

Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

CLEARFIELD, PA., SEPT. 20, 1848.

NEW SERIES—VOL. I, NO. 35.—WHOLE NO. 1110.

TERMS:

The "DEMOCRATIC BANNER" is published weekly, at \$2 per annum—or \$1 50 if paid in advance. No paper can be discontinued (unless at the option of the editors) until all arrears are paid. Advertisements, &c., at the usual rates.

The Dead Sea Expedition.

The September number of the Southern Literary Messenger contains an article of profound interest on this subject, from the pen of Lieut. M. F. Maury—the leading features of which are presented in a condensed form in the Richmond Republican. Lieut. Maury gives a history of this expedition brief but lucid, and which will increase the anxiety of the public to see the report of Lieut. Lynch, who has made a successful survey, and who, we are glad to learn, is expected to return soon to this country.

We learn from Lieut. Maury's article that this expedition was planned by Lieut. Lynch, and authorized by Secretary Mason, both Virginians. In the Spring of 1847, Lieut. Lynch first addressed the Secretary on the subject, recommending a circumnavigation and exploration of the Dead Sea, and its entire coast, stating that the expenses would be trifling, as our ships frequently touched at Acre in Syria, for six miles from Lake Tiberias or Sea of Galilee, from which the river Jordan runs and debouches into the first named sea; that the frame of a boat with crew and provisions could be transported on camels from Acre to Tiberias, and there put together again. Only one traveler, Mr. Costigan, had ever circumnavigated the Dead Sea, and he did at the termination of his voyage, without leaving any journal or notes behind. It is contended also that independent of the eager curiosity of all Christendom in regard to this mysterious lake, this expedition was of value to the interests of navigation.

The Secretary of the Navy received favorably the proposition of Lieut. Lynch, and an opportunity soon occurred, by which it could be conveniently carried into effect. It was necessary to send a store ship to the Mediterranean Squadron, and, as after her arrival she would have no employment for months, the Secretary determined to send Lieut. Lynch and his party in her, so that, after meeting the wants of the Squadron, she could proceed up the Levant, and land Lieut. Lynch and his companions.

This was done. The store ship, the "Supply," was supplied with two metallic boats, one of copper, the other of iron—the former named "Fanny Mason," and the latter "Fanny Skinner."

On their arrival at their destination their troubles began, and in their march to Lake Tiberias their boats had to be transported over the most formidable mountain gorges and heights, and to be lowered down precipices with ropes. But these difficulties were surmounted with true sailor skill and perseverance, and on the 8th of April the two Fannies, each with the American ensign flying, were afloat upon the beautiful blue waters of the sea of Galilee. "Embarrassed of its Master, at none of all things around them, remained the same. Just as the Apostles saw it when our Saviour said to it, 'Peace be still,' this little band of rovers now becalmed it."—Baltimore American.

The navigation of the Jordan was found to be most difficult and dangerous, from its frequent and fearful rapids. Lieutenant Lynch solves the secret of the depression between Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea, by the tortuous course of the Jordan, which, in a distance of sixty miles, winds through a course of two hundred miles—Within this distance Lieut. Lynch and his party plunged down no less than twenty-seven threatening rapids, besides many others of less descent. The difference of level between the two seas is over a thousand feet.

The water of the Jordan was sweet to within a few hundred yards of its mouth. The waters of the sea were devoid of smell, but bitter, salt and nauseous. Upon entering it, the boats were encountered by a gale, and "it seemed as if the bows, so dense was the water, were encountering the sledge hammers of the Titans, instead of the opposing waves of an angry sea."

The party proceeded daily with their explorations, making topographical sketches as they went, until they reached the Southern extremity of the sea, where the most wonderful sight they had yet seen awaited them.

"In passing the mountain of Uzdom, (Sudom) we unexpectedly and much to our astonishment," says Lieut. Lynch, "saw a large, rounded, turret-shaped column, facing towards S. E., which proved to be of solid rock salt, capped with carbonate of lime; one mass of crystallization. Mr. Dale took a sketch of it, and Dr. Anderson and I landed with much difficulty and procured specimens from it."

"The party circumnavigated the lake, returned to their place of departure, and brought back their boats in as complete order as they received them at New York. They were all in fine health. This is a specimen of the skill, system and discipline of the American Navy. No nation in the world has such a service. The time is coming, when it will give proofs of that fact palpable to the eyes of all understanding men."

