, when both lake and river are considerably enlarged. The country through which it passes (except its immediate valley) is a dry sandy plain, without grass, wood, or arable soil; from about 4,700 feet (at the forks) to 4,200 feet (at the lake) above the level of the sea, winding among broken ranges of mountains, and varying from a few miles to twenty in breadth.

This river possesses qualities which, in the progress of events, may give it both value and fame. It lies on the line of travel to California and Oregon, and is the best route now known through the Great Basin, and the one traveled by emigrants. Its direction, nearly east and west, is the right course for that travel. It furnishes a level and unobstructed way for nearly three hundred miles, and a continuous supply of the indispensable articles of water, wood, and grass. Its head is towards the Great Salt Lake, and consequently towards the Mormon settlement, which must become a point in the line of emigration to California and the lower Colorado. A station is within fifty miles of the head of the Sierra Nevada, opposite the Salmon Trout river fifty-two miles above the level of the sea, and less than leading into the level of the Basin, and some forty miles north of the Sacramento. These properties give to this river a great value in future communication with the Pacific coast, and the profile view on the north of the map shows the elevation of the present traveling route, the route is a part, from the South pass, in the Rocky mountains, to the bay of San Francisco.

The other principal rivers of the Great Basin are found on its circumference, including their waters from the Snowy mountains, which surround it, and are, 1. Bear river, on the east, rising in the massive