THE STAR AND BANNER.

D. A. BUEHLER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. "FEARLESS AND FREE." TWO DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

VOL. XVIII.—41. GETTYSBURG, PA. FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 24, 1847. NEW SERIES—NO. 31.

FOR THE HOLLIDAYS.

A Large assortment of Annuals & Gift Books, suitable for Presents at the approaching Holidays, has just been received at the Book and Stationery Store of S. H. BUEHLER, in Chambersburg street,

INCLUDING

Friendship's Offering, The Opal, The Hyacinth, The Moss Rose, Christian Keepsake, Religious Souvenier, Poems by Amelia, Do. by Mrs. Sigourney, Childe Harold, Hood's Poems, &c., &c., together with a large variety of GIFT BOOKS, &c., for all ages—handsomely bound and embellished—all of which will be sold *very low.* ☞ Call and see them.

S. H. BUEHLER.

Gettysburg, Dec. 10, 1847.

THE FESTIVE SEASON

Annuals, Albums, GIFT BOOKS.

THE custom which prevails in this country of presenting to our friends Holiday and Birthday Gifts, is certainly a very pleasing one. And nothing, it appears to us is so suitable for this purpose as an elegant and useful Book, which, by means of its choice sentiments, has the power—not possessed by any other gift—of sweetly reminding one of the friend who gave it. We therefore advise all to repair to the

Cheap Bookstore of Keller Kurtz,

opposite the Bank, Gettysburg, where may be found a tempting variety of Annuals, illustrated editions of the Poets, books of Piety and Devotion, Bibles, Prayer and Hymn Books, of all sizes, prices and bindings, suited to old, young, grave and gay, and cheaper than they have ever been sold in this market. A few of them are—

Gem of the Season, 20 plates, Leaflets of Memory, Christian Keepsake, Gift of Friendship, Friendship's Offering, Floral Offering,

Lady's Scrap Book, Poetry of Flowers and Flowers of Poetry, Garland, Jewel, Moss Rose, Hyacinth, Mother's Present, Christmas Blossoms, Poets of America illustrated, Dictionary of Poetical quotations gilt, Religious Souvenier, Christian Keepsake. Also, a large and splendid assortment of other Books suitable for Holiday Presents. Also, an extensive assortment of JUVENILE BOOKS, at low prices, and of the choicest character.

The above, with a general assortment of Miscellaneous Books, have just been received from the Eastern markets at the lowest prices, and shall be afforded to purchasers at prices that cannot fail to please all. ☞ The Ladies and Gentlemen of Gettysburg and vicinity are invited to call and examine the extensive assortment of Books, &c. for sale by

KELLER KURTZ.

Dec. 17, 1847.

VALUABLE MILL PROPERTY FOR RENT.

THE Subscriber, Executrix of HENRY MYERS, deceased, and testamentary Guardian of his minor children, offers for RENT, *from the 1st day of April next,* the valuable property known as the

"Virginia Mills."

They are situate in Hamiltonban township, Adams county, 1½ miles from Fairfield, and in one of the best Grain-growing sections of the county. The Mills are newly erected, and in complete repair; they consist of a Grist Mill, Saw Mill, &c., all in good order. There are about 500 Acres in the Farm, with Dwelling-house, Tenant House, Barn, &c., a large quantity of meadow and arable lands, &c.

☞ The Terms will be made known by the subscriber, residing on the premises. Applications must be accompanied by proper recommendations.

MARY MYERS.

Virginia Mills, Oct. 29, 1847—tf

VALUABLE STORE HOUSE AT PUBLIC SALE.

NOW there is a rare chance for Merchants to get one of the most valuable situations for business in the State.—The subscriber will expose to Public Sale, *on Saturday the 8th of January,* 1847, at 10 o'clock, A. M. on the premises, his

Valuable Property,

on which he now resides, situate in PETERSBURG, (Y. S.) Adams county, Pa., on the corner of Main and Harrisburg streets. The Buildings are first-rate. Call and see them, and judge for yourselves. Terms made known on the day of sale.

JOHN B. McCREARY.

N. B.—If the above named property is not sold on or before the 8th of January, it will be FOR RENT.

☞ He would also inform the public that he has a splendid assortment of

DRY GOODS,

which he will sell off at wholesale or retail, at reduced prices and great bargains.

NOTICE.

