

# Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

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## THE GREAT COMET.

The attention of astronomers in Europe has recently been turned toward the subject of a great comet, which appears to have visited our system at intervals of 292 years, and if the calculations of many scientific men be correct, ought to make its next appearance during the present year, not far from the month of August or September. Mr. J. R. Hind, an astronomer of London, has lately published a work on this subject, and confidently predicts the return of the celestial visitant in 1848.

Of the very early appearances of this comet, we have no precise scientific accounts. But in the year 1264 its appearance threw all Europe in great alarm, and caused it to be recorded in the histories and chronicles of that day with special notice.

The tail was very long and broad, resembling a fan in shape, emerging from the eastern horizon before the dimmer nucleus of the comet, and when fully risen, stretching itself upward, and shooting its rays to the meridian. The comet occupied in length one-half the heavens, presenting a fearful apparition to the eyes of the superstitious observer. As it swept along through space, the tail diminished daily in breadth, but proportionally increased in length and brilliancy for many days, until it gradually disappeared, to the great relief of the terrified inhabitants of Europe.

The chroniclers of those times relate many terrible calamities which befel the nations of Christendom during that year, and which of course, were all attributed to the influence of the comet. The pope, Urban IV, was frightened into an alarming disorder, which confined him to his apartment during the whole period of the appearance of the comet. On the night of its disappearance the Pope died.

In 1556 a comet, supposed to be the same one with the preceding, again appeared and spread consternation throughout Europe. It moved with immense velocity, accomplishing 15 degrees of its track in the heavens in 24 hours. The head of the comet exhibited the appearance of a bright globe of flame half the size of the full moon. The rays of light and the color of this body varied and interchanged like the flickering of a flame agitated by the wind. The tail was slender in shape, and at first of a red color, but afterwards it faded into a pale and livid hue. The rays clustered very thickly round the head of the comet. This brilliant phenomenon was first seen in the sign Libra, and disappeared in that of the Northern Fish.

If these two comets be identical, a re-appearance during the present year may be looked for with considerable confidence. Owing, however, to the want of repeated and accurate observations, this point cannot be regarded as fully settled—to say nothing of the perturbations caused by other known and unknown members of the system, to which the movements of comets are liable. Should the expected visit take place, it will add one more to the great events of this year of wonders, and furnish the science of astronomy with materials for a splendid triumph.

Boston Courier.

## THE SABBATH IN PARIS.

The number of distinguished preachers in Paris has surprised me. I expected to find a city wholly given to idolatry. But in the pulpits of this city—besides a host of preachers less distinguished—there are at least six or eight powerful advocates of Christianity. The French temperament is full of oratorical fire, and Paris to-day is witness that the spirit of Bossuet and Massillon is not dead.

When a son of New England first wakes up in Paris on a Sunday morning, he finds it hard to convince himself that it is really the Sabbath. The stillness, the sacred calm of this holy day, are absent. In the streets he finds every thing going on as usual. The shops are all open, the masons and carpenters at work on the houses, and the carts lumbering through the streets. It is a day of extra fetes, and the shops are closed a little earlier than usual, to give all time to go to the theatres or other places of amusement. I remember one Sunday morning at breakfast a Frenchman opened his eyes with astonishment when I told him that the theatres in London were not open on Sunday. Why, said he, what do the people do with themselves?

But if the stranger will turn aside from this crowd and enter some of the churches at the hour of prayer, he will find that there are yet many thousands who have not been swept away by the infidelity around them. I have seen religious audiences in Paris as large and as attentive as at New York: and have heard the gospel of our common Saviour preached as faithfully in French as in English.

If you are out of business and out of money, and are tempted to hang yourself, wait. The state may save you the expense and trouble of stopping your own wind.

## ETERNAL LIFE.

The most blissful and fascinating forms of life, which we here behold, are destined to end. Death is written upon the countenance of every living man. All the splendors of wealth, the innocence of youth, the tears of friends, and the skill of physicians, are not sufficient to bribe the monster. But life to Christ is invested with the sacred rights of immortality. It depends not upon the health of the body, or the will of the enemies. Its vital source is the infinite Saviour, who has said, "because I live, ye shall live also." It must therefore, endure when the body decays, "the stars grow dim with age," & time itself is lost in eternity. The abiding faith which connects it with the Redeemer, secures its endless existence.—And this is its crowning glory. It is delightful to live in the service of Christ, to the glory of Christ on earth, to feel the power of his loving grace in the soul, supported by constant union with him; to feel the warm gushings of his holy life, when all nature recedes and disappears; and it must be joyful beyond conception, to find, that after the body is dead, this life endures, in union with the Saviour, near the burning throne, amid the songs of angels, and the shouts of the redeemed. But to feel that it is endless, leaves nothing to desire, overwhelms the soul in love, in gratitude, and joy. Eternal progression in life depending for its resources upon the exhaustless nature of God.—Rev. J. T. Rock.

From the Washington Union.

## GOLD REGION OF CALIFORNIA.

Extract of a letter addressed by Thomas O. Larkin to the Navy Department, dated

Monterey, (California,) July 1, '48.

"This part of California is at present in a state of great excitement from the late discovery of an extensive gold region on the branches of the Sacramento river.—All our towns are becoming vacated. The gold is obtained on the surface of the earth to three feet deep—the workmen needing only a pickaxe and shovel to dig up the dirt, and a tin pan to wash it in. Many men, during the months of May and June last, obtained five to thirty dollars per day. I have myself seen eight men (in a company) average fifty dollars each per day for two or three days. I was with them. This gold is on public land, and has been found over a tract of one hundred miles."

We understand there are fuller details received in Washington about this extraordinary gold region, with specimens of the gold. The resources of California are rapidly developing themselves. Yet Mr. Webster once said that these new acquisitions were not worth a dollar!—Is it a country of this description that the whigs are willing to retrocede?

We have had the pleasure of seeing Passed Midshipman Edward Fitzgerald Beale, who arrived last evening in the southern boat. He brings despatches from Commodore Jones, and Mr. Larkin, our Navy agent at Monterey, California. He left San Pas on the 1st of August, and travelled from the Pacific to Vera Cruz in the unprecedented short period of 10 days—from Mexico to Vