

Columbia Democrat.

"I have sworn upon the Altar of God, eternal hostility to every form of Tyranny over the Mind of Man."—Thomas Jefferson

H. WEBB, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRAT.

SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN, A FEW DOORS BELOW MARKET-STREET.

TERMS:

The COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT will be published every Saturday morning, at TWO DOLLARS per annum payable half yearly in advance, or Two Dollars Fifty Cents if not paid within the year. No subscription will be taken for a shorter period than six months; nor any discontinuance permitted, until all arrears are discharged.

ADVERTISEMENTS not exceeding a square will be conspicuously inserted at One Dollar for the first three insertions, and Twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year. LETTERS addressed on business, must be post paid.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE BLACK VEIL.

BY DICKENS.

For the full understanding of the accompanying extract, it is necessary to premise, that on a cold winter evening, a young London surgeon was seated by his cheerful fire, listening to the wind beating the rain against the windows, and howling dismally down the chimney, when his musings were interrupted by a visit from a singularly tall female, muffled in a black shawl, as if for the purpose of concealment, and her face shrouded by a thick black veil. After a prolonged interview, the young surgeon gathers, that the next morning, precisely at nine, his services will be indispensable on behalf of a patient who will then, and not till then, be under the charge of his visitor. 'I may be mad, to ask your aid, sir,' said the woman, weeping bitterly; 'but night after night, through the long, dreary hours of watching and weeping, the thought has ever been present to my mind; and although even I see the hopelessness of human assistance availing him, the bare thought of laying him in his grave without it makes my blood run cold!' Just before the hour appointed, the surgeon was at the designated place, a desolate, detached dwelling in one of the suburbs of the great city. As he knocked at the door, a low whisper, as of stealthy conversation in the passage, became audible. Presently, the door was opened by a tall, ill-favored man, with black hair, and pale and haggard as a dead man's. In answer to the surgeon's question, 'Am I in time?' the man replied, 'Too soon, Sir; but if you'll step in here, Sir, you won't be detained five minutes. I assure you.' The surgeon walks in, the door is closed upon him, and he is left alone. And now commences our scene: It was a little cold room with no other furniture than two deal chairs, and a table of the same material. A handful of fire, unguarded by any fender, was burning in the grate, which brought out the damp, if it served no more comfortable purposes for the unwholesome moisture was stealing down the walls in long slug-like tracks. The window, which was broken and patched in many places, looked into a small piece of ground almost covered with water. Not a sound was to be heard, either within the house or without. The young surgeon sat down by the fire-place to await the result of his professional visit. He had not remained in his position many minutes, when the noise of some approaching vehicle struck his ear. It stopped; the street door was opened, a low talking succeeded, accompanied with a shuffling noise of footsteps along the passage on the stairs a few seconds afterwards, announced that the new comers, having completed their task, whatever it was were leaving the house. The door again closed, and the former silence restored. Another five minutes elapsed, and the surgeon had just resolved to explore the house, in search of some one to whom he might make his errand known, when the room-door opened, and his last night's visitor, dressed in the same manner, with the veil lowered as before, motioned him to advance. The singular height of her form coupled with the circumstance of her not

