

# The Montrose Democrat.

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

McCollum & Gerritson, Proprietors.

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## Select Poetry.

From the Evening Post.  
**THE BALLAD OF THE WHALE.**

BY READ THORNTON.

The Northman lay on his iron cliff,  
Outlooking the Norman sea;  
With his bold, blue eyes of wild empire,  
Abroad o'er the wave looked he.

In a restless mood of solitude,  
He longs in the chase to roam,  
"I've conquered the bear in the Tonnian wood,  
And the shark by the deep Maestrom!

"My fitting foe lived long ago—  
The mighty mastodon!"  
His blue eyes bravely glance below—  
The whist from his cliff is gone!

"The whale! you whale, that tempts bisal,  
Like an island he moeth on—  
"By the soundless sea I'll conquer thee,  
Thou ocean hussodon!"

He darted his kilt from the feet of the cliff,  
All armed with his corded spear;  
Soon the barb is dived in the sea-beast's side,  
And away to the west they steer.

With his hearken rein, o'er the ocean plain,  
More fleet than the sledge they go;  
With the red setting sun a race they run,  
Till the road of its tuddy glow!

And the storm waves kept a glassy calm,  
That strange first look to see!  
And the sea gods rose the chase to charm,  
And shouted—"We'll ride with thee!"

And one of their troop the Norman chose  
To share in his daring deed;  
White was her breast as the Finland snows,  
Her hair like the brown sea-weed.

And thus they twin o'er the main,  
And the Norseman's shirt of mail,  
With his shield be slashed, as they landward  
washed,

"Till he stranded the maddened whale!

That night, on the strand of the new west land,  
He built for his ivensid hie,  
A bowy hut, and the oil he cut,  
For a lamp, from the monster's side.

And from these two there sprang a crew,  
The boldest to spread the sail;  
And on every plain of the stormy main  
They chase the tumbling whale!

## Miscellaneous.

### AN INCIDENT IN THE MEXICAN WAR.

BY RICHARD EVERETT.

The bloody battle of Molin del Rey was finished, and the American arms were again victorious. But it proved a dear-bought victory. The battle field was red with Anglo-Saxon blood, for never did the Aztec arms make a more desperate defense. Those who participated in this glorious battle will never forget its many eventful circumstances; how at faint dawn of morn' when the star looked sweetly upon the earth, our army moved silently into its position, corps after corps, artillery, infantry and cavalry; the mattered word of command, the rumbling of wheels, and the muffled tramp! tramp! tramp! of the devoted storming party, which pioneered the main force. It was five o'clock in the morning when the battle commenced. With a thunder that shook the earth, the heavy guns of Huger's battery belched forth the signal of attack. Then the stormers, carrying their ladders and fascines, started forward, cheering as they ran, and were soon low amid the thick smoke which rolled from the Mexican camp. Now and then a broad flash of fire showed our gallant fellows fighting hand to hand with the enemy's musketeers. On the center of our line, and as if a rushing torrent, swept the enemy fire to their guns. But bravely they rallied, and in turn our troops were driven back. Here the carnage was dreadful. Of the fourteen of the storming party, eleven were killed or wounded in less than fifteen minutes. Meanwhile, upon each side, the fight progressed with great fury, and the ditches in front of Molin del Rey and Casa de Matamoros rivalled in blood the center of our line. In front of these defenses the carnage was terrific. The gallant Melmoth was shot while cheering on his men. Lieut. Scott fell in the front rank, and the noble Waste sunk under a mortal wound. Among the Mexicans there was a heavy loss of gallant officers. Old Gen. Leon, gray-haired, but full of fire, Balder Hernandez and Medina, all accomplished officers, fought their last fight upon the ramparts of Casa de Matamoros.

But direful as was the conflict, no power could stay the Saxons' red right arm. Over broken ground, and bloody ramparts, in the face of fire and steel, the American troops pressed forward, trampling the dead bodies of friend and foe beneath their feet, until covered with the stains of battle, they stood triumphant upon the Mexican fortifications.

Oh! it was a glorious moment when, as the smoke rolled away, the stars and stripes were seen waving from the Mexican flag, and proud emblems of American valor.

But we did not intend to describe the battle of Molin del Rey at length. Slowly the remnant of the American force retired from the hard earned field, and upon the Ninth regiment devolved that most painful of all duties, burying the dead, and picking up the wounded. About sunset the labor commenced. Some six hundred men, divided into small parties, pursued the melancholy duty. Day faded, but the moon, soon rising, shed a pale repulchral light over the scene, which no man could contemplate without a thrill of horror. Over a large expanse of ground the bodies of the dead and wounded men were thickly strewn. In some places a hundred corpses might be counted within the space of a few yards, while the sandy soil

## THE GREAT DAY IN WASHINGTON. INAUGURATION OF JAMES BUCHANAN, Fifteenth President of the United States.

Washington, March 4th, 1857.—A brighter day seldom dawned upon the Federal city than this 4th of March 1857, which was to witness the retirement of Franklin Pierce and the accession of James Buchanan, to the Presidency of the United States. The sun rose clear in an unclouded sky. The air was cool, without being uncomfortably cold, and those who remembered the chill atmosphere, the murky sky, and the snow storm that distinguished the inauguration day of Franklin Pierce, could not fail to draw a favorable opinion from the pleasant contrast of this day.