I AM going to Schuylkill county to commence the Coal Mining business, (I want money,) and give notice to all persons indebted to me to call immediately and settle the same. If their accounts are not settled *on or before the 1st day of February next,* they will not blame me if they find them in the hands of an Officer.

JOHN B. McCREARY.

Petersburg, (Y. S.) Nov. 26, 1847.

GOLD PENS AND SILVER PENCILS, (best quality) Card Cases, Visiting and Printing Cards, Fancy Note Paper, Envelopes, Motto Wafers, Fancy Sealing Wax, Letter Stamps, &c., for sale by S. H. BUEHLER.

December 10.

REVIEW OF THE MESSAGE.

FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The War with Mexico.

When, on the 13th day of May of last year, the passage of the Act of Congress, recognizing the existence of War with Mexico, was announced to the readers of the National Intelligencer, it was accompanied by the expression of a belief that by the largest portion of its readers the information would be received with alarm—alarm justly excited by the wilfulness and recklessness with which the Nation had been plunged into a foreign war, which, as the People were in no particular prepared for, they were in no way forwarned of. For ourselves, we were not taken wholly by surprise by the news. In the statesmanship of the Executive, whatever confidence we were disposed to place had been shaken by the almost daily demonstrations by its official organ during the first year of its existence. We had watched its successive developments, gradually disclosing a settled purpose to make war upon Mexico, in the event of not succeeding in intimidating her into a prompt submission to the demands which the President intended to make upon her. That organ (the government paper) was hardly a week old before its readers were transported, in imagination, to the "Halls of Montezuma," which were to be occupied by the United States as a crowning act of "a second conquest of Mexico." The tocsin being sounded, volunteers were to flock from the West to the scene of action, and to carry every thing before them. The government paper taught us, also, *how* the war was to be effected. It foresaw, by many months, the march of our army from Corpus Christi (where, as every one knows, Mexico never intended to disturb it) to the Rio Grande; foresaw that the Mexicans might cross the Rio Grande, and that, if they did, "blood would be shed," and "war must ensure." When, therefore, the prediction was realized—when the catastrophe arrived, however it shocked, it can scarcely be said to have *surprised* us. Of the facility and precipitancy with which the purposes of the Executive came to be sustained by the Legislative authority, we cannot say the same. We were both surprised and alarmed to find how easily, on the impulse of the moment, blindfold and gagged Congress could be driven to lend its countenance to those purposes.—Blindfold and gagged, we repeat. Nor is the expression too strong; for, *before* the news of the dangerous position of our army was communicated by the Executive to Congress, committees of both Houses had been got together (on the Sabbath) and measures prepared in concert with the Executive, which, the next day, on receiving the President's Message in form, without waiting to have the papers accompanying it read over, for the information of the Members, were forced through the House of Representatives. Nor, even to a body excited as the House was by the stirring news from the Rio Grande, did the ruling party in the House venture to propose the false and obnoxious Preamble of the Bill until after all deliberation and debate had been precluded on a question as momentous certainly as ever came before Congress. Had there been nothing else alarming in this Declaration of War with Mexico, the despotism thus exercised over the minority of the Representative body, repeated on the following day in the Senatorial body, (theretofore exempt from such sharp practices,) was of itself sufficient to appal the hearts of those accustomed, as we have been, to regard the rights of minority as not less sacred than those of majority, and, among them, the right of proposing amendments to or remonstrating against any proposition coming before them. The minority in each House was thus subjected by a most arbitrary and malignant exercise of party power without being allowed a moment for deliberation, to the alternative of voting for a bill with a preamble, the falsehood of which they saw and detested, or of refusing to vote for enactments (supplies of men and money) to which, all lavish as they were, there would, perhaps, but for the Preamble, not have been a dissentient voice.

Whatever alarm we and our readers felt at this beginning, has certainly been fully justified by the progress of events. Even that precipitation in the action of Congress—that preamble, affirming two distinct falsehoods—that tyranny by which a vote was extorted from the two houses, have been continually appealed to by the Executive organs as evidence of a unanimity of the national will in approbation of the war. In the messsage before us, that appeal is repeated, accompanied with a statement, in terms, that the declaration that "the war existed by the act of Mexico" was passed "with great unanimity" in Congress; though it must be known to the Executive that but a small majority in either House of Congress approved that declaration, many members declaring their repugnance to it, some their abhorrence of it. Votes taken in both Houses of Congress at the second session of the same Congress plainly established this fact, had there before been any reason to doubt it. The popular elections which have intervened certainly leave no excuse for a doubt upon any man's mind that a majority of the people of the United States are *against* this war, and its authors.

