

Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & THOMPSON.

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TERMS

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POETRY.

MME FAITHLESS WORLD.

The faithless world promiscuous flows,
Enveloped in fancy's vision,
Allured by sounds beguiled by shows,
And empty dreams, nor scarcely knows
There is a brighter HEAVEN!
Fine gold will change and diamonds fade;
Swift wings to wealth are given,
All varying time our forms invade,
The seasons roll, light sinks in shade,
There is nothing true but Heaven!
Creation's mighty fabrics all,
Will be to atoms driven,
The sky consumes, the planets fall,
Convulsions wreck this earthly ball,
There is nothing fine but Heaven!
Empires decay and nations die,
Our hopes to winds are given,
The vernal bloom in ruin lies,
Death reigns on earth and seas and skies,
There is nothing lives but Heaven!
The world is poor from shore to shore,
And like a baseless vision,
Its jolly domes and brilliant oars,
Its gems and crowns are vain and poor,
There is nothing rich but Heaven!
A stranger lonely here I roam
From place to place I'm driven,
My friends are gone and I'm in gloom,
This world is all a lonely tomb,
I have no home but Heaven!
The clouds disperse, the light appears,
My sins are all forgiven,
Triumphant grace has quelled my fears,
Roll on ye suns, fly swift ye years,
I'm on my way to Heaven!
Adieu to all below, adieu,
Let life's dull charms be driven,
The charms of Christ have caught my view,
The world of light I will pursue,
To live with him in Heaven!

Description of Texas.

The State of Texas is now divided into thirty-five counties, viz:—Galveston, Harris, Brazoria, Matagorda, Victoria, Goliad, San Patricio, Refugio, Goliad, Jackson, Bexar, Bastrop, Travis, Fayette, Colorado, Austin, Fort Bend, Washington, Milam, Robertson, Montgomery, (the great county,) Liberty, Jefferson, Jasper, Houston, Sabine, Nacogdoches, Rusk, San Augustine, Shelby, (more familiarly known as *State of Tamaha*), Harrison, Bowie, Red River, Fanning and Lamar.
Of these, Montgomery is the most populous of the interior counties, and Galveston the most populous of those situated on the coast. Galveston is the largest city of Texas, though Houston, perhaps, contains about the same number of inhabitants. The next city of importance is San Augustine, in which are located the Washington College, with about one hundred and forty students, and a seminary with from sixty to seventy-five. It has a population of about fifteen hundred.
Austin, the seat of Government, in Travis county, at the foot of the San Sabal Mountains, and figuratively called the "City of the Seven Hills," is beautifully situated on the Colorado, in one of the most picturesque and romantic portions of Texas. It has a population of twelve or fifteen hundred, and is rapidly increasing. The new constitution provides that the seat of Government shall continue at Austin until 1850, when, should the State be divided in the meantime, the probability is that it will be removed farther east.

San Antonio de Bexar, near the extreme western frontier of Texas, on the San Antonio River, is the oldest and best built town in Texas. It was settled about two hundred years ago, under the auspices of an association of Spanish Monks, and at one time contained about fifteen thousand inhabitants. But it has several times been nearly depopulated within the last century by the attacks from the Comanche Indians, it never having been adequately defended by its inhabitants, or the Spanish and Mexican Governments, nor until its partial occupation by Texas or American citizens. The town is built entirely of stone, and now contains a population of about fifteen hundred, principally Mexican.