The city has been filling up with strangers from all parts of the Union for a week or two, and yesterday and this morning, many thousands arrived by the trains and omnibuses. Last night, there were thousands who camped in parlors, dining rooms, and other apartments, the sleeping rooms of the public and private houses being totally unequal to the accommodation of the vast multitude. The event of the night was the Democratic Inauguration Ball, given by the Twelfth Ward Democratic Association of Philadelphia. It took place at Carnes's Saloon. The tickets were five dollars, and the proceeds went for the benefit of the poor of Washington city. A large miscellaneous company was present, and the President and Vice President were present for a short time, being received with acclamation on their arrival. There were in the course of the evening salutes fired, rockets discharged, and various other demonstrations in view of the coming event.

The city woke early this morning, being aroused by the salutes and the ringing of bells. The streets were soon alive with moving multitudes. Pennsylvania Avenue presented a most animated appearance. Flags waved from all the public buildings and from many private houses. The movements of military companies, preparing to take their places in the line of procession, gave a particularly lively character to the following: The Lancaster Fusiliers, Captain Buchanan (the special escort from Westland); the City Guard; the Auburn (N. Y.) Willard Guard; the Albany (N. Y.) Burgess Corps; the Cumberland Commandants, Captain Thurston; the Allegheny Guards, Captain Schley; the Richmond Montgomery Guards; Captain Moore; the Richard Young Guards; the Alexandria Blues, Captain Herbert; the Alexandria Mount Vernon Guards; the Portsmouth Rifles, Captain Richardson; the Baltimore Law Guards, Captain Bowers; and the Baltimore German Rifles. There were also the following companies belonging to Washington city; the National Guards, Captain Tait; the National Guards, Captain Towser; the Washington Yeagers, Captain Schwarzman; the Bon Rifles, Captain Bright; the Montgomery Guards, Captain Key; the Washington Light Infantry, Captain Davy; the Washington Highlanders, Captain Watt; and the Union Guards, Lieutenant Williams. Altogether the volunteers in the city taking part in the ceremonies numbered not less than a thousand rank and file. There were also detachments of U. S. Light Artillery from Fort McHenry, and a corps of some three hundred U. S. Marines. They were all under the command of General John A. Quitman.

The streets were further enlivened by the rapid movements of the Marshals and their deputies. These numbered altogether nearly two hundred men from all parts of the Union. The Marshals-in-chief and aids were designated by yellow scarfs, with white rosettes, and blue saddle cloths, with gilt edging. The marshals were designated by blue scarfs and white rosettes, and white saddle cloths, with blue edging. The aids were designated by red scarfs and white rosettes, and white saddle cloths, with red edging. The marshals were designated by blue scarfs and white rosettes, and white saddle cloths, with blue edging. The aids were designated by red scarfs and white rosettes, and white saddle cloths, with red edging.

The procession moved on in the order agreed upon, as follows: The Marshal-in-Chief, Aids, The military under the command of General J. A. Quitman, A National Flag with appropriate emblems, The President of the United States with the President elect and suite; with Marshals on their left; and the Marshal of the United States for the District of Columbia and his deputies on their right, A rigged ship—an emblem of national unity and power, The Committee of Arrangements of the Senate, The Jackson Democratic Association, The Judiciary, The Army, Foreign Ministers, The Corps Diplomatique.

Members elect, members, and ex-members of Congress, and ex-members of the Cabinet, Governors and ex-Governors of States and Territories, and Members of the Legislatures of the same, Officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Military, Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution, of the War of 1812, and of subsequent periods, The Corporate Authorities of Washington and Georgetown, Other Political and Military Associations from the District and other parts, All organized civic societies, Professors, schoolmasters, and students within the District of Columbia, citizens of the District, and States and Territories.

There were a number of fine military bands in the procession, including several from Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore, which gave additional zest to the scene. As the line moved towards the Capitol, the crowd, which was much more dense at this end of the Avenue than at the other, respectfully cheered the President and Vice President elect, and they bowed their acknowledgments on all sides.

As the head of the column reached the north gate of the Capitol, which it did not until about one o'clock, it halted, and the military opened ranks, facing inward and presenting arms, forming a line that stretched from the east to the west of the Capitol. The President and Vice President elect, and they bowed their acknowledgments on all sides.