Instead of relinquishing, in deference to the popular will, thus clearly expressed, any part of his original scheme of conquering and annexing a considerable portion of the territory of Mexico, the President comes to Congress and demands its concurrence in a plan for colonizing and annexing almost one-half of Mexico, with a recommendation to continue the war until he, the Conquéror, *conquers* all the residue of that unhappy Republic, in the event of her not willingly severing from her body her most valuable provinces. Instead of advising a Peace, which this Government might have at any day on terms of honor, he informs Congress, in a sanguinary strain, and almost in the dialect of the shambles, that he is pursuaded "that the best means of *vindicating the national honor* and interest, and of bringing the war to an *honorable* close, will be to prosecute it *with increased energy and power* IN THE VITAL PARTS *of the enemy's country!*" He knows that he and his war stand condemned by his own countrymen. He cannot, if he would, mistake the sentiment of the People; and yet he craves more conquest, more butchery; he demands a deeper penetration into the vitals of our adversary, and yet further waste of the blood and treasure of his own country.

Before he take captive our senses by the seductive incitements, in which his Message abounds, to a yet wider course of rash ambition and suicidal aggrandizement, let us stop for a moment to consider upon what grounds he places and justifies the career of cruelty and conquest in which he has already embarked our country.—We are glad the President has, in his Message, prefaced his recommendations as to the future with a summary statement of the causes of complaint heretofore alleged by him as being of prior date to the war, together with his understanding of how the war begun. A single paragraph includes the whole story; and, as we propose to examine it with some particularity, we here republish it:

"It is sufficient on the present occasion to say, that the wanton violation of the rights of person and property of our citizens committed by Mexico, her repeated acts of bad faith through a long series of years, and her disregard of solemn treaties stipulating for indemnity to our injured citizens, not only constituted ample cause of war on our part, but were of such an aggravated character as would have justified us before the whole world in resorting to this extreme remedy. With an anxious desire to avoid a rupture between the two countries, we forbore for years to assert our rights by force, and continued to seek redress for the wrongs we had suffered by amicable negotiation, in the hope that Mexico might yield to pacific counsels and the demands of justice. In this hope we were disappointed. Our minister of peace sent to Mexico was insultingly rejected. The Mexican Government refused even to hear the terms of adjustment which he was authorized to propose; and finally, under wholly unjustifiable pretexts, involved the two countries in war, by invading the territory of the State of Texas, striking the first blow, and shedding the blood of our citizens on our own soil."

In undertaking *again* to review these averments by the Executive, now that they are again offered in his justification, and in support of the war *ad internecionem* against Mexico which he recommends to Congress, we are well aware that no force can be added to the reasoning, nor any strength to the conclusions of that admirable tract from the pen of the venerable, patriotic, and learned ALBERT GALLATIN, in relation to the Mexican War, which we have lately had the satisfaction of spreading before our readers. To his authority upon any question of public law or national obligation, we, at least, who have known him from the days of his great public services in the Public Councils, first as a leader of the Republican party in Congress; next as a Member of the Cabinet of President JEFFERSON during all of his Administration, and of that of Mr. MADISON until he was called to represent his country abroad as the associate of ADAMS, CLAY, and BAYARD in the great Negotiation which ended in the Peace of Ghent—we, whose first essays in our present vocation may be said to have been guided by his hand and by that of his ever honored friend and official superior, Mr. MADISON, are bound by every sentiment of respect and gratitude to pay a deference so profound that it would be to the greatest distrust of our own judgement we should entertain any opinion on a public question materially different from his.—Happy and proud are we to find, that, on the subject of the causes and character of this war, his views are in full accord with those which we have found it our duty from time to time to present to our readers.—Most fortunate for our country do we consider it, that he has been willing and able to come forward in the present emergency, to instruct and counsel his fellow-citizens. However earnestly and honestly the Press may have done its duty; however ably and fearlessly distinguished Statesmen of the present day may have exposed and denounced the new career upon which our country has entered as the sole disturber of the peace of the world; however bright and high the statesmanship which the great Patriot of the West has so recently brought to bear upon this great question, the Address of Mr. GALLATIN has shown it was yet possible for a wise and able man to add to the force of even our own convictions, however decided on the subject. Most fortunate, we repeat, do we consider this opportune contribution to the common stock of knowledge of one standing in the foremost rank of intellectual greatness, and yet apart from the passions of the day and above them: one who, after a most distinguished career of public service, left popularity and reputation unexhausted, and quitted high trusts whilst yet they courted his acceptance: one of the foremost men, in a word, of that illustrious era of our statesmanship which has now hardly a survivor; one, therefore, almost in the last extremity of age, and yet so fortunate as to have preserved, equally undimmed, its abilities and its honors. To the authority of such a name as that of ALBERT GALLATIN, his recent Address adds a strength of reasoning which nothing in the present day can meet, and that luminous command of all the great principles of Public and of National Law, in which he had scarcely an equal in his own times, and has now no superior. The trusted coadjutor—and it may even, in Finance and Diplomacy, be said to have been—the instructor of JEFFERSON, of MADISON and of MONROE, we have here, as of one rising from the dead, a voice, passionless as it is wise and solemn, the judgement of an antique and genuine sage of Republicanism—yea, of Democracy—upon the entire question of this Presidential War.