The Alamo, a dismantled fortress, the memorable scene of the lamented fate of Travis, Bowie and Crockett, is situated on the east bank of the San Antonio River, opposite the town, and contains within its walls a church in a partial state of preservation. There is also in the city a large Catholic cathedral used by the Mexicans as a place of worship. This, like all the churches in the vicinity, of which there are five, are built in an ancient style of architecture, and give to the stranger the impression that he is wandering amid the Castilian edifices of old Spain.
There are two large public squares in the city of San Antonio, one called the Military Square, intended for military occupation, and the other the Civil Square, containing the public buildings of the municipal authorities.
About five miles above the city are the sources of the San Antonio River. These consist of four "fountains," or springs, the largest covering nearly an acre, and the others smaller in size. The water of these fountains is so transparent that a ten-cent piece may be seen at the depth of

twenty feet. The outlets to these fountains unite a short distance below, and at a point about three miles above the city, a dam of solid masonry is thrown across the stream, and aqueducts are from thence constructed, on either side of the river, to convey the water from the main reservoir to the houses and gardens of the city and the plantations below. These aqueducts were constructed perhaps a century and a half ago, by the Catholic establishment, and under the regulations then established, the proprietor of each hacienda was, as is said, permitted to use the water for irrigating his entire plantation as often as required, and in quantities proportioned to the extent of his possessions.

There are three old Catholic missionary establishments in the vicinity of San Antonio, situated on the river below the city, at intervals of a few miles. These—Conception, San Jose, and San Juan—are each a church, surrounded by a wall intended for purposes of defence. Within these walls are also erected numerous small buildings for the shelter and protection of the neighboring farmers and their families, during the predatory visits of the Indians.

It is a curious fact, that in a city like San Antonio, with the improvements described, its antique churches and other public edifices, should have existed for centuries, comparatively unknown, near the extreme western frontier of this now infant republic of the wilderness.

The other principal towns of Texas, are Matagorda, at the mouth of the Colorado, on Matagorda Bay; Washington, on the Brazos; Corpus Christi, just springing into existence, and numbering already about 2,000 people, besides, the United States Army, of near 5,000, making in all a population of about 7,000; Nacogdoches, Brazoria, on the Brazos River, and Montgomery, the capital of the county of the same name.

Cotton is principally raised, and to best advantage on the Colorado, Brazos, Trinity, and Red Rivers; but is also profitably cultivated in other sections. The sugar region is near the coast, and lying south of latitude 30. Wheat and the fine grains, are raised to most advantage in the mountains and hilly regions of the upper Colorado, Brazos, and Trinity Rivers. Of the wilderness region above this point, towards Santa Fe, but little comparatively is known.
The principal streams are, the Red River, navigable within Texas about 500 miles; the Sabine, navigable four months in the year about 400 miles; the Neches, for the same period, about 150 miles; the Trinity, for seven months, about 600 miles, the Buffalo Bayou, navigated by steamboats every day in the year, from Houston to Galveston, about 100 miles, and the greatest thoroughfare of the country; the Brazos, four months in the year, 150 miles, and may be easily rendered navigable 300 miles; the Colorado, which by removing the raft at its mouth, may be navigated at least 400 miles; the Guadalupe, navigable about 50 miles; the Nueces, about 100 miles; and the Rio Bravo del Norte, about 600 miles.

THE MANDARIN AND THE ENGLISH LADY.

The degraded position of females in China is well known. Nothing astonishes the Chinamen who visit our merchants at Hongkong so much as the deference which is paid by our countrymen to their ladies, and the position which the latter are permitted to hold in society. The very servants express their disgust at seeing our ladies permitted to sit at table with their lords, and wonder how men can so far forget their dignity. A young English merchant recently took his youthful wife with him to Hongkong, where the couple were visited by a wealthy Mandarin. The latter regarded the lady attentively, and seemed to dwell with delight on her movements. When she at length left the apartment, he said to the husband, in his imperfect English, "What you give for that wifery wife yours?" "Oh," replied the husband, laughing at the singular error of his visitor, "two thousand dollars." This our merchant thought, would appear to the Chinese rather a high figure, but he was mistaken.—"Well," said the mandarin, taking out his book with an air of business, "suppose you give her to me, give you five thousand dollars." It is difficult to say whether the young merchant was more amazed than amused, but the grave air of the Chinaman convinced him that he was in earnest, and he was compelled, therefore, to refuse the offer with as much placidity as he could assume. The mandarin was, however, pressing, and went as high as seven thousand dollars. The merchant, who had no previous notion of the value of the commodity which he had taken out with him, was compelled at length to declare that Englishmen never sold their wives after they once came into their possession, an assertion which the Chinaman was slow to believe. The merchant afterwards had a hearty laugh with his young wife, when he told her that he had discovered her full value, as the mandarin had offered him seven thousand dollars for her.

Why do husbands now-a-days dislike their wives to go abroad? Because they never leave their homes without a bundle.

Congressional.

Important Discussion in the Senate—Interference of Foreign Governments in American Affairs—Speeches of Messrs. Allen, Calhoun, Cass, Clayton, Penny packer, Breese, &c.—Mr. Allen's Resolutions received and referred—Oregon Question in the House—War Steamships and Electro-Magnetic Locomotives.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1846.
A most important debate took place in the Senate to-day, on the proposition of Mr. Allen to take up the motion by which the Senate laid on the table the motion to grant him leave to introduce his resolutions declaratory of the principles which will govern this country in reference to the interference of European governments in the political affairs of the independent nations on the American continent.

Mr. Allen referred to the notice which he had given of his intention to ask the Senate to take up the motion on Friday, which he had been prevented from doing by the adjournment to Monday. He therefore embraced this occasion to accomplish the object then contemplated.
Mr. Bagby said that the motion it appeared to him, was one of those impalpable sort of things, which cannot be laid on the table or taken from the table, and inquired whether the motion would carry the resolutions with it.
The Vice President—Nothing but the motion.

Mr. Bagby had no doubt that leave to withdraw the resolutions should be granted, and should vote for the motion to take up.

After a few explanatory remarks from Messrs. Mangum and Speight, and Chalmers, the question, on the motion, was taken by yeas and nays, and decided in the affirmative, 23 to 21.

The Vice President stated the question now before the Senate to be whether the Senator from Ohio should have leave to introduce his resolutions.

Mr. Cass said that when the proposition was brought forward, he had intended to submit some remarks on the subject but had been precluded from so doing by the action of the Senate in laying the motion to grant leave on the table. The Senator from South Carolina, whose experience entitled his views on all parliamentary questions to great consideration, had expressed the opinion that the course of the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, (Mr. Allen) in introducing these resolutions without consultation with the other members of that Committee, had exhibited a want of respect for that Committee. But in his view, the Senator lost none of his rights as a member of that body, by being placed at the head of the committee. He had the same right as any other Senator, to bring forward such measures as he deemed the public interest and the safety of the country required. These are questions demanding the solemn consideration of the Senate, and should not be lightly passed over. There had been no want of courtesy on the part of the chairman of the committee. He had stated to the committee his intention to introduce the resolution; and he, (General Cass,) fully concurred in the object intended, though he did not wish to commit the Senate to any particular form of expression in phraseology. Such also, he had understood to be the views of the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. The question would be open to suggestions from any Senator; and he considered that no subject would be here introduced, by any Senator, which was not worthy of a word of consideration.

The present was a question of too much importance to be thrown unceremoniously under the table. The interests of the whole American continent were included in the proposition. It was put forward by Mr. Monroe more than twenty years since, at a time when the distinguished Senator from South Carolina occupied a seat in the cabinet. He had no doubt the gentleman then, and as there had been no response from Congress he deemed it important that the views of this country should be distinctly understood by European governments.

The English Journals seem to suppose that the object of the President is to divest the governments of Europe of their colonies on this continent. It was a strange misapprehension, and wholly unwarranted by the language of the President's message. With the existing colonies we have not interfered, and shall not interfere.—But in regard to the independent nations of this continent, the President declares that foreign interference should not be permitted. He expressly declares that the existing rights of European governments shall be respected. This was Mr. Monroe's doctrine, and repeated by Mr. Polk. Nearly a quarter of a century ago it was declared that any future colonization by European governments would not be permitted. It was intended that none of the independent nations of this continent should be deprived of their independence and colonized by European governments. That was the meaning of Colonel Monroe, and that the meaning of Mr. Polk. One of the powers of Europe, twenty years ago, concurred in the justice of the doctrine laid down by Mr. Monroe and yet we are disposed now to check Mr.

Polk in the re-assertion of the principle that some of the independent nations of this continent shall be reduced to colonies. The absorption of Mexico, &c. supported by the British journalists to be the object of this declaration, had never, he was confident, been contemplated by the President. But we are already surrounded by foreign territories, and if the colonization of Oregon, California, and Mexico, be added, the consequences would be easily imagined.

The resolutions are before the country. One portion of the effect has already been produced. They have been conveyed to every section of the Union and to Europe also. What is to be the effect of a refusal to sustain the declaration of the President? That the Senate do not concur in the views of the President, will not be the less readily believed, because the resolutions are not rejected. England ought to be the last in whom we should induce a doubt as to this principle—a principle which seeks to repel a doctrine brought forward with a view to the colonization of the South American Republics. And in the further discussion of this question, he hoped the honorable Senator from South Carolina, who holds in his hands the original debate in Congress, will produce it, that the views there entertained be fully known.

Mr. Cass then referred to the remarks of Mr. Guizot, as to the necessity of preserving the balance of power. This balance of power he (Mr. Cass) said is a principle which has deluged Europe in blood, and destroyed the first germ of freedom wherever displayed. Its effects on the nations of Europe during the last quarter of a century were adverted to. It wards off the first instinct of nature where she attempts to improve the condition of man, and has enabled five nations to govern the other portion of Europe, and to infuse new principles into the code of nations. The consequences to free institutions, unless the declaration of the President's Message be sustained, were eloquently described.

The proposition, said Mr. C. was to prevent the resolutions to the Senate, that they may be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. This was a fair subject for the consideration of the Senate.—We propose to serve England with a notice, which may ultimately be a notice to quit, and he considered this a protest against foreign interference. It tells the world that we do not recognize the principle of foreign colonization on this continent, and our disapprobation of any interference with the political affairs of the independent nations on this continent. In carrying out these views, we must be governed by the force of circumstances. One of the strangest and most flagrant violations of the law of nations now existed in the course pursued by England towards Buenos Ayres! It was a poor excuse, to conceal her real design to establish a power by which she may get possession of one of the most fertile portions of the American continent.

Mr. Polk's declaration will be as barren as that of Mr. Monroe, unless responded to by Congress. No specific declaration, however, is necessary. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." But the President should be sustained at all hazards. The establishment of a true line of American policy will do us no harm now or hereafter. Providence has placed us at the head of the family of nations on this continent. We have passed through the great revolutionary struggle, and our institutions are established on a durable basis.

The South American Republics have not had the same advantages. Their progress has been impeded at every step, but the transition is going on. Our duty and our interest is to keep this continent as free from European interference as is consistent with justice, and he could not see why this proposition should excite so much hostility. No one can doubt our right to respond to the President's declaration.—It is said that "soft words turn away wrath," but they will never turn away foreign nations from their designs upon this continent. The speech of Lord John Russell on the Inaugural of Mr. Polk, and his course toward Brazil, at this time, were adverted to.

There were four principal facts avowed by the President's Message. Mr. C. said—that Oregon is ours—that notice must be given—that we must take immediate possession, and extend our jurisdiction over the territory. And if England did not greatly recede, war seemed to be inevitable. If we believe so, we should say so; and saying so, prepare for defence—and not as the stock market rises or falls, so let our acts and opinions be swayed.—Thank Providence, there were higher interests in this country than stock juggling, and a large proportion of the community who know nothing of it. It was desirable that war should be avoided; but never cry "peace, peace, where there is no peace." The honorable Senator from Kentucky (whom he had seen wending his way to the battle field,) supposed that he (Mr. Cass) had said, on a former occasion, that he desired war. He had made no such declaration. Because he supposed that war would come, it was not therefore to be inferred that he desired war. The declaration of Lord John Russell, on the 4th of April last, that England would never yield

any portion of Oregon north of the Columbia river, and the tone of the British papers received by the last steamship, all show that England is determined not to yield one tittle of her rights. The government of the United States, he was authorized to say, had received nothing by this arrival to change the state of things, which previously existed, or to satisfy us that the preparations for defence should not go on.

Mr. Webster.—Have they received any advice?
Gen. Cass.—Yes.
Mr. Webster.—Any to satisfy them that they ought to go on?
Gen. Cass.—I do not know the exact character of the advice, but they contain nothing to change the state of our relations with the British Government. It is well known that extraordinary armaments are going on at the several dock yards of England, but whether this is intended for operations against this country of course is not known. The Journal des Debats says that "the Cabinets of England and America are very widely separated" on the Oregon question. That the United States believe that England, like Mexico, may be humbled, England has acted on the presumption that a war may occur in 1846, but the U. States has made no preparations. This Government, (said Mr. Cass) knows that armaments are now going on in the British ports and dock yards to a very great extent.

Mr. Calhoun said he did not know whether it was necessary to oppose the motion or not. If the merits of the whole question were to be discussed, he would proceed. He had no idea that the resolutions would pass, but if the Senate desired that the discussion should go on, he was ready to give his views on the subject.

Mr. Allen had no desire but to have the resolutions received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. As he was now up, he would embrace the opportunity, in justice to himself, to make some explanations as to his course in bringing forward these resolutions. The first objection made by the Senator from South Carolina, was to the principles of the resolutions—the last objection was of a character personal to himself—that he had taken upon him to present to the Senate something which had been referred to in the President's Message, and which should come properly from the committee itself. The Senator seemed to have some desire to excite an unpleasant sensation against him in the minds of the committee. He (Mr. A.) had done in this particular what had been the uniform practice of the Government from its foundation. As chairman of the committee, he was not deprived of his rights as an individual Senator. And he would ask the Senator from South Carolina whether, as an individual Senator, he had not a right to introduce these resolutions, and he should ask him to answer it definitely. He wished the answer now, that if his right was denied, he might go on to establish that right.

Mr. Calhoun.—I shall answer at my leisure, and as I may think proper.
Mr. Allen continued.—The Senator from Indiana introduced resolutions on the Oregon question, and had a right to do so.—The Senator from South Carolina introduced resolutions on the same subject, and the Senator from South Carolina had a right to do. Where was the difference? There was no difference, unless the object was to excite prejudice in the minds of his colleagues. His colleagues would bear witness that there had been no want of courtesy on his part, or any assumption of duties belonging to the committee without consultation with them.

He would bring forward precedents to show what had been the practice heretofore in the Senate. Books and types are terrible things for men of short memories and devious ways! Mr. Allen here read from a volume of the Journal of the Senate, a notice of the introduction by Mr. Calhoun, several years since, of a series of resolutions, not as chairman of the committee of which he was the head, but in his capacity as an individual Senator, declaring the law of nations to the civilized world. He (Mr. Calhoun) did not suppose, Mr. Allen said, that there was anything improper in his course on that occasion. The Senator from Kentucky, though not opposed, did not really see the necessity of passing the resolutions, and what was the response of the Senator from South Carolina? His law of nations was not limited to this continent, but was to extend to the kingdoms of the old world—to the mouth of the Thames and the banks of the Ganges—to vessels every where, particularly if they had slaves on board! The response of the Senator was, that he hoped our rights would never be surrendered. Justice was on our side, and he trusted that the strong expression which had been manifested by the Senate to-day would have its effect. But be that as it may, it was the duty of the Senate to maintain the rights of the country. If the Senate refused to act on the resolution, or voted it down, we surrendered both right and principle. He got his resolutions in—extending over both land and sea, to all time, and regulating the meeting force of the Universe. These resolutions were referred, reported back by the committee to the Senate, and passed by a unanimous vote, and all in reference to a vessel particularly freighted. The Senator claims