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## FOR THE JEFFERSONIAN.

### Criticism on Authors,

Should we attempt to criticise  
Some, authors we find deal in lies,  
Others less wicked write mere trash,  
That goes like hot cakes for the cash.  
A few coin thoughts that are a treasure,  
Though oft imperfect in the measure.  
Perfection is a rare plant, hence  
We find so many wanting sense.  
It is indeed a happy hit,  
If they possess both sense and wit.  
Would they instruct our rising youth,  
Deal strictly then in aught but truth.  
Like Esop, though if you are able,  
You may illustrate truth by fable;  
Truth in her modest quaker dress  
Will instruct more and fancy less.  
When you have run this fountain dry,  
Then fiction tap or fancy try;  
But fear not, on her make your draft,  
She floats with ease the heaviest craft.  
The drafts upon this limpid sea  
Could not be missed by you or me.  
Sound logic practical and true,  
Is just the style for me and you;  
Whether in prose, blank verse or rhyme,  
'Tis ever welcome any time.

R. W. HINCKLY.  
Richfield, Ill., March 1859.

### From the Quiney Herald.

Night Musings.  
Come gentle reader, pray sit down  
And take some quiet rest;  
We're apt to let excitement run  
Too high here in the west.

If we perchance to want a thing,  
We want it *now* or never;  
And if our waiter puts us off,  
We say he is not clever.

Reluctantly we spare the time  
Required by education;  
Thus making us proverbially,  
A fast—yes, too fast Nation.

Now, if you wish to take a ride,  
It must be done by steam;  
And if we chance to take a nap,  
We have no time to dream.

And in our hurry to get rich,  
We go it like a streak;  
We emigrate still farther west,  
To Kansas or Pike's Peak.

There is a mine within thy breast,  
A rich boon to man sent;  
Reader, you'er will find it though,  
Unless you are content.

Her gold is pure, without alloy,  
It cheers—'tis happiness;  
The more this mine is worked, the more  
'Tis sure to yield and bless.

RICHFIELD, Feb. 14th, 1859. R. W. H.

## AN ESSAY,

Read before the Stroudsburg Philomathean Society,

February 4th, 1859,

BY JACKSON LANZ,

### "CUBA AND ITS ANNEXATION TO THE UNITED STATES."

Cuba is an island in the Caribbean sea, belonging to Spain, and the largest of the West India group, is situated at the mouth of the Gulf of Mexico, and about 130 miles south of Florida, from which it is separated by the Bahama Channel.—Hayti lies on the East of Cuba 48 miles distant; Jamaica is 90 miles distant on the South; Yucatan on the West is about 130 miles distant. Cuba is about one third larger than Hayti, and nearly five times the size of Jamaica. It extends from longitude 74 degrees to near 85 degrees West, and is about 650 miles in length from East to West; and of an average width of from 50 to 60 miles. Its area is 34,800 square miles,—about two thirds as large as Pennsylvania.

The mineral riches of Cuba are not yet fully ascertained, but it is known to contain, in greater or less quantities, copper, alum and coal, which has lately been discovered; variegated serpentine marble, chalcocite, magnesia, iron pyrite, quartz, and feldspar, slates, &c.

There are several mineral springs, beside large lagoons, or lakes, of salt water which in large seasons yield large quantities of marine salt.

The climate is hot and dry during the greater part of the year. Rain often descends in torrents from July to September, and showers occasionally fall for a month or two before and after these periods. In the neighborhood of the coast

the average temperature is 78 degrees; but in the interior only 73.

The hottest months, July and August, do not give a greater average than 83 degrees; and the coldest, December and January, present the mean of 69 degrees. No snow has ever been known to fall even on the highest mountains, but frost occasionally occurs forming ice several lines in thickness. Vegetation is exceedingly luxuriant—and the usual tropical fruits are found in greater or less quantities.—In the forests, mahogany, ebony, cedar, fustic, and other useful woods abound.

The indigenous indian corn is the only noticeable cereal cultivated, which grows luxuriantly, and yields two crops in the year. Rice is produced in considerable quantities; and cotton, indigo, and cocoa, in small quantities. But sugar, coffee, and tobacco, are the principal products, but sugar is by far the most important.

The products for the year 1853, were sugar 7,291,309 hundred weight; tobacco 444,040 cwt.; molasses 267,185 hogheads; coffee 291,725 cwt.; brandy 39,411 pipes; honey 106,175 barrels; and beeswax 18,725 cwt.