Armed and fortified with such a document, it is with unwonted confidence that we proceed once more to expose those hollow pretences and insincere professions of the authors and apologists for the War with Mexico, which have been controverted heretofore with no other apparent effect than to induce a more pertinacious repetition of them.

Referring to his last annual communication to Congress for particulars of his bill of arraignment, the President again recites alledged wrongs by Mexico, through "a long series of years," &c. as being such as not only to constitute ample cause of war, but as would have justified the United States before the whole world in resorting to this extreme remedy. This every one, at all acquainted with history, knows to be gross exaggeration. The long existence of claims for wrongs now alleged to have been so enormous, is of itself proof of the fact that they were not at any time deemed by Congress to constitute a sufficient cause of war. Most of them had besides been actually adjusted by a treaty between the two countries, which was in the course of faithful execution by Mexico when the hostile demonstrations of our Administration suspended the payment of stipulated indemnities. As to what remained of unadjusted claims, there was nothing, until the occurrence of this war, to prevent their peaceable and even satisfactory adjustment. As to the refusal to receive our Minister being, as the President intimates, a sufficient cause of war, it is a sufficient answer to the President that the army was ordered to march to the Rio Grande (where, according to the programm of the Government paper, *the war was to begin)* two months before our Minister was finally refused to be received by the Government of Mexico.

But let it be admitted, for the sake of argument, and for that sake only, that, according to the customs and laws of nations in less civilized, less moral, and less enlightened ages than the present, we really had cause of war with Mexico, so far as war between two Christian Nations is ever just or necessary; yet war with Mexico, distracted, weakened, and impoverished as she had long been and then was, with intestine divisions and factions, was neither necessary, magnanimous, nor honorable on our part. Such a war, even for just objects, being unnecessary—the only inevitable effect indeed upon the claims for which it would be waged being to fasten them upon our own Treasury instead of the Mexican—could never redound to the glory of the country, and much less compensate for the rivers of blood and heaps of treasure which have already been wasted in this war.

But, to pass all this by, whether the existing war be just or unjust, necessary or unnecessary, is not the question now at issue between the President and the People. Was this War the act of the Sovereign People of the U. States, declared in their name, in the only manner known or acknowledged by the Constitution—by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress, to whom it alone belongs to determine whether War, at any time or under any circumstances, be just or necessary? Or was it, whether a crime or a mistake, the unauthorized act of the President, to whom the Constitution has denied all power over the question of War? *This* is the true question; nor can all the wire-drawn sophistry and special pleading of the President's Message of last year, referred to in that which is now before us, deceive a single individual, be he Whig or be he Locofoco, of common sense or common information, against the well known and well authenticated facts in the case.—Need we add, that, whoever the President be, who, trampling down the barriers which the Constitution has erected for the protection of the general welfare, and for the security of life, liberty, and property of the citizen, of his own mere will and pleasure plunges the country into a War, with or without cause—that man is a Despot!—The Nation that quietly folds its arms and permits this to be done with impunity, may delude itself with the fancy that it lives under a written Law and Constitution, but it is an idle dream. That Nation is a nation of slaves, and lives under a Despotism.

To proceed, however to the main point, upon the re-assertion of which alone the President relies to justify himself before his own fellow-citizens for his agency in this War, viz.: that the Mexican Government, "finally, under wholly unjustifiable pretexts, involved the two countries in war, by invading the territory of Texas, striking the first blow, and shedding the blood of our citizens on American soil." *Not one word of this is true.* We regret the necessity, but the President imposes upon us the obligation of renewing the demonstration of the utter falsity of the whole of it. Mexico did *not* involve the two countries in War: Mexico did *not* invade the territory of Texas: Mexico did *not* strike the first blow: Mexico did *not* shed the blood of our citizens on our own soil.

This whole question, it will be seen, resolves itself into one of territorial boundary. Did, at the breaking out of this war, the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande (Del Norte) belong to Mexico or the U. States?

It did not belong to the U. States. The Republic of Texas had no *title* to it. She had not even a respectable *claim* to it.—She pretended to no such title when she called a Convention to form her Constitution; for not a member was called to that Convention from any portion of the territory bounding on the Rio Grande. Nor when, in her Constitution, she apportioned the Representation in her Legislature among the several districts of her territory, did she enumerate any districts lying upon the Rio Grande as entitled to representation in the Texan General Assembly.—The whole country of the Rio Grande, and indeed the whole country west of the Nueces, except the small settlement of San Patricio, was exclusively in possession of the Mexicans, until the army of the U. States marched into it, driving before it the Mexican civil officers and the peaceful inhabitants. Texas having no title to the territory, the annexation of Texas to this Union could confer none upon the United States. Were a peace to be made to-morrow, on the basis of leaving things as they were before the war, the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande would still constitute a part of the Mexican States of Tamaulipas, &c.

This state of the fact is none of our first discovering, much less of our imagining. We derive nearly all our information on the subject from the highest Democratic authority. When the Treaty with Texas, by which she undertook to convey to the U. States a western boundary to the Rio Grande, was depending in the Senate, Mr. Senator BENTON (high authority on the subject) indignantly denounced it as an attempted fraud and outrage:

"I wash my hands," said he, "of all attempts *to dismember the Mexican Republic, by seizing her dominions in New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas.* The treaty, *in all that relates to the boundary of the Rio Grande, is an act of* UNPARALLELED OUTRAGE ON MEXICO. It is *the seizure of two thousand miles of her ritory,* without a word of explanation with her, and by virtue of a treaty with Texas, to which she is no party."

Mr. BENTON further declared that the claim set up by Texas by the Treaty, if maintained, would cut off "the capital and forty towns and villages of New Mexico, now and always as fully under the dominion of Mexico as Quebec and all the towns of Canada are under the dominion of Great Britain."

Mr. B. closed his speech by offering the following resolution:

Resolved, That the incorporation of the left bank of the Rio del Norte into the American Union, by virtue of a treaty with Texas, comprehending, as the said incorporation would do, a portion of the Mexican departments of New Mexico, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Tamaulipas, would be AN ACT OF DIRECT AGGRESSION UPON MEXICO, *for all the consequences of which the U. States would stand responsible.*

To the same effect that great Democratic leader, the Hon. SILAS WRIGHT, (whose late death has been so justly lamented by men of all parties,) who was present during the whole debate upon the Texas treaty, and gave his vote against its ratification, declared to his constituents, in a speech delivered at Watertown, as follows:

"I felt it my duty to vote against the ratification of the treaty for the annexation. I believed that the treaty, *from the boundaries that must be implied from it,* embraced a country *to which Texas had no claim, over which she had never asserted jurisdiction, and which* SHE HAD NO RIGHT TO CEDE."

But, many years before the date of this debate, the records of the U. States had borne testimony to the true boundary of Texas. In 1836 an Agent was dispatched by the President of the U. States (Gen. JACKSON) to examine and report upon the condition of Texas, which had then established an independent Government; and in his report, dated in August of that year, he reported that "the political limits of Texas proper, previous to the last revolution, were *the Nueces river on the west;* along the Red River on the north; the Sabine on the east; and the Gulf of Mexico on the south."

At the time of the consummation of the act of annexation, Mr. DONELSON being the Chargé d'Affaires of the U. States to that young Republic, communicated freely with his Government as to the position of things in Texas. From his letters we extract the following passages, showing what was the *fact* as to the limits of the territory actually occupied by Texas, even at that time:

"Corpus Christi is said to be as healthy as Pensacola, a convenient place for supplies, and *the most western point now occupied by Texas.*"—Letter to Secretary of State, June 30, 1845.

"The occupation of the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, you are aware, is *a disputed question.* Texas holds Corpus Christi—MEXICO HOLDS THE BRAZOS DE SANTIAGO."—Letter to Gen. Taylor, June 28, 1845.

"The joint resolution of our Congress *left the question an open one,* and the preliminary proposition made by Texas, under the auspices of the British and French Governments, as the basis of a definite treaty with Mexico, leaves the question in *the same state.* And although the Government of Texas has *since* indicated a point on the Rio Grande for the occupation of our troops, I did not consider this circumstance as varying the question, since the President of Texas but a few weeks before issued a proclamation suspending hostilities between Texas and Mexico, the practical effect of which was to leave the question precisely as it stood *when our joint resolution passed*—Mexico in possession of one portion of the territory, and Texas of another. The proclamation of a truce between the two nations, founded on propositions mutually acceptable to them, *leaving the question of boundary not only an open one, but Mexico* IN POSSESSION OF THE EAST BANK OF THE RIO GRANDE, seemed to me inconsistent with the expectation that in defence of *the claim* of Texas our troops should be marched immediately to that river. What the Executive of Texas had determined not to fight for, but to settle by negotiation—to say the least of it, could as well have been left to the U. States on the same conditions. The question was whether, under the circumstances, we should take a position to make war *for this claim,* in the face of *an acknowledgment by the Texan Government that it could be settled by negotiation.* I at once decided that we should take no such position, but *should regard only as within the limits of our protection that portion of territory* ACTUALLY POSSESSED BY TEXAS, *and which she did not consider as subject to negotiation.*"—Letter to Mr. Buchanan, July 11, 1845.

"Your purpose will be the defence of Texas, if she is invaded by Mexico, and *you will be in position at Corpus Christi,* SAN ANTONIO, AND OTHER POINTS ON THE NUECES, ready to act according to circumstances."—To Gen. Taylor, July 7, 1845.

These extracts taken together establish, upon the evidence of our Government itself, through its Diplomatic Representative in Texas, that *Mexico was in possession of the Territory west of the Nueces* (except the county of Patricio) and Texas of the territory east of the Nueces, with the addition of Patricio; that Mexico was admitted by our own Envoy to be *in possession of the east bank of the Rio Grande,* and that Corpus Christi *was the most western point then occupied by Texas.* These admissions from a source so well-informed, so free from bias in favor of any interest but that of the U. States, (including Texas,) are fatal to every pretension of territorial right on the part of Texas between the Rio Grande and the Nueces, the small county of Patricio perhaps excepted.

All that remains, therefore, to sustain the pretension of the Administration that the boundary of Texas extended to the Rio Grande, and that by her annexation the Rio Grande became the boundary of the U. States, is in the act of the Legislature of Texas declaring its boundary to extend to the Rio Grande. If that act could be considered of any effect whatever, it would at most leave ground for controversy and negotiation, as was assumed by Mr. Donelson. But that act itself was a mere nullity. To that effect we have the opinion of Senator WOODBURY, (now an Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States,) in his speech in favor of ratifying the Treaty of Annexation:

"Texas, *by a mere law,*" said he, "*could acquire no title* but what she conquered from Mexico and actually governed.—Hence, though her law includes more than the ancient Texas, *she could hold and convey only that*—or, at the uttermost, only what *she exercised clear jurisdiction over.*"

Texas never had exercised *jurisdiction of any sort* over any territory on the Rio Grande, and could not therefore by possibility convey to the U. States any title to it. To the same effect we have the authority of Mr. GALLATIN, which saves us and our readers the trouble of searching further on the subject:

"The Republic of Texas did, by act of December, 1836, declare the Rio del Norte to be its boundary. It will not be seriously contended that a nation has a right, by a law of its own, to determine what is or shall be the boundary between it and another country. The act was nothing more than the expression of the *wishes* or *pretensions* of the Government. *As regards right, the act of Texas is a perfect* NULLITY."