speaking, caused the idea to pass across the brain for an instant that it might be a man disguised in woman's attire. The hysterical sobs which issued from beneath the veil and the convulsive attitude of grief of the whole figure, however at once exposed the absurdity of the suspicion, and he hastily followed. The woman led the way up stairs to the front room, and paused at the door to let him enter first. It was scantily furnished with an old deal box, a few chairs, and a tent bedstead without hangings or cross-rails, which was covered with a patch-work counterpane. The dim light admitted through the curtain which he had noticed from the outside, rendered the objects in the room so indistinct, communicated to all of them so uniform a hue, that he did not at first perceive the object on which his eyes at once rested, when the woman rushed frantically past him, and hung herself upon her knees at the bed-side. Stretched upon the bed, closely enveloped in a linen wrapper, and covered with blankets, lay a human form, stiff and motionless. The head and face, which were those of a man, was uncovered save by a bandage, which passed over the head and under the chin. The eyes were closed. The left arm lay heavily across the bed, and the woman held the passive hand. The surgeon gently pushed the woman aside, and took the hand in his. 'My God!' he exclaimed, letting it fall involuntarily, 'the man is dead!' The woman started to her feet, and bearing her hands together: 'Oh! don't say so, sir!' she exclaimed, with a burst of passion amounting almost to pheezy, 'oh! don't say so, sir! I can't bear it indeed I can't! Men have been brought to life before when unskilful people have given them up for lost and men have died who might have been restored, if proper means had been resorted to. Don't let him lie here, sir without an effort to save him. This very moment life may be passing away. Do try sir—do for God's sake!' And while speaking she hurriedly chafed first the forehead and then wildly beat the cold hands, which when she ceased to hold them, fell heavily and listlessly back on the coverlet. 'It is of no use, my good woman,' said the surgeon, soothingly as he withdrew his hand from the man's breast. 'Stay under that curtain.'

'Why? said the woman, starting up.

'Undo that curtain!' repeated the surgeon in an agitated tone.

'I darkened the room on purpose,' said the woman, throwing herself before him, as he rose to undraw it. 'Oh! sir have pity on me! If it can be of no use, and he is really dead, do not do not expose that corpse to other eyes than mine!'

'This man died no natural or easy death,' said the surgeon. 'I must see the body!'

And with a motion so sudden that the woman hardly knew that he had slipped from beside her, he tore open the curtain admitting the full light of day, and returned to the bedside.

'There has been violence here!' he said pointing toward the body, and gazing intently on the face from which the black veil was now for the first time removed. In the excitement of a minute before, the female had dashed off the bonnet and veil, and now stood with her eyes fixed upon him. Her features were those of a woman of about fifty, who had once been handsome. Sorrow and weeping had left traces upon them which not time itself would ever have produced without their aid; her face was deadly pale, and there was a nervous contortion of the lip, and unnatural fire in her eyes, which showed too plainly that her bodily and mental powers had nearly sunk beneath an accumulation of misery.

'There has been violence here!' said the surgeon, preserving his searching glance.

'There has!' replied the woman.

'This man has been murdered!'

'That I call God to witness he has!' said the woman, passionately; 'pitilessly, inhumanly murdered!'

'By whom?' said the surgeon seizing the woman by the arm.

'Look at the butcher's marks and then ask me,' she replied.

The surgeon turned his face toward the bed and bent over the body, which lay full in the light of the window. The throat was swollen, and a blue, livid mark encircled it. The truth flashed suddenly upon him.

'This is one of the men who were hung this morning!' he exclaimed turning away with a shudder.

'It is!' replied the woman with a cold unmeaning stare.

'Who was he?' inquired the surgeon.

'My son!' rejoined the woman; and fell senseless at his feet.

And her son it was. A companion equally guilty with himself, had been acquitted for lack of evidence, while he had been left for death, and executed. The mother, a widow, without friends or money, had denied frantically the necessities of life, to bestow them upon her orphan boy, who, un mindful of her prayers, and forgetful of the incessant anxiety of mind and voluntary starvation of body which she had endured for him, had plunged into a career of dissipation and crime, which had resulted in his mother's shame and incurable insanity.

THE HOUSE THAT ZACK BUILT.

Fort Brown.—This is the house that Zack built.

The Cannon.—These are the dogs that lay in the house that Zack built.

The Garrison.—These are the men that fed the dogs that lay in the house that Zack built.