The manufactures of Cuba are confined to the making of sugar, molasses, cigars, bleaching wax, and the preparation of coffee.

The total value of imports into Cuba from the United States in 1851 was \$6,534,123. The total exports to all the Spanish dominions in the same time was \$13,249,056. Her total exports to the United States was \$17,046,931. The total trade between Cuba and the United States in 1852 amounted to \$6,517,561 in imports; and \$17,561,728 exports from Cuba to the United States, and in 1853 to \$6,287,959 in imports, and \$18,525,755 exports to the United States.

In 1854 Cuba's exports to different countries were \$32,683,731, and her imports \$31,391,578. More than one third of her exports was to the U. S. The exportable domestic produce is the basis of all commerce. The amount of which is said to be a true measure of the commercial capacity of any people. In 1855 we imported from Cuba \$28,214,846; while we exported to Cuba \$14,433,167. These are all the statistics within our reach in regard to Cuba's commerce. In 1848 there was a railway opened in Cuba, and now railways and telegraphs are somewhat numerous.

A general want of education and morals prevail in Cuba. Their facilities for education, however, were greatly improved in 1842. In the country parts the most profound ignorance reigns; the master and the slave, the agricultural people of all sorts are equally in ignorance of the first elements of education, while a select few are intelligent and refined. The Roman Catholic is the religion of the island, but Mr. Glanville Taylor declares that he never knew of an instance of men going to church in Cuba, and that no reverence whatever did he ever see manifested for churches, prayers, images or saints.

The population of Cuba in 1850, was 1,247,230, of whom 642,670 were negroes. Allowing the same annual percentage of increase for each class as shown by comparison with previous census, her total population is now 1,586,000, of whom 742,000 are whites, 844,000 are negroes, making 102,000 more negroes than whites. Cuba was discovered on the 25th of October 1492, by Christopher Columbus, and now has the honor of affording a resting place to the remains of its illustrious discoverer. In 1511 the Spaniards formed the first settlement on the Island. In 1752 Havana was taken possession of by the British, but was restored to Spain in the following year, and with this exception she has retained possession since its discovery. In May, 1850, and again in August, 1851, Cuba was invaded by a band of men from the United States under the command of a Spaniard by the name of Narciso Lopez, whose object was to revolutionize the island. But both expeditions signally failed. The whole 450 men who landed were either slain in fight or taken prisoners; of the latter 50 were shot; and shortly after Lopez was garrotted.

Spain at one period of her history was noted for her vast wealth and formidable power. She once occupied one eighth part of the known world, and had 70 millions of inhabitants. Her territory covered a space of 800,000 square miles, more than two thirds of which she has since lost—Cuba and Porto Rico are all that she has remaining of her vast possessions in this hemisphere.

Spain is said to be rapidly decaying,

and that Cuba must consequently fall into the hands of some other power at no distant period. The eyes of a few of our statesmen have been directed towards her in hopeful expectation that we could acquire her by a peaceful negotiation. This question has been agitated more or less for the last forty years. But Spain has uniformly sternly refused to part with her. Some have argued that it was but proper she should be annexed because she was next to us, and commanded geographically a position which gives her control in a great measure over the trade of the Gulf of Mexico, which, in case of war, she would seriously disturb. Others, because the soil composing Cuba was originally washed from this continent by the floods of the Mississippi river and that she must, as a natural consequence gravitate back to us, (figuratively, of course.) Others, because our commerce and national wealth would be greatly enhanced, and because the prices of our sugar would be lessened; and others because they could benefit the institution of slavery; and by others for the purpose of promoting the cause of freedom and civilization, by the suppression of the slave trade; and by others because under certain contingencies, self-preservation will demand it; and lastly, because "manifest destiny" claims her.

It is but natural that different men should differ widely in their estimation of the results most likely to flow from Cuba's annexation to us. The true value of men's opinion's, however, great or small, depends solely upon the knowledge they have of the various contingent circumstances or events surrounding the case; and the medium through which they are viewed. Some will look at the question with an eye blinded by selfishness, and prejudice, while others will endeavor, at least, to take patriotic view of it in all its various ramifications.

