

The Montrose Democrat.

"WE ARE ALL EQUAL BEFORE GOD AND THE CONSTITUTION."—James Buchanan.

McCollum & Gerritson, Proprietors.

Montrose, Susquehanna County, Penna., Thursday Morning, August 28, 1856.

Volume 13, Number 36.

Choice Poetry.

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE.

ALL hail, ye gallant freedom men,
United heart and hand,
Who, in the noble cause of right,
Have fearless vowed to stand.
Unfurl your banner to the breeze,
And wave it o'er the deck,
And herald wide the people's choice,
And shout for "Back and Break."

Oh, by the blood your father's spill,
Fair Freedom's pearl to gain,
By that high principle within,
That spurs Oppression's chain,
Arise! your country bids you rise,
Her traitorous foes to check,
And herald wide the people's choice,
And shout for "Back and Break."

CAMPAGN SONG.

Oh! Back and Break are bound to win—
No power can stop their coming in—
The Pennsylvania steed is lucky,
And so's the one from Old Kentucky.
Pennsylvania's safe and lucky—
So's the boss from Old Kentucky.
Other nags may take the track,
But never a horse can't reach the quarter—
And what is more, he had'n't order.
Pennsylvania's safe and lucky—
So's the boss from Old Kentucky.
The thimble rigger's toadies say
Know Nothing steed will win the day—
But thimble riggers are complaining
That he was broke down in the training.
Pennsylvania's safe and lucky—
So's the boss from Old Kentucky.
Clear the course! the people cry,
Their steers lag is waving high—
Both our steers are fast and lucky—
Pennsylvania and Kentucky.
Pennsylvania's sound and plucky—
So's the boss from Old Kentucky.

Political Articles.

AN EXTENSIVE CATTLE SPECULATION.



Gov. Fremont's Beef Breeders.

FREMONT IN CALIFORNIA—HOW HE BECAME RICH.

TWO DOLLARS A DAY AND HOAST BEEF. We invite attention to the following official document relating to the course of Lieut. Col. John C. Fremont, while acting, or professing to act as Governor of California—These official documents were sent to the House of Representatives by President Taylor in 1850, in compliance with a resolution of that body. In order that our readers may feel the full force of the evidence which they contain, it will be necessary to remember that Gen. Kearney arrived in California in December, 1846; that he had authority from the war department, to establish a civil government in California, and that he communicated to Com. Stockton the nature of his instructions. The two acted together in the battles on the Rio San Gabriel and on the Plains of the Mesas, 8th and 9th January, 1847, in which after a severe fight, Fremont, not being with them, however, they were victorious. They took Ciudad de Los Angeles, and a few days afterward Fremont arrived there with his part of the battalion. On the 10th of January, Gen. Kearney made a formal demand of Commodore Stockton that he should cease any further proceedings relating to the formation of a civil government in California. Commodore Stockton left the Territory shortly afterward. General Kearney made proclamation as Governor of California, and it is worthy to be remembered that all this took place prior to the date of the following interesting documents:

I have received from Don Eulogio de Celis one hundred and ninety head of cattle on account of Mr. J. C. Fremont, Lieut. Col. of the army of the United States, and said cattle remain in my possession according to agreement.

ANGELOS, July 7, 1847.

We come now to the full denouement of this matter. Fremont left California in June, 1847, nothing was heard of the cattle by the commissary nor by Col. Mason, until application was made by the holder of the agreement, to know whether the amount would be paid at maturity. This elicited an inquiry into the character of the transaction. Col. J. D. Stephenson addressed two letters to Abel Stearns, the recipient of the cattle, inquiring how he held them, and to whom they belonged. The following are his answers:

ANGELOS, August 20, 1847.