Gen. Taylor.—This is the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Gen. Arista.—This is the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Mexican Troops.—These are the troops all tattered and torn, that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Capt. May of the Dragoons.—This is the captain not shaven or shorn, that charged the troops all tattered and torn that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Gen. Vega.—This is the prisoner of all forlorn, that was taken by the captain not shaven or shorn, that charged the troops all tattered and torn, that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Mexican Army.—These are the men all weary and worn, that abandoned the prisoner all forlorn, that was taken by the captain not shaven or shorn, that charged the troops all tattered and torn, that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

The Americans.—These are the yankees American born, that defeated the men all weary and worn, that abandoned the prisoner all forlorn, that was taken by the captain not shaven or shorn, that charged the troops all tattered and torn, that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn, that led the men, that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

The Press.—This is the press with its newsman's horn, that told of the yankees American born, that defeated the men all weary and worn, that abandoned

the prisoner all forlorn, that was taken by the captain not shaven or shorn, that charged the troops all tattered and torn, that followed the leader that rose in the morn, to meet the general as sharp as a thorn that led the men that fed the dogs, that lay in the house that Zack built.

Message from the President of the United States communicating a proposition on the part of the British Government for the adjustment of the Oregon question. [June 10, 1846—read.]

To the Senate of the United States:

I lay before the Senate a proposal in the form of a Convention, presented to the Secretary of the State on the 6th inst, by the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of her Britannic Majesty, for the adjustment of the Oregon question, together with a protocol of this proceeding. I submit this proposal to the consideration of the Senate, and request their advice as to the action which in their judgment, it may be proper to take in reference to it.

In the early periods of the Government the opinion and advice of the Senate were often taken in advance upon important questions of our foreign policy. Gen. Washington repeatedly consulted the Senate and asked their previous advice, to which he always conformed his action. This practice, though rarely resorted to in later times, was, in my judgment, eminently wise and may on occasions of great importance, be properly revived. The Senate are a branch of the treaty making power, and by consulting them in advance of his own action, upon important measures of foreign policy which may ultimately come before them for consideration, the President secures harmony of action between that body and himself. The Senate are moreover a branch of the war making power, and it may be eminently proper for the Executive to take the opinion and advice of that body in advance upon any great question which may involve in its decision the issue of peace or war. On the present occasion the magnitude of the subject would induce me, under any circumstances, to desire the previous advice of the Senate, and that desire is increased by the recent debates and proceedings in Congress, which render it in my judgment, not only respectful to the Senate, but necessary and proper if not indispensable to insure harmonious action between that body and the Executive. In conferring on the Executive the authority to give the notice for the abrogation of the Convention of 1827, the Senate acted publicly so large a part, that the decision on the proposal now made by the British Government without a definite knowledge of the views of that body in reference to it might render the question still more complicated and difficult of adjustment. For these reasons I invite the consideration of the Senate to the proposal of the British Government for the settlement of the Oregon question, and ask their advice on the subject.

My opinions and my action on the Oregon question were fully made known to Congress in my annual message of the 2d December last, and the opinions therein expressed remain unchanged.

Should the Senate by the Constitutional majority required for the ratification of Treaties, advise the acceptance of this proposition, or advise it with such modifications as they may upon full deliberation deem proper, I shall conform my action to their advice. Should the Senate however decline by such Constitutional majority to give such advice, or to express such an opinion on the subject, I shall consider it my duty to reject the offer.

I also communicate herewith an extract from a despatch of the Secretary of State to the Minister of the United States at London under date of the 28th of April last, directed him in accordance with the joint resolutions of Congress, 'Concerning the Oregon Territory' to deliver the Notice to the British Government for the abrogation of the Convention of the 6th August, 1827, and also a copy of the Notice transmitted to him for that purpose together with extracts from a despatch of that Minister to the Secretary

of State, bearing date, the 18th May last.

JAMES K. POLK.
Washington, June 10, 1846.

From the North American.
Convention between the United States of America and her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, concluded at Washington, the 15th of June, 1846.
June 16, 1846—Read a first time.
June 17, 1846—Read a second time and ordered to be printed in confidence for the use of the Senate.

The United States of America and her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, deeming it to be desirable, for the future welfare of both countries, that the state of doubt and uncertainty which has hitherto prevailed respecting the sovereignty and government of the territory on the North West coast of America, lying westward of the Rocky or Sierrony Mountains should be finally terminated by an amicable compromise of the rights mutually asserted by two parties over said territory, have respectively named Plenipotentiaries to treat and agree concerning the terms of such settlement;—that is to say, the President of the United States of America has on his part furnished with full power James Buchanan, Secretary of State of the United States; and her Majesty, the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, has on her part appointed the Right Honorable Richard Pakenham, a member of her Majesty's most honorable Privy Council, and her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the United States, who after having communicated to each other their respective and full powers, formed in good and due form laws agreed upon and concluded the following articles.