Thanks to the good management of Lt. Lynch, the whole cost of this scientific exploration of the Dead Sea was but seven hundred dollars.

From the letters of Lieut. Lynch, quoted by Lieut. Maury, we transcribe the following interesting facts elicited by the exploration:

The bottom of the Northern half of this sea is almost an entire plain. Its meridional lines at a short distance from the shore scarce vary in depth. The deepest soundings thus far 188 fathoms, (128 feet.) Near the shore, the bottom is generally an incrustation of salt, but the intermediate one is soft mud with many rectangular crystals—mostly cubes—of pure salt. At one time Stellweger's lead bro't up nothing but crystals.

"The Southern half of the sea is as shallow as the Northern one is deep, and for one-fourth of its entire length the depth does not exceed three fathoms, (18 feet.) Its Southern bed has presented no crystals, but the shores are lined with incrustations of salt, and when we landed at Uzdom, in the space of an hour our footprints were coated with crystallization.

"The opposite shores of the peninsula and the west coast present evident marks of disruption.

"There are unquestionably birds and insects upon the shores, and ducks are sometimes upon the sea, for we have seen them—but cannot detect any living thing within it; altho' the salt streams flowing into it contain salt fish. I feel sure that the result of its survey will fully sustain the scriptural account of the cities of the plain."

He thus speaks of the Jordan. "The Jordan although rapid and impetuous is graceful in its windings, and fringed with luxuriance; while its waters are sweet, clear, cool and refreshing."

After the survey of the sea, the party proceeded to determine the height of the mountains on its shores, and to run a level thence via Jerusalem to the Mediterranean. They found the summit of the West bank of the Dead Sea more than 1,000 feet above its surface, and very nearly on a level with the Mediterranean.

"It is a curious fact," says Lieut. Maury, "that the distance from the top to the bottom of the Dead Sea, should measure the height of its banks, the elevation of the Mediterranean, and the difference of level between the bottom of the two seas, and that the depth of the Dead Sea should also be an exact multiple of the height of Jerusalem above it."

Another not less singular fact, in the opinion of Lieut. Lynch, is that the bottom of the Dead Sea forms two submerged plains, an elevated and a depressed one. The first, its southern part, of slimy mud covered by a shallow bay; the last, its northern and largest portion, of mud and incrustations and rectangular crystals of salt—at a great depth with a narrow ravine running through it, corresponding with the bed of the river Jordan at one extremity, and the Wady 'el Jebel, or wady within a wady at the other."

"The slimy ooze," says Lieut. Maury, "upon that plain at the bottom of the Dead Sea will not fail to remind the sacred historian of the 'slime pits' in the vale, where were joined in battle 'four kings with five.'"

We have given this condensed view of Lieut. Maury's instructive article with its extracts from Lynch's letters, believing that the interest of the subject will excite us in the eyes of our readers for abstracting so much space from politics.—Lieut. Lynch's report will be eagerly awaited by the public. We wish the gallant and accomplished officer a speedy and safe return.

THE GREAT FIRE AT BROOKLYN NEW YORK.

Further Particulars.—The fire commenced on Saturday night, (9th inst.) at half past 11 o'clock, at the upholstery and bedding establishment of George Drew, 122 Fulton street. In consequence of a scarcity of water, the flames progressed with fearful rapidity, and soon extended to several neighboring streets. Henry, Cranberry, Orange, Pineapple, Fulton, Concord, Liberty and Washington streets suffered most. Whilst the flames were raging on Concord street, it was deemed advisable by the Mayor and public authorities to blow up one or two houses, with the view of preventing the extension of the conflagration down that avenue; and Capt. Sands, of the U. S. Navy Yard, was solicited to supervise the work, which he did, and a quantity of powder was deposited in them and ignited. The demolition of these buildings was not as perfect as was desired, but sufficiently so to check the progress of the flames, which extended no farther in that direction. But the conflagration still raged with undiminished fury in Fulton, Nassau, Washington and High streets.—Three Churches were burned, viz: the Universalist Church, the First Methodist Episcopal, and the First Baptist Church. The area over which the fire extended is, as was stated in yesterday's Herald, about ten acres. By some it is set down at twelve, and others even so high as fifteen; but we think that ten would cover it all.—Many of the buildings destroyed were of the finest description, being five and six stories in height, and erected within the

last two years with all the modern improvements.