Dear Sir—In reply to your official letter of yesterday, I would observe that I hold in my possession six hundred head of cattle, (the major part of them breeding cows) received from Don Eulogio de Celis, on account of Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Fremont. I hold these cattle by agreement, and for the term of three years, to return the same number at the end of the term, with one increase, excepting such as may be

lost in any way whatever, and not for want of care on my part. I consider the cattle as the private property of Col. J. C. Fremont, not being instructed by him to the contrary. I have the honor to be, &c.,

ABEL STEARNS.
Commanding Southern Military Dist. Cal. No. 10.
ANGELOS, Sept. 20, 1847.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official note of the 17th inst., with an extract of an official letter to you from W. S. Sherman, acting assistant adjutant general, requiring from me further information relative to a contract by which I hold a certain lot of cattle received from Don E. Celis, for account of Lieut. Col. J. C. Fremont, and whether I have a written contract or a verbal one; if the latter, to furnish you with the evidence to prove my right to the trust. In answer to which I have to observe that I hold the cattle by verbal contract: witnesses to the same, Mr. Samuel Hensly, Captain in the late California battalion, to whom I refer, you particularly. He resides near Nueva Helvetia; also, to Midshipman John K. Wilson and Lieutenant A. H. Gillespie, United States marines. Both, I think, were present and knowing to the contract. As the above gentlemen are not here, I cannot furnish you with their certificates relative to the contract.

Very respectfully,
ABEL STEARNS.

To Col. J. D. STEVENSON,
Commanding Southern Military District.

Can there be any rational doubt on the person of the above official papers, that Fremont intended to make a speculation for his own benefit? The fact that on the 26th of April, 1847, he executed the obligation marked No. 2, in which the sum of \$975 is added to the price agreed to be paid, being a compensation for the hides of the cattle, and this, too, before a solitary cow had been delivered, shows that it was not then the intention of Fremont that the cattle should be used for the army. It shows, that the idea of leaving out cattle on the shares was not merely an after thought but a part of his original design. But why resort to such inferences when we have the damning fact, that instead of cattle "suitable for beef" as named in the original contract, "breeding cows" were delivered, and that, too, with the evident concurrence of Fremont in the fraud?

We need no more than add the letter of Col. Mason which was sent to the war department, accompanied by the foregoing documents. It is unnecessary to add that, at the time this information was sent, Col. Mason, being Governor of California, was the proper person to make a report of such conduct. It arrived at Washington city after the court-martial on Col. Fremont had commenced its sittings. It is impossible to read this letter and the collateral proof without coming to the conclusion that Colonel Fremont was guilty of a deliberate attempt to defraud the Government which he represented.

HEAD-QUARTERS, TENTH MILITARY DISTRICT, Monterey, California, Oct. 9, 1847.

Sir—I have the honor herewith to enclose to you the papers relating to a certain contract entered into on the 3d day of March, 1847; by Lieutenant Colonel Fremont, mounted rifleman, with a Don Eulogio de Celis, a resident of Ciudad de Los Angeles, California. The paper marked A is a copy of this contract, with Lieutenant Colonel Fremont's certificate, bearing date April 26, 1847, that the contract had been complied with on the part of Don Eulogio de Celis, and that he, Fremont, had executed to him in payment a note for the sum of six thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars.

Lieutenant Colonel Fremont left California in the month of June, 1847, giving no notice to General Kearney, or myself of the existence of such a contract, or that he pledged the faith of his government for the redemption of it by the payment of \$6,975. Nor had I the least idea of this obligation, until applied to by Col. Stephenson, whether I would recognize the contract, and redeem the bond at maturity. This letter was accompanied by others, which show that in fact, notwithstanding the certificate of Lieutenant Colonel Fremont, Mr. Celis never delivered to the commissary of the California battalion one single head of beef cattle under this contract, and that not one of these six hundred head of cattle was slaughtered for the use of that battalion; but, on the contrary, that they have been delivered to a Mr. Stearns, of Los Angeles, in two parcels: one of four hundred and eighty-one, on the first day of May, and another of one hundred and nineteen on the sixth day of July, 1847, both of which dates are subsequent to the discharge of the California battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Fremont.

There is no doubt that these cattle are the same six hundred contracted for by Lieutenant Colonel Fremont on the 3d of March 1847. Mr. Celis stated it positively in the letter marked D; and the receipts for them by Stearns, marked B and F, specially state that he (Stearns) receipts for them in the name and order of Lieutenant Col. Fremont.

These deliveries occurred at a time when a garrison was stationed in Los Angeles, with a commissioned agent of the commissary department of the Army, Lieutenant Davidson, to take charge of subsistence stores intended for public use; yet these cattle, furnished by a formal contract, are delivered to a private individual upon a special agree-

ment (as he, Stearns says) to breed on shares for a term of three years. I have endeavored to procure from Mr. Stearns a copy of the agreement he has made with Lieutenant Colonel Fremont to take care of these cattle, but his letters (marked 7 and 10) positively assert that he regards these cattle as the private property of Lieutenant Colonel Fremont, but that the agreement by which he holds them, is a verbal one, witnessed by a Mr. Hensly and Lieutenant Gillespie, of the United States Navy. This stands the facts, and I am applied to, to know whether payment will be made upon the paper marked 2, which is a certificate that the sum of \$6,975 is due to Mr. Celis for supplies furnished the California battalion, which supplies are clearly and plainly the lot of six hundred breeding cows now in the hands of a private individual, not one of which has been used for public purposes. This note becomes due on the 18th day of December, 1847, and bears an interest of twenty-four per centum per annum, after that date.

In connection with this subject, I call your attention to the paper marked 3, wherein Lieutenant Colonel Fremont has bound himself and future Governors of California to pay the sum of \$2,000 at the expiration of eight months after the date of March 3, 1847, or in default thereof, that the note shall bear an interest of twenty-four per cent. per annum; this, too, when the acting assistant quartermaster at Monterey had been more than a month in the country, with a supply of money applicable to the proper expenses of the army in California.

Mr. Celis states that it was puffed to secure this loan of money that Lieut. Colonel Fremont made with him the liberal bargain for cattle, which the price is about forty per cent. higher than the market price at the time. Both of these notes are soon due, and Mr. Celis is going to make application for payment, as he claims to have fulfilled his part of a contract for the redemption of which the good faith of the government of the United States is pledged by an officer thereof; but the whole transaction, as shown by the accompanying papers, appears to me of such a character, that I shall not order payment of the money to Mr. Celis, but refer all the papers to the department for such action as they may consider proper in the case.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

R. B. MASON,
Colonel 1st Dragoons, Commanding Head-QUARTERS 10 MILITARY DISTRICT, Monterey, Cal., June 21, 1847.

A claim has to day been presented to me against the United States, of so extraordinary a nature that I deem it proper to send to you for the information of the Department.

You will perceive that it is for money borrowed at an enormous rate of interest by Lieutenant Colonel Fremont from one Antonio Jose Cot, and, too, in the official (character) of "governor" of California, when he knew that General Kearney, his superior and commanding officer, was here in the country.

In the same manner, the Lieutenant Colonel gave orders and caused the collector of customs at San Pedro to receive in payment of custom-houses dues a large amount—say about one thousand seven hundred dollars—of depreciated paper signed by individuals in no way responsible to the government.

The object I now have in view is the request that Lieutenant Colonel Fremont may be required to refund immediately the seven hundred dollars that the treasury of California has thus lost by his illegal order.

I am, &c.,
R. B. MASON,
Col. 1st Dragoons Commanding To Brig. General R. Jones,
Adj. Gen. U. S. Army, Washington city.

Translation of the original obligation given by Fremont to Cot, and now on file in the Department.

ANATES, February 4, 1847.