It is our purpose to briefly review the above positions and see as near as we can how well they are warranted by the facts of the case. We are told that the fixed policy of the United States, independent of parties, is to finally annex Cuba; and that the purchase and annexation of Louisiana lead to the annexation of Florida; and that now both point with unerring certainty to the annexation of Cuba. It is not true that all men independent of parties are favorable to the annexation of Cuba; unless circumstances should clearly indicate the propriety of such a measure. In such an event, undoubtedly all would be favorable to her annexation.—But the signs of the times by no means indicate that now is the time to annex her. Further, there are many of all parties who do not believe the time will ever arrive when it will be imperatively necessary to bring her into this Union; and very many there are who believe sincerely that the present is the most unfavorable time that a measure involving such extraordinary expense could be acted upon; and independent of this, the political aspect of the country is now more forbidding than ever it was before.

In the early days of this republic annexation was imperative, but whether that time has not passed by, is a question that is unsettled. If by annexation we can bring together concordant elements, then it will not matter how far it is carried; but when by it we are compelled to bring together antagonistic elements, one warring with the other, it becomes a matter of grave doubt. Should we not learn a lesson from the sad experience of the Greek and Roman Empires? Their policy was to annex any country they deemed necessary to their prosperity and safety, which arms could conquer, or money seduce, entirely regardless of their antagonistic elements. This fatal policy caused them to annex country after country, and territory after territory, until their empires were so widely expanded that the antagonistic elements, of which they were composed, finally broke them to atoms.

Spain, which was once one of the first kingdoms in wealth, power, and literature, affords a living example of the suicidal effects of this policy. There being two antagonistic elements in this Government, the question properly arises, which is right and which is wrong. After this question is settled, then the one which is decided to be right should be upheld and cherished, and the one which is determined to be wrong, if it should prove to be so great an evil that it cannot be readily abated, then, true wisdom imperatively demands that that course should be adopted which will effectually prevent the wrong from growing more powerful.

If this annexation policy is to be our ruling principle, then we will of necessity be impelled to annexation until this whole continent finally becomes annexed to the United States, entirely regardless of the probable consequences that will result from it. We are in favor of annexation with one condition, and that is, that it shall tend to harmony and prosperity, rather than to discord and destruction of this Confederacy.

It is true that Cuba, well fortified, and with a strong navy, unless she were opposed by a greater power, would command to a certain extent, the trade of the Gulf of Mexico, and could, in case of war, greatly interrupt our trade in that region. But the same can be said of any neighboring nation, or foreign either, with which we are trading, but not perhaps with so much force. But if this logic of annexing a nation because she might in case of war, interrupt our trade, be correct, then this same logic would lead us to annex all nations that in case of war, would be apt to interrupt our commerce.

It will make no material difference to us into whose hands Cuba may finally fall, so far as our trade on the gulf of Mexico is concerned; because the march of civilization sternly demands that just and wise treaties shall be established at least, between all civilized nations, and in case of a refusal on the part of Cuba to accede to such terms war would ensue, which would, let her be in whose hands she might, provoke such a chastisement as would lead to the establishment of that which is just.

If the principle of flogging and annexing a nation, when we may believe her to stand in the way of our special prosperity, in case she refuses to sell out to us, be a correct one, this logic would establish that right which would justify us in offering what we might see proper to a competitor whom we might believe to stand in the way of our special prosperity, and in case he refused to accede to our terms, then we could flog him and make him our slave, or compel him to accept our proposition. This is the logic of the best class of highwaymen, and obtained in the days of semi-barbarism; yet it is the logic of the Slidell and Company's self-preservation theory.

Loud threats are vauntingly thrown broad east to the world that if we cannot negotiate peacefully for Cuba, the stern law of self-preservation may compel us to resort to coercive means. Now this is insulting in the extreme to a nation having any pride or sense of honor, and would be indulged in by no moderately judicious person, except they sought a quarrel.—And the idea that our self-preservation depends upon the annexation of Cuba, in any contingency, is too unreasonable to deserve for a moment the attention of any person acquainted at all with the facts of this matter; for they warrant nothing of the kind. We would not be deprived of the trade of the gulf of Mexico, even if we had no outlet by sea; for we have free access to that trade by railway and the Mississippi river. But the idea of our being shut out from the gulf of Mexico by way of the Bahama channel, is too ridiculous to merit a serious argument.