Article 1. From point on the 19th parallel of north latitude, where the boundary laid down in existing treaties and conventions between Great Britain and the United States terminates the line of boundary between the territories of her Britannic Majesty and those of the U. S. shall be continued westward along the 49th parallel of north latitude to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly through the middle of the said channel, and Fuca straits to the Pacific Ocean; provided, however, that the navigation of the said channel and straits, south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, remain free and open to both parties.

Article 2. From the point at which the 49th parallel of north latitude shall be found to intersect the great northern branch of the Columbia river, the navigation of the said branch shall be free and open to the Hudson's Bay Company and to all British subjects trading with the same to the point where the said branch meets the main stream of the Columbia, and thence down the said main stream to the ocean, with free access into and through the said river or rivers, it being understood that all the usual portage along the line thus described shall in like manner be free and open. In navigating the said river or rivers, British subjects, with their goods and produce, shall be treated on the same footing as citizens of the United States; it being, however, always understood that nothing in this article shall be construed as preventing, or intended to prevent the government of the United States from making any regulations respecting the navigation of the said river or rivers, not inconsistent, with the present treaty.

Article 3. In the future appropriations of the territory south of 49th parallel of north latitude, as provided in the first

article of this treaty, the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and of all British subjects who may be already in the occupation of land or other property lawfully acquired within the said territory shall be respected.

Article 4. The farms, lands, and other property of every description, belonging to the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, on the north side of the Columbia river, shall be confirmed to the said Company. In case, however, the situation of those farms and lands should be considered by the United States to be of public and political importance, and the United States Government should signify a desire to obtain possession of the whole or of any part thereof the property so required shall be transferred to the said Government at a proper valuation to be agreed upon between the parties.

Article 5. The present Treaty shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by her Britannic Majesty; and the ratifications shall be exchanged at London at the expiration of six months from the date hereof or sooner if possible.

In witness whereof, the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed the same and have affixed thereunto the seals of their arms.

Done at Washington, the fifteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty six.

JAMES BUCHANAN.
RICHARD PAKENHAM.

The following Proclamation has been issued by Gen. Taylor, and is published in both the English and Spanish language in the Matamoros papers:

PROCLAMATION.

By the General Commanding the Army of the United States of America.

To the People of Mexico:—After many years of patient endurance, the United States are at length constrained to acknowledge that a war now exists between our government and the government of Mexico. For many years our citizens have been subjected to repeated insults and injuries, our vessels and cargoes have been seized and confiscated, our merchants have been plundered; inaimed, imprisoned without cause, and without reputation.

At length your government acknowledged the justice of our claims, and agreed by treaty to make satisfaction, by payment of several millions of dollars; but this treaty has been violated by your rulers, and the stipulated payments have been withheld. Our late efforts to terminate all difficulties by peaceful negotiation has been rejected by the Dictator Paredes, and our Minister has been refused a hearing. He has been treated with indignity and insult and Paredes has announced that war exists between us. This war, thus first proclaimed by him, has been acknowledged as an existing fact by our President and Congress, with perfect unanimity, and will be prosecuted with vigor and energy against your army and rulers, but those of the Mexican people who remain neutral will not be molested.

Your government is in the hands of tyrants and usurpers. They have abolished our State governments, they have overthrown your federal constitution, they have deprived you of the right of suffrage, destroyed the liberty of the press, despoiled you of your arms, and reduced you to a state of absolute dependence upon the power of a military Dictator. Your army and rulers extort from the people by grievous taxation, by forced loans, and military seizures, the very money which sustains the usurpers in power. Being disarmed you were left defenceless, an easy prey to the savage Caudillo, who not only destroy your lives