I the undersigned governor of California for the United States of North America, acknowledge that I have received from Don Antonio Jose Cot, merchant of this city, two thousand dollars in hard cash, which he has furnished this government for the public service. And I bind myself, in the name of the United States Government, to return the said sum within the term of two months from this date, paying for interest three per cent. per month, or one hundred twenty dollars. But if, at the expiration of this term, the Government should see fit to make use of these two thousand dollars, Mr. Cot agrees that the interest shall run for four months longer at two per cent. per month, or of one hundred and sixty dollars for four months. And for the fulfillment of what has been stipulated, I bind myself, as governor of California.

For \$2,000 J. C. FREMONT.

ANGELOS, February 10, 1847.

I have further more received from the said Mr. Cot the sum of one thousand dollars in the terms expressed above.

For \$1,000 J. C. FREMONT.

The word Governor is italicized by us, and needs no further comment. From the first invasion of California by the American troops, a large portion of the leading citizens of California among whom I may mention Don Pedro C. Corrallo, Pedrona, Cot, and Celis, welcomed our troops with open arms, and willingly furnished material aid in establishing the supremacy of our flag in the El Dorado of the West. In consequence of their sympathy in our success, any one possessing could have obtained the last dollar that any

of those gentlemen possessed; hence the facility by which "our Governor" was enabled to borrow this and other sums from other individuals.

The claim of Don Cot was not allowed by the Treasury Department, and it was presented to the army board, organized under the 6th section of the appropriation act passed August 1852, who on the 28th of January, 1854, recommended the allowance in full, with two hundred and forty dollars additional for four months' interest at two per cent. per month. Congress having made the necessary appropriations, the claim was allowed by the accounting officers of the Treasury on the 31st of October, 1854, and was paid on a power of attorney from the Col. to Concord and Briggs, into whose hands the claim had passed.

The board was induced to allow the claim, not on account of its legality, but from the fact that Don Cot loaned the money before that it was for the use of the government of the United States, and the board thought it unjust that he should be the victim of his own patriotism, though he must doubtless have suffered considerable loss in having it discounted. Colonel Fremont was called upon; but being unwilling or unable (or at least neglecting to do so) to show how the money thus borrowed by him was applied to the service of the government, it was charged to him upon the books of the department, and has remained wholly unaccounted for by him up to this time. On the 30th of January, 1856, a claim was allowed Col. Fremont by the Secretary of the Treasury, and it was placed to his credit upon the before mentioned debt against him, which, being deducted, leave a balance of \$1,986.51 of the \$3,000 (and interest) still unaccounted for and standing against the "gallant" candidate for President on the books of the Department. It is more than probable that the story current in California will account for the disbursement of the money borrowed of Don Cot, which is, that it went to pay for the celebrated lumber "Mariposa claim," and about which so much has been said and written within the past four months.

The undersigned certifies that the governor and the commandant of this Territory, Mr. J. C. Fremont, finding himself short of resources for the support of the armed force which under his command, co-operated toward the pacification of the country, solicited from various sources to the extent of \$300,000, the amount of which was the object indicated; and the undersigned having been requested, through the medium of Mr. Charles Flügge, to furnish provisions and cash, the accompanying contract took place, the cash having been delivered immediately, without interest, for the term of eight months, and the cattle were to be delivered when they might be wanted; it being understood that the terms of payment should run on from the day of the contract, on account of the cattle being movable property which could not be consumed in two or three months, and besides, was augmenting daily; it chiefly consisted of cows. It is likewise certified that the contract was complied with on the part of the declarant to the satisfaction of the "governor," who, not having time to consume said cattle on account of having received a superior order to deliver up the command and disband the force, he ordered said cattle to be delivered to Mr. Abel Stearns, as I understand in the quality of a deposit, until the government should dispose of them.

ANGELOS, July 8, 1847.