Next as to the prediction of eminent men, that Cuba must naturally gravitate back to her parent earth. Many eminent men have been guilty of saying many things, and of making many predictions, which subsequent events proved beyond a doubt to be sadly wrong. And what seemed and possibly was correct in the days of Jefferson, Adams, and Clay, may be grossly wrong now. They advocated the annexation of Cuba more or less in their time, because it then, apparently, could have been annexed without any difficulty; but in this they were mistaken; and again they favored it because they believed our national wealth would be greatly enhanced by the extension of our commerce, and the area of free labor and all of its concomitants. While John C. Calhoun at the same time vehemently opposed it, because he believed it would tend to the prostration of slavery.

John Slidell, one of the leaders of the slavery extension party, tells us in his report, that by the annexation of Cuba the "illegal slave trade" which has been covertly carried on for years back, notwithstanding our treaty with Spain to have it suppressed, can be effectually stopped.—But he immediately turns around and depicts in glowing colors the advantages that the South would obtain by annexation. It is a fact beyond controversy, that in case Cuba should be annexed to the United States, she would come into the Union a Slave State, which would give the South two United States Senators and ten or twelve members of Con-

gress. This fact, however, within itself, would not be a vital objection to her admission, in case there were not other serious contingent objections. As for the suppression of the slave trade it would more probably be increased. We all have heard much about the aggressions of the North, when the aggressions have been on the other side, and also much about the formation of a separate "Southern Confederacy." This is what is specially desired by the secessionist, whose numbers are larger than many think, for many are silent on that question through opportunity I fear, to make the rash and suicidal attempt to read assunder the Union chord. The annexation of Cuba would give renewed vitality to the slave trade between the slave States and that island. This would greatly enhance the value of their slaves, and hence the warm approval of this measure by the South.

The annexation party argue in effect that inasmuch as Spain realizes but about one million of dollars annually from Cuba, it would follow that we would become immensely enriched by annexing her.

Let us see.—It will cost us if we can negotiate for her at all no less than 200 millions of dollars; the interest of which would be 12 millions of dollars annually. Spain does not realize one half per cent of the value of the island estimating it at 200 millions of dollars. The question then arises can we govern the island for less than Spain? What have we to warrant us in believing so? If we cannot, then we will lose annually eleven millions of dollars. But we are told that the amount of cane sugar that supplies Europe and the United States is 1,273,000 tons, and that Cuba and Louisiana produce about 45 per cent of this amount, which with Cuba annexed would give us, they argue, as much the monopoly of the sugar trade as we now have of the cotton trade. And we are further told that we would find ready market for our flour, beef, pork, lard, &c. I should like to know whether the United States have not been in the habit of selling their surplus flour, lard, pork, beef, &c. We have always had markets for those articles, as we have had for others—sometimes good, and at others indifferent, depending solely upon circumstances. So it would be with Cuba annexed. It would be no guaranty that our markets would be better. As for the sugar trade, we can by courting friendly relations with the Spanish government, and abandoning the idea of stealing Cuba, exchange our commodities for her sugar, at a greater profit than we can by paying about 200 millions of dollars for the island, and being as Spain now is, at the enormous annual expense of 21,300,000 dollars, to take care of her.

From this it will appear that the United States cannot be bettered in a commercial point of view, by the annexation of Cuba; and this brings us to the conclusion that the majority of the annexation party are actuated by some other object than our national prosperity; and the recent vote of one third of the southern democratic delegation in Congress to repeal the law prohibiting the slave trade, indicates almost beyond a doubt what that object is. Do the facts that are constantly developing themselves, not warrant us in believing that if Congress should refuse to open the slave trade, in case Cuba is annexed, that the secessionists will then make an effort to dissolve the Union and form that long talked of Southern Confederacy; or to dissolve the Union, open the slave trade, and seize on Cuba on her own responsibility?

Again, John Slidell, in speaking in his report, of the proposed protectorates says: "That a European protectorate could not be tolerated." And why? Simply because "the close philanthropists of England and France would, as the price of their protection, insist upon introducing their scheme of emancipation." This tells us, then, in so many words, that one great object of the annexation of Cuba is to brace up the institution of slavery. Truly a laudable enterprise for philanthropists to embark in.

We are told that the annexation of Louisiana proves that there is no improbability in annexing a people who are different from us in language, race, habits manners and religion, which we deny for the following reasons:

Louisiana was annexed in 1803, and had originally an area of about 375,000 square miles, and had when annexed less than 50,000 inhabitants.