The most interesting scene, though on a small scale, was that in the Senate Chamber. Owing to the small size of the apartment only a limited number of persons could be admitted; but these comprised all the chief dignitaries of the government. The semi-circular gallery was filled with ladies at one end, and members of the 34th and 35th Congress were admitted to the Eastern Lobby. The Diplomatic Corps was in full force, and the Ministers and Charges being in their full official costumes and looking quite resplendent along side of the republican black coat of the rest of the assembly. They occupied a space set apart for them on the left of the principal entrance. On the other side the Heads of Departments, Governors of States and Territories, and some other privileged persons were accommodated. In front of the Eastern Lobby were the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, in their official robes. Various distinguished army and naval officers were also present. In front of the Secretary's desk were chairs for the President and Vice President elect.

The Senate met at 12 o'clock. On the announcement of the arrival of the President and Vice President elect, all rose to their feet. The President and Vice President elect took their places assigned them, and in a few minutes, all being prepared, the venerable Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, placed in his hand the Holy Bible, and then took the oath of office, as follows: "I do solemnly swear 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."

Those in the Senate Chamber then formed a line and proceeded to the eastern portico of the Capitol in the following order: The Marshal of the District of Columbia, The Supreme Court of the United States, The Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, The Commisary of the Ordnance, The President of the United States and the ex-President, The Vice President and the Secretary of the Senate, The Members of the Senate, The Diplomatic Corps, Heads of Departments, Governors of States and Territories, the Mayors of Washington and Georgetown, and other persons who had been admitted into the Senate Chamber.

There was probably never assembled in Washington so great a multitude as that which assembled on the eastern portico of the Capitol. The procession that escorted the President and ex-President had been admitted; but all carriages and horses were excluded from the enclosure. There was a countless crowd of men, women and children occupying every foot of space that afforded an opportunity of seeing the ceremony on the portico. As for hearing the address, that was only enjoyed by the privileged few thousands that could get close about the portico.

There was a good deal of confusion and suffling in the crowd, and many grew impatient after waiting long hours for the grand event of the day. A very spacious platform was erected on the portico, on which places had been assigned for all those who had been admitted to the Senate Chamber. At last the procession emerged from the Capitol door, and appeared on the platform. As the tall figure of the President, clad in that famous black suit, with the thirty-one stars embroidered on its lining, became visible, there rose a deafening shout from the vast human mass. It spread over the whole multitude, and it was some time before it could be quieted. The President, with hat in hand, bowed readily in acknowledgment of the popular acclamations.

In the very front of the platform was a seat to which the President was conducted. In his rear were the ex-President and Committee of Arrangements; back of them were the Chief Justice and Judge of the Supreme Court, the Vice President and the members of the Senate. Then came the Diplomatic Corps en grand tenue, and then the other persons who had been in the Senate Chamber.

When quiet was restored, after the acclamations that greeted the President, he proceeded, at about 1:24 o'clock, to deliver his INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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 con-

sitution 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.—I am 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, but I earnestly ask their powerful support in sustaining all just measures calculated to perpetuate these, the richest political blessings which Heaven has ever bestowed upon any nation. Having determined not to be a candidate for re-election, I shall have no motive to influence my conduct in administering the Government, except the desire, able 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 unwilling to legislate slavery into any territory, nor 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 pre-termed 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 time when the people of a territory shall decide the question for themselves. This is happily a matter of but little practical importance, besides it is a judicial question which legitimately belongs to the Supreme Court of the United States, before whom it is now pending, and will, it is understood, be speedily and finally settled. To their decision, in common with all good citizens, I shall cheerfully submit, whatever this may be, though it has ever been my individual opinion that, under the Nebraska-Kansas act the appropriate period will be when the people of actual residents in the Territory shall justify the formation of a Constitution with its admission as a State into the Union.

But this as it may, it is the imperative and indispensable duty of the Government of the United States, to secure to every resident inhabitant the free and independent exercise 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 to determine for themselves, to decide their own destiny for themselves, and to select only 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 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 importance. Throughout the whole progress of this agitation, which has scarcely known an intermission for more than twenty years, whilst it has been a prolific source of great evils to the nation, it has alienated and estranged the people of sister States from each other, and has even seriously endangered the very existence of the Union.

Now has the danger yet entirely ceased.—Under our system there is a remedy for all moral 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 any other political question, because should the agitation continue it may eventually endanger the personal liberty 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 among 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; reasoned 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 vulgar view of the mighty question, all such calculations are at fault; the bare report 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 among the family altar.

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 important to conceive, whilst 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 the States can be defended. Besides, the government, ever since its origin, has been in the constant practice of constructing military

roads. It might also be wise to consider whether the love for the Union, which now animates our fellow-citizens on the Pacific coast, may not be impaired by our neglect or refusal to provide for them in their remote and isolated condition, the only means by which the power of the States on this side of the rocky Mountains can reach them in sufficient time to protect them against invasion.