The loss of life is not so great as it was represented yesterday morning. Several persons adult, and four or five children, who were missing, were discovered, much to the gratification of their relatives and friends; but one fireman belonging to this city was killed, in consequence of the engine to which he was attached running over him, and another fell or slipped from one of the ferry boats, and was drowned.

The appearance of the city this morning, in the neighborhood of the conflagration, (says the N. Y. Herald) would melt the heart of any one. The churches and church-yards were filled with furniture, embracing every household article, from a tea-pot to a sofa—from a child's chair to a massive bureau. The streets were covered with broken glass, legs of chairs & tables, fragments of alabaster Washingtons, Clays, Franklins, and Taylors; brass were choked with carpets, mattresses, feather beds, and crockery. The sufferers were searching the more fortunate parts of the city for apartments to which to remove their families, and such portions of their goods as escaped destruction.

The Herald says:—About two hundred and fifty houses, three churches, and the post office, were totally destroyed, and the ruins present a most melancholy and desolate appearance. It is estimated that property amounting to over a million of dollars has been destroyed, and that upwards of six hundred individuals have been burnt out of their homes. It is impossible, however, to state, at present, the precise number.

From the Ohio Standard.

Cincinnatus and his Farm.

To a friend in the South we are indebted for the information and documents below. General Taylor appears in a new and interesting position. The candidate for the Presidency of this free country in the slave market purchasing human beings with money drawn from the National Treasury. On the sixth of June, while Southern bullies and Northern dough-faces are on their way to Philadelphia, the candidate they in their purity select, spends the day in the negro auctions, examining the limbs and trying the soundness of his purchases. And this slave trader, even Northern men have been sacrilegious enough to compare with Washington, have been dishonest enough to claim for him a position similar to Jefferson's, and have even argued that Henry Clay, whose noble life has been one continued exertion in the cause of freedom, is no better than he.

Of the numerous letters Taylor has written can any man show one containing even a single line expressing his regret that slavery should exist. Taylor men of this city of Columbus have letters from him they dare not show; do they contain anything in favor of freedom? one word that indicates even the least liberality of the subject? Has he ever yet offered liberty to a single one of those human beings, the fruit of whose uncompensated labors he enjoys? Has he ever done any one thing that would recommend him to a Christian community of free people? No, he is a slave trader, a sugar & cotton planter, with all the interests and prejudices of his peculiar situation. In fine, he stands confessed an ignorant, slave-trading soldier, owing his nomination to the fraudulent acts of the Louisiana delegation; and trusting to deception & concealment for success.

New Orleans, August 4, 1848.

Dear Sir:—I herewith transmit to you a copy of the Deed of Sale from John Hagar, senior, to Gen. Taylor of a plantation, horses and Slaves, &c.

Since Gen. Taylor's return from Mexico he has also purchased Slaves. In May last he purchased in the name of his son, Richard Taylor, four Slaves of W. M. Williams. On the 6th of June last, he purchased of B. M. Campbell 2 Slaves for the sum of \$1500. He inspected the negroes and examined them to see if they were sound. Gave his Draft on the Canal Bank of this City."

DEED OF SALE.

John Hagar, Sr., } Received for
to } Deed { Record, 15-h
Zachary Taylor, } Feb'y, 1843.

This Indenture, made this twenty-first day of April, eighteen hundred and forty-two, between John Hagar, Sr., of the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, of one part, and Zachariah Taylor, of the other part, Witnesses, that the said John Hagar, Sr., for and in consideration of the sum of Ninety-five Thousand Dollars to him in hand paid & secured to be paid, as hereinafter stated by the said Zachariah Taylor, at and before the sealing and delivering of these presents, has this day bargained, sold, delivered, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents does bargain, sell, deliver and confirm unto the said Zachariah Taylor, his heirs and assigns, forever, all that plantation & tract of Land:

Also, all the following Slaves—Nelson, Milley, Peggy, Pelted, Mason, Willis, Rachael, Caroline, Lucinda, Randall, Wirna, Carson, Little Ann, Winna, Jane, Tom, Sally, Gracie, Big Jane, Louisa, Charles, Maria, Barnard, Mira, Sally, Carson, Paul,

Sansford, Mansfield, Harry Oden, Harry Horley, Carter, Henrietta, Ben, Charlotte, Wood, Dick, Henrietta, Clarissa, Ben, Anthony, Jacob, Hamby, Jim, Armstead, Gabriel, Emeline, George, Wilson, Cherry, Peggy, Wallace, Jane, Wallace, Letitia, Bartlett, Martha, Barbara, Matilda, Lucy, John, Sarah, Big Ann, Allen, Tom, George, John, Dick, Fielding, Nelson or Isom, Winna, Shellol, Lidnev, Little Cherry, Puck, Sam, Hannah or Anna, Ellen, Mary, Henrietta and two small children: Also, all the Horses, Mules, Cattle, Hogs, Farming Utensils & tools now on said plantation—together with all and singular, the hereditaments, appurtenances, privileges and advantages unto the said Land and Slaves belonging or appertaining. To have and to hold the said plantation and tract of Land and Slaves, and other property above described, unto the said Zachariah Taylor, his heirs and assigns, forever, and to his and their only proper use, benefits and behoof, forever.

And the said John Hagar, Sr., for himself, his heirs, executors, and administrators, does covenant, promise and agree to and with the said Zachariah Taylor, his heirs and assigns, that the aforesaid plantation and tract of land, and Slaves and other property, with the appurtenances unto the said Zachariah Taylor, his heirs and assigns, against the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever claiming or to claim the same, or any part or parcel thereof, shall and will warrant, and by these presents forever defend. And the said John Hagar, Sr., hereby reserves a special lien and mortgage of all the before described Lands, tenements, hereditaments, Slaves and other property, to secure the full and punctual payments of the following promissory notes, to wit: Six promissory notes made by said Zachariah Taylor, in favor of & endorsed by Mausel White & Co., all dated New Orleans, the 31st day of December, 1841. Four of them for the sum of Four Thousand Six hundred and Three Dollars, with ten cent. interest from date. Two payable twelve months after date, and two payable two years after date. Two other notes for Eight thousand Two hundred & Ninety-four dollars, with ten per cent. interest after date, the other payable two years after date. Now, if the said Zachariah Taylor, his heirs, executors, or assigns, shall well and truly pay said several sums of money in said promissory notes specified, with all interest which may be due thereon, to the holder or holders of said notes, then this lien or mortgage is to cease and determine, and the estate of the said Taylor in the said Land, plantation, slaves and other property, shall become absolute and unconditional.

In testimony whereof, the said John Hagar, Sr., has hereunto set his hand & seal, the day and year first above written.

State of Mississippi, } I, Edwin Mc-
Jefferson county, ss. } Key, Clerk of
do hereby certify that the within and foregoing instrument of writing is a true and perfect copy taken from the Records, as Recorded in my office in book E of Deeds, &c., pages 220, 221, 222.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 24th day of July, A. D. 1848.

[Signed.] EDWIN McKEY, C'k.
By A. W. FORD, D. C.

SEAL. } Taxable Property of Zachariah Taylor,
for the year 1848, being in Jefferson county, Mississippi, as estimated by the Tax Assessor of said county:

Number of Slaves, 114. Tax, \$109 44
Number of acres of Taxable Land, 2,100. Tax, 48 60

I certify the foregoing estimate of the State, county and school Tax, on the above-mentioned property in Jefferson co., State of Mississippi, for the year 1848, to be true and correct.

[Signed.] O. S. MILLS, Tax Assessor,
Jefferson County.

"Ho! ho! what a nominee!
Is Louisiana Zacharie?"
(Whig Song of 1844 amended.)

A BLAST FROM MICHIGAN.

Read the following awful accounts of the political cholera in Michigan, as published in the Detroit Free Press:

It seems that we were too fast in announcing that the Jackson Gazette had been purchased by the Taylor men. The security for the payment of the purchase money was not sufficient. The paper has hauled down Taylor's name, and substituted Van Buren's! There appears to have been a concerted plan to desert Taylor all over the State. First, the Taylor club at the State Capitol, (Lansing) met and repudiated him; and next, the Jackson Gazette, and the Whigs of Jackson county, cast him off and adopted Van Buren. We understand there are soon to be other repudiations. The following distinguished Whigs we learn, have entirely repudiated Taylor, since the Buffalo Convention:—Hon. J. M. Lamb, Hon. J. W. Gordon, Hon. H. W. Taylor, Hon. Austin Blair, Hon. Joseph R. Williams.

The former was lately the Whig candidate for Lt. Governor, the second Whig Lt. Governor and Whig caucus candidate

for U. S. Senator; the third, late Whig representative in the Legislature, and a former Whig member of Congress from the Canandaigua district in New York; the fourth, the Whig leader in the House of Representatives in 1847, and the fifth, a Whig candidate for Congress, and delegate to the late Philadelphia Convention. In addition to the above, there are hundreds of the rank and file of the party who have withdrawn, and refuse to support Taylor. There will also soon be a meeting of the Whigs of a neighboring township, at which Gen. Taylor will be formally abandoned.