Accompanying the above document are the letters and certificates of Col. J. D. Stephenson, colonel commanding the southern military district of California; Dr. S. Foster, at present Mayor of Los Angeles; J. M. Davidson, lieutenant United States Army; A. J. Smith, lieutenant 1st Dragoons; W. G. Sherman, 8d artillery, and a number of others, all tending to corroborate and establish the authenticity of the papers, which I omit on account of the space they would occupy. That there is evidence of intention on the part of the "Governor," or Lieutenant Colonel Fremont to defraud the government must be clear to every unprejudiced person who reads the charges, and the opinion is strengthened when it is known that the charges were known to Colonel—no, "Governor" Fremont, and he has never made any effort to disprove them. Unless there was a consciousness of guilt, and would not any individual, however humble, have made an effort to explain or disprove the charges. The only effort on the part of Governor Fremont that I ever heard of, was threats in Washington city to kill Governor Mason in California, who, in laying the facts before the department, was merely performing a duty, which as an officer of the government, he has sworn to perform.

As "Governor" Fremont is the candidate for the office of President of the United States, his official acts are public property; if meritorious, they should be rewarded, and if discreditable they should be made public. I intend to furnish additional proofs of the skill of the "Governor" in financial affairs, though I fear they will only give him additional credit with his party, a leader of which (Ford of Ohio) lately boasted in a speech that "in case of a division of the Union, Ohio would steal all the negroes in the South." That being a cardinal virtue with them, of course proofs of fraud on the part of their candidate would only elevate him in their estimation.

At the date of the operations of Colonel

Fremont, Brigadier General Kearney was the only recognized Governor of California—that is by the Department at Washington: Gen. Kearney arrested Col. Fremont in August; and he was arraigned before a court-martial, composed of the ablest officers in the United States Army; on the 27th September, 1847, at Washington city, to answer the following charges:—1st. Mutiny—11 specifications. 2d. Disobedience of the lawful commands of his superior officers—7 specifications. 3d. Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline—5 specifications. The court on the 31st of January, 1848, found Col. Fremont guilty on each of the charges, and every one of the specifications. On the 16th of February, 1848; President Polk, in pursuance of the finding of the court-martial, dismissed Col. Fremont from the service. The charges made by General Mason, the successor of Kearney, were received too late, or there would have been a fourth and a fifth charge, for fraud and peculation. A fitting subject for a President!

A CALIFORNIAN.
WASHINGTON, July, 1856.

N. B.—By reference to executive Documents, 1st session 31st Congress, 1849 and 1850, volume 3, Document No. 17, pages 329 and 330, and pages 368 to 373 inclusive, it will be seen that the charges contained in the above articles were reported to the House of Representatives on the 21st January, 1850, by President Z. Taylor, in answer to a resolution of the House of the 31st December, 1849.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF A STATESMAN.

JAMES BUCHANAN.
Was born On the 22d day of April 1791; At Stony Battery, On the Eastern slope of the Alleghanies. In 1809, He entered Dickinson College. He graduated with Distinguished Honor. In 1809, The same year He commenced the study of Law, and was admitted to the Bar, November 17, 1812. His career in the Profession was a series of successes, TRIUMPHS.

In 1814, He made a powerful speech in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war with Great Britain, and volunteered as a Soldier. In the ranks of THE AMERICAN ARMY!!! October, 1814, He was elected a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, Where he declared that the invading Army must be driven from our shores, And proclaimed himself in favor of THE RIGHTS OF THE NATURALIZED CITIZEN, And opposed to The proscription of foreigners. October, 1815, He was again elected to the Legislature. In 1820, He was re-elected for five successive terms. During these TEN YEARS IN CONGRESS, He immortalized himself by his eloquence, and made the World acknowledge him to be A STATESMAN. In 1822, He spoke in favor of Military Appropriations; Against the Bankrupt Bill; in support of the Tariff; and proclaimed himself opposed to sectionalism; and a Representative neither of the East, nor of the West, nor of the North, nor the South, But for the whole country. In 1824, He spoke in favor of the Niagara sufferers in the War of 1812, and for the Presidency pronounced himself emphatically for Andrew Jackson. In 1825, He analyzed the Judiciary System, And spoke in favor of The Independence of the South American States. In 1826, He declared in Congress that Spain should cede to no government, but that of the United States. The Island of Cuba, And made a triumph speech in support of Pensions for Revolutionary Soldiers. In 1828, He took strong position in Favor of retrenchment of national expenses. In 1830, He made his profound speech on the Impediment of Judge Peck, and vindicated the rights of the Public Press. In 1831, He voluntarily retired from Congress. In 1832, President Jackson appointed him MINISTER TO RUSSIA, Where he succeeded in making a most important Commercial Treaty. In 1833, He was elected to the United States Senate. In 1834, He took his seat, and in his inaugural speech on French Reprisals, declared that we must not only assert our rights, but maintain them.