It is thus conclusively demonstrated that the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande never had passed out of the possession or right of Mexico, and was in no sense "American soil," or territory of the U. States. The fact is, moreover, too notorious to need to be here dwelt upon, that the army of the U. States, when it neared the Rio Grande, chased the Mexican custom-officers out of their houses, and, when it encamped on the bank of the river, found itself in the midst of a Mexican population, and occupying the corn and cotton-fields which they had fled from in dismay. The flag of the U. States was planted by our army, as in defiance, under the guns of a Mexican fort, and at the same time the vessels of our Navy blockaded the mouth of the Rio Grande—a river running, from its source to the ocean, altogether between Mexican banks, without a Texan settlement of any sort within a hundred miles of it. Nay, Gen. TAYLOR himself, after literally obeying the Executive orders by occupying a position opposite Matamoros, thus reported to the War Department (under date of April 6, 1846) his proceedings:

"On our side a battery for four eighteen-pounders will be completed, and the guns placed in battery to-day. *These guns bear directly upon the public square of Matamoros, and within good range for demolishing the town.* THEIR OBJECT CANNOT BE MISTAKEN BY THE ENEMY."

The Enemy! *What* enemy? Does not this language prove that the brave old General understood very well what he was sent there for? War did not exist until he had planted a battery of guns bearing directly upon the public square of Matamoros, the object of which, he very truly reports to Mr. MARCY, could not be mistaken!

And by this invasion of Mexican territory, under peremptory orders from Washington to the Commanding General, was the war *begun by the President of the United States,* without the knowledge of Congress, though then in session. Nor then nor since has there been a drop of American (United States) blood shed by Mexico on American soil: nor then nor since has a Mexican soldier or armed man set his foot upon American soil, (Texas proper included.)

The foundation of the President's first, second, and last War Manifestoes against Mexico being thus withdrawn from under them, what is there left to sustain any part of the recommendations, in the Message before us, of a further and more vindictive prosecution of the war?

But to proceed: The ground upon which the President placed the War, when, having got into it, he was obliged to call upon Congress to sustain him in it, as we have shown, so far from being solid or true, is directly the reverse. So far from Mexico having invaded the United States, our President invaded Mexico; and, so far from the war having "existed" by the act of Mexico, it existed—so far as it is possible for the United States to be *at war* without the consent of the war making power—by the act of Mr. POLK alone. Nor, in our opinion, did it exist without premeditation. It had been contemplated as possible, at least, from the moment of his coming to the Presidency. The government paper, as we have already remarked, had not been in existence more than a week before, in that mirror of the Presidential sentiment, the invasion, and even the conquest of Mexico, were foreshadowed—we may say predicted—in the event of Mexico venturing to exercise any authority on the east bank of the Rio Grande. As early as June, 1845—(mark the date)—the Commander of the Naval force of the United States in the Pacific was directed to look out for a war with Mexico, and, on the receipt of the news of it, to possess himself of the port of San Francisco, on the coast of California, and such other ports as his force would permit. He had been so instructed even earlier than this: for the letter to him begins: "Your attention is *still* particularly directed," &c. to the contingency of war. Congress was to meet in the December following. Early in November, the Message of the President to Congress being in a state of preparation, already contained, as we had every reason to believe, a recommendation of hostilities gainst Mexico, in some form or other, on the ground of unsatisfied claims of our citizens, of unpaid indemnity money, and other alleged grievances. On the 9th of November, however, just three weeks before the session began, information having been received from our Consul at Mexico that the Mexican Government was willing to receive a Commissioner to negotiate concerning the Texas boundary, the Message was perforce changed. The body of the indictment against that Government was indeed retained, as the reader will perceive if he will take the trouble to refer to the Message itself; the recommendation of reprisals, or of war in some form, being only omitted. A Minister Plenipotentiary was sent instead of a Commissioner—our Government refusing to treat on the boundary question without mixing it up with matters with which it had no sort of connexion—and the correspondence between our Minister and the Mexican authorities was still going on when the army of General TAYLOR was, as if for the purpose of precipitating events, marched from Corpus Christi to the Rio Grande. About the same time, as we know from the President's Message last year, he was himself in secret negotiations with the exiled Military Chieftain, SANTA ANNA, for what precise purpose can only be inferred from the fact, that the day after *the war* was declared to exist, directions were given to our vessels of war to allow him to pass into Mexico. All these concurring circumstances show that war was premeditated by the President.