Awful Shipwreck.

DESTRUCTION OF THE OCEAN MONARCH.

The fine packet ship Ocean Monarch left Liverpool on the 24th of August, with 360 steerage passengers, 6 in the cabin and 22 in the second cabin. With her crew she had on board 395 persons. She had not proceeded far, however, before the utmost consternation was produced by an announcement that the ship was on fire, and scarcely had the alarm been given, when she was in a complete blaze.

At the time the fire was discovered the vessel was about eight miles to the eastward of the Great Armhead, and several vessels were in sight. A signal of distress was at once given, which was immediately answered by the yacht belonging to Thomas Littleale, Esq., which was about six miles distant. Mr. Littleale was himself on board, and at once bore down to render what assistance was in his power.

There was a stiff breeze blowing, and had the yacht ventured alongside it would have caused the total destruction of all on board. A boat was immediately lowered and proceeded to the ship for the purpose of rescuing some of the unfortunate passengers. The flames continued to rage with increased fury, and in a few minutes the mizzen mast went overboard, and in a few minutes more the main mast shared the same fate.

There yet remained the foremast. As the fire was making its way to the forepart of the vessel, the passengers and crew of course crowded still further forward to the jib boom. They clung in clusters, as thick as they could pack, even one lying over the other. At length the fore mast went overboard smashing the fastenings of the jib boom, which, with its load of human beings, dropped into the water amidst the most heart rending screams both of those on board and those who were falling into the water. Some of the poor creatures were enabled again to reach the vessel, others floated away on spars, but many met with a watery grave.

The Brazilian frigate Alfonso was out on a pleasure excursion. She was commanded by the Marquis de Lesboas. There was also on board the Prince de Joinville, his lady and suite, the Duke and Duchess Danube, the Brazilian Minister, the Chevalier de Lesboas, Admiral Grenfell and his daughters, and other distinguished individuals.

When the Alfonso discovered the Ocean Monarch, no time was lost in bearing down to her, and it was intended to anchor right under their bow, but the wind changed a little and prevented this from being accomplished.

Four boats were however, at once lowered, and were soon followed by the large paddle box boat. The Marquis de Lesboas jumped into one, and Admiral Grenfell into the other, and both were unuring in their exertions to save the poor people.

The Prince de Joinville was particularly assiduous in assisting the passengers on board the frigate.

Of those on board the Ocean Monarch, 32 were saved by the Queen of the Ocean, 160 by the Alfonso, 16 by a fishing smack, and 17 by the Prince of Wales, being a total of 225, and leaving 173 to be still accounted for, who are all believed to have perished.

CAN THERE BE A PARTY WITHOUT A CANDIDATE?

What, says the Boston Post, will our Whig do? Gen Taylor still refuses to be the exponent of what they farcically call their principles. The Independents are running away from him, because he has accepted the nomination of the Whigs. "The old gentleman is trying to call them back by telling them that he is not, and never will be, the candidate of any particular party, but that he has stuck his sail up to catch the wind from wherever it blows; and that he would have accepted the Democratic, or any other nomination, just as soon as the Whigs. This leaves the Whigs utterly without a candidate, as a party. There is no embodiment of Whiggery now extant. Mr. Clay used to be considered a decent sort of a Whig; but he is of no account now. He is disclaimed, and put on his good behavior. Webster appears dubious, as though he had not received a satisfactory answer to the question, 'Where shall I go?' Poor Corwin has tumbled into the Taylor cauldron, but says, as he is sinking, that although he feels bound to vote for Taylor on punctilio, he will not advise any body else to imitate his bad example. Judge McLean has openly bolted—Gen. Scott is a Whig, and in short we know of but few reliable Taylor Whigs in the country whose names were ever heard of beyond the circuit of their own neighborhoods. We suppose, however, there are a few more left of the same sort; but it would take a pack of bloodhounds to find out where they are.—The question is, in regard to those out-and-out Whigs—these Whigs and nothing else—these whole Whigs and a quarter over—what will they do? They have no candidate, no leader, no pattern, no example, no embodiment, no party, no principles, no anything! Poor fellows! they must feel bad, but they have this consolation—by November they will be past all feeling."