That part of the Louisiana purchase out of which the State of Louisiana was erected has an area of 46,431 square miles, and had in 1803 less than 45,000 inhabitants. While Cuba has an area of 34,800 square miles, and has a population of over a million and a half. Notwithstanding the small number of inhabitants in Louisiana when annexed, and the vast immigration that has since been poured into that state, she still retains as her leading characteristics the habits and customs of the Frenchman and Spaniard; and she is at this day, consequently, the most immoral State in the Union.

The Cubans are, with a few exceptions, grossly ignorant and immoral. They are entirely different from us in race, language, government, and customs; and vastly different in religion.—In short, they are unlike us in thought feeling and aspiration; and to make it still worse, more than half her population is Negro.

Cuba is already filled with her own population; which will prevent emigration, almost as effectually as the old European States do, our migration there, or at least as effectually as our old settled states in effect exclude immigration from without their borders. This will render it an utter impossibility to ever "Americanize the Cubans; and under these circumstances how could we expect the rights of American citizens to be regarded?

The annexation of Cuba then, is in no respect like that of Louisiana; and we therefore, have no precedent of the annexation of so radically different and discordant a people.

But we are told by another that Manifest Destiny points with unerring certainty to the annexation of Cuba. This, however, is no argument within itself, and it is therefore not entitled to an answer; yet we cannot refrain from remarking that it is exceedingly strange that manifest destiny should be continually leading us to annex that territory adapted to, and containing slavery. Does it not seem to be wrongly named? and could we not more appropriately christen it "Manifest Slavery!" And does it not appear to be high time that we freed our selves from its dominion and substituted a more honorable god for our worship?

We are therefore brought to the conclusion that it is unwise, impolitic, and dangerous to this Confederacy, to annex Cuba to the United States—and especially so, at the present time.

### A Juvenile Elopement.

A couple of families residing in Albany, says the Standard of that city, have just had the peace and quiet of their household disturbed by a transaction which seems almost incredible. It is an elopement, and the parties are aged respectively 14 and 15. The parties were attendants at a select school in a fashionable part of the city, under a female teacher. Their attachment to each other was noticed by the rest of the scholars, and particularly remarked by the schoolmistress, who had time and again spoken to the girl in relation to her folly, she being too young for such conduct, &c. And also had more than once threatened to turn the boy out of school unless he put a stop to his proceedings. Yet all these remonstrances were of no avail. The young pair had evidently formed an attachment for each other that was not so easily broken. Everything had been neglected for each other's society. The girl's parents became acquainted with the facts, and informed her if she did not quit her foolish capers, they would be compelled to send her away. She informed her young lover of the same. Arrangements were effected, and both started out on the Central Railroad early on Saturday. They went to Utica, where the boy had an uncle living, and stopped there, the boy representing the girl as his mother's sister's daughter.—They were entertained; but before daylight on Sunday morning, the household were disturbed from their slumbers by the ringing of the door-bell. On opening the door, the boy's father presented himself, and the object of his unlooked for visit was speedily explained. It seems that the boy had stolen \$64 from his father and cleared. On discovering his loss, the father started in pursuit.—But imagine his surprise, when he found the daughter of his next door neighbor in company with his boy. He labored under the impression that the boy had been playing a game on his own account, but it turned out to be a real elopement between the two. However, both were taken back to Albany, and lodged in their respective homes. It is evident that each of these youths has been greatly given to romantic reading, as this transaction fully illustrates. On searching the boy for the money, the father found a paper containing arsenic, showing conclusively that in case they were detected, they premeditated suicide. The girl has been locked up in a room and the boy has received a good cowhiding.

### He Didn't Read the Papers.

In the trial of the Doyan brothers recently in Michigan for murder, much difficulty was experienced in obtaining a jury free from prejudice. At last, after a large number had been rejected, a man from the back part of the county was called, who, in response to a question propounded, said that he didn't take or read a paper, and had never heard of the murder. This was too strong a case, and Mr. Terry, one of the counsel for the prosecution, said: "We object to your sitting on the jury in this case; a man that don't take a paper, and never heard of this brutal murder, don't know enough to be a jurymen.—We don't want you!"

"Boy, what is your father doing to day?"  
"Well, I suppose he is failin'." I heard him tell mother yesterday to go around and get trusted all she could, and do it right off, too, for he'd got every thing ready excepting that.

Mr. James Hogg was married to Miss Ellen Beane, the other day, in Cincinnati. What can be more natural than the union of pork and beans? But this union seems all one-sided—only one bean to a whole hog.