In 1835-6, He attacked incendiary Publications, and came at the same time, the exponent of national sympathy for TEXAN INDEPENDENCE. He pled in behalf of the sufferers by a great fire in New York; Indorsed the policy of the great Jackson in respect to our relations with France; advocated the admission into the Union of Michigan and Arkansas; and declared himself TO BE A STATES RIGHTS MAN!!! In 1837, He took bold ground in favor of the Expunging Resolutions of Colonel Benton declaring Andrew Jackson to be Savior of the Liberties of our country. He took strong ground in support of The Sub-Treasury Bill And in his speech upon our Relations with Mexico, uttered that sentence which will be as immortal as our history: "MILLIONS TO DEFEND OUR RIGHTS, BUT NOT A CENT FOR TRIBUTE." In 1838, He was the foremost defender of Pre-Emption Rights against the Tyranny of Landed Monopolists. In 1839, He delivered his great speech on the Independent Treasury, in which he so nobly vindicated the rights of labor, and declared "THAT COUNTRY IS MOST PROSPEROUS WHERE LABOR COMMANDS THE GREATEST REWARD." In 1840, His celebrated reply to Clay and Archer on the Fiscal Bank Question. In 1841, He delivered his noted argument in the Me-Leod case, on International Law. In 1842, He pronounced his thorough statesmanlike opinion in the Veto Power. In 1843, He opposed the conduct of Daniel Webster in The Ashburton and Webster Treaty. In 1844, He took peremptory ground in favor of our settlements on the Pacific; for the Territorial growth of Oregon, and for the annexation of Texas. In 1845, By the advice of Andrew Jackson, President Polk appointed him, SECRETARY OF STATE. While in this important position he settled The Oregon Boundary; and the negotiations which resulted in the Conquest and acquisition of California; And in his negotiations with England, declared that naturalized American Citizens were entitled to the same protection as native born Citizens; protected the Patriots of the Irish Revolution of 1847; and left the State Department filled with the highest evidence of his wisdom. In 1849, He retired to private life. In 1852, President Pierce appointed him MINISTER TO ENGLAND, Where, by his consummate ability, his diplomatic tact, and his sagacious foresight, he laid the foundation for the settlement of all our difficulties with England. In May, 1856, He returned from Europe, was welcomed by: A Grateful Nation; With the heartfelt applause which his career abroad had merited. In June, 1856, The unanimous voice of Representative from every county in the U. S. Upon a platform as BROAD AS THE CONSTITUTION, As National as the Union, selected JAMES BUCHANAN, The Farmer Boy of Franklin, The Confidant of the Sage of the Hermitage, The Statesman, Whose public services make up the History of Nearly half a Century. As a Candidate of the Democracy of the Presidency of the United States; On the 4th of March, 1857, HE WILL BE INAUGURATED PRESIDENT. Finally, His Political is but a counterpart of Private Life, in which His Christian virtues, His Every day Benevolence, and his Neighborhood Charities, Have made him the BOOB OF HIS HOME, THE ORNAMENT OF HIS RELIGION, THE PROTECTOR OF THE Friendless, AND THE CHOICE OF THE NATION!

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