That the war might have been then averted by Mexico's agreeing to surrender to the United States California and a boundary on the Rio Grande, we do not doubt; nor do we doubt that the President and his Cabinet have been willing ever since the war began, to end it whenever Mexico would agree to surrender to their demand all of her territory that they have set their hearts on: and that this is what the President means when he speaks of "conquering a peace." But we have still less doubt that the original object of this war, and the sole true cause and motive of it, was CONQUEST, or, in other words, the coercion of Mexico to surrender territory which Mr. POLK ambitioned the *eclat* of "annexing to the United States. Mr. Secretary BANCROFT, in a letter of instructions to Commodore SLOAT, (then commanding in the Pacific,) on the 12th of July, 1846—two months after the war was legalized by Congress—very frankly disclosed this fact. "*The* OBJECT *of the United States,*" said he, "*is, under its rights as a belligerent nation,* TO POSSESS ITSELF ENTIRELY *of Upper California.*" And, further, said Mr. BANCROFT, "The object of the United States has reference to ultimate peace with Mexico; (*ultimate,* observe; possession of her coveted territory being the *penu*ltimate object;)—and, if at the peace, the basis of the *uti possidetis* shall be established, the Government expects, through your forces, *to be* FOUND IN ACTUAL POSSESSION *of Upper California.*"

The President declared to Congress, it is true, in his Message of last year, that this war with Mexico had not been waged in a spirit of conquest. Would any one suppose, with these instructions to our Naval Commander, and corresponding instructions to our Military Commanders, that he understood the import of this disclaimer? No one can at least misunderstand the purport of his present Message, breathing, as it does, nothing but war, a Conqueror's peace, or the alternative of the annihilation of Mexico.

Nor does the President seem to understand himself in another respect any better than he did when he disclaimed any purpose of conquest in the prosecution of the war with Mexico.

In setting forth, for instance, in the beginning of this message, his own love of Peace and strenuous efforts to preserve for us its blessings, we must look on him as exhibiting a very signal example of self-delusion. No man's pacific merits could well be less. His course, thus far, in his high office, on the contrary, realized to the full, in almost every instance, what we said of it a year ago; namely, that, having seen that wars were popular in this country and felt that he himself was not too popular, he had thought to himself, "I will be a War-President, and that will make me popular and render all my opponents and competitors odious." Accordingly, his very Inaugural had a full-blown quarrel with England in it; his first Annual Message announced that he had done nearly all he could to bring that quarrel to a focus; meantime he had secretly taken steps for another with Mexico, by way of making sure of a war somewhere. So that, no sooner had the interposition of the Senate foiled him in his original war-plan, than, by a diligent improvement of his time, he had another fight ready to substitute for that which had been refused him. Grown more wary this time, he took care not to be foiled by any body's discretion; and, though Congress was sitting five months before he had brought every thing to bear, contrived to have a war completely in a blaze, and our succorless army placed in what (their prowess unknown) seemed an almost hopeless predicament, before the country or Congress knew one word of what he was about.

Such are the general and the larger facts, as to that merit of loving peace which the President appropriates to himself. If we look closer and scan the particulars of things, we must not only say that President POLK is not possessed of that virtue of a ruler which he claims, and—we regret that we must say it—has shown, and every where in this message shows himself, indifferent to the carnage and calamities of war.

Of little less than stone, indeed, must his heart be, who can look, without the strongest commisseration, upon the spectacle of a nation reduced to the extremity of distress in which Mexico, known from the first to be incapable of resisting us, now stands. Not one spark of compassion can his brest ever have known, who, after inflicting upon a wretched people, destitute of any resource against us but their hereditary obstinacy, all the slaughter and humiliation which we have every where inflicted upon Mexico, can coolly resolve in his heart that this is *not enough;* not blood enough, not tears enough; not sufficient ravage, not satisfactory disaster, not national wo and degradation duly deep; for that the victim-people, though covered with blood and prostrate in the dust, *still,* with desperate though feeble hands, *fights,* though vainly, for its hearths and altars—that therefore, as Mexico *does not yield,* we must now begin to strike her "in her vital parts;" and, besides seizing, for ours perpetually, territories the utmost that even Rapacity has dared avow for our aim, most pacifically and peacefully exhorts us to go on ravaging the rest of Mexico until the nation yields or is destroyed!

Why, the very savage of the court-yard, in other times—that most brutal of mankind, the bully of the bailiwick, who chewed up an ear or nose, or scooped out with thumb a prostrate adversary's eye—was humane, was generous, in comparison with this; for he, when he fought, never fought