I forbear for the present from expressing an opinion as to the wisest and economical mode in which the government can lend its aid in accomplishing this great and necessary work. I believe that many of the difficulties in the way which now appear formidable will, in a great degree, vanish as soon as the honest and best means shall have been satisfactorily ascertained. It may be right that, on this occasion I should make some brief remarks in regard to our rights and duties as a member of the great family of nations. In our intercourse with them, there are some plain principles approved by our own experience from which we should never depart.

We ought to cultivate peace, commerce and friendship with all nations, acting merely as the best means of promoting our own material interests, but in spirit of Christian benevolence towards fellow men, wherever their lot may be cast.

Our diplomacy should be direct and frank, neither seeking to obtain more, nor accepting less, than is our due. We ought to cherish a sacred regard for the independence of all nations, and never attempt to interfere in the domestic concerns of any, unless this shall be imperatively required by the great law of self-preservation. To avoid entangling alliances has been a maxim of our policy ever since the days of Washington, and its wisdom no one will attempt to dispute.

In short, we ought to do justice in a kindly spirit to all nations, and require justice from them in return.

It is our glory that whilst other nations have extended their dominions by the sword, we have never acquired any territory, except by fair purchase, or, as in the case of Texas, by the voluntary determination of a brave and independent people to blend their destinies with our own. Even our acquisitions from Mexico form no exception. Unwilling to take advantage of the fortune of war against a sister Republic, we purchased these possessions under the treaty of peace, for a sum which was considered at the time a fair equivalent. Our most illustrious historians should in the future acquire territory, unless this be sanctioned by the laws of justice and honor. Acting on this principle, no nation will have a right to interfere with us, if in the progress of events we shall still further extend our possessions. Hitherto in all our acquisitions, the people, under the protection of the American flag, have enjoyed civil and religious liberty, as well as equal and just laws, and have been contented, prosperous and happy. Their trade with the rest of the world has rapidly increased, and thus every commercial nation has shared largely in their successful progress. I shall now proceed to take the oath prescribed by the Constitution—whilst loudly invoking the blessings of Divine Providence on this great people.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

At the close of the Address, the ex-President advanced and offered his congratulations to the President, and he was followed by the other dignitaries. The crowd at the same time renewed their cheering, and the guns on the Capitol Hill followed out the news that a new President had entered upon his term of office. The salute consisted of thirty-one guns—one for each State of the Union. The ceremony being concluded, the President returned to the Senate Chamber, and soon after resumed his seat in the carriage, and was conducted to the White House, the ex-President and others accompanying him.

The military and a great portion of the civic procession formed again, to escort the President and those along with him to the Executive mansion.

### Bond Street Murder.

The Grand Jury have so far endorsed the verdict of the Coroner's Inquest as to find true bills of indictment against Mrs. Cunningham and John J. Eckel for the murder of Dr. Burdell. They have discharged the daughters of Mrs. Cunningham and Miss Spiccer as well as a witness. The Grand Jury, however, forbids that Eckel personate Dr. Burdell in the marriage with Mrs. Cunningham, and that she and Eckel conspire to and committed the murder of Dr. Burdell that they might enjoy the third of his reported \$100,000—the widow and he as her parsonage, has been somewhat shaken by the affidavit of Dr. Spiccer, formerly the partner of Dr. Burdell, which has been made since the verdict of the Coroner's Jury, and whose important testimony he strangely and, we are led to say, corruptly refused to hear, although Dr. Spiccer, a man of high and unimpeached character, came purposely to New York to do so. Dr. Spiccer swears that Dr. Burdell distinctly assured him that he did marry Mrs. Cunningham, but he wanted it kept a secret. Dr. Spiccer also states that he at Dr. Burdell's office which he angrily accused Mrs. Cunningham before him of stealing from him the \$600 note, that at the request of Mrs. Cunningham, he, Dr. Spiccer, searched the house for the note and could not find it, and that Dr. Burdell afterwards confessed to him that Mrs. Cunningham had taken no note—that he had only charged her with it to get rid of her.

Clouds of mystery still hang over this bloody tragedy which we trust the Post-Jury to be engaged to try the accused will be able to dissipate—that the guilty may be brought to punishment and the innocent relieved from suspicion.

The New York papers, indulging in all kinds of gossip for the amusement of the edification of their gossipy readers, mysteriously hint that another person is suspected of the murder and that the Police are after him. This rumor, whether true or false, helps to keep up the excitement in the case.

The notoriety given to the tragedy, and the mass of witnesses and testimony which have accumulated around it, will render it impossible to ordinarily find it in a fair and impartial way to try the case. But we believe it will be disposed of as soon as possible, and that the public mind, as long as it remains unclouded, and that human life may be better protected by the prompt and judicious punishment of him who murderously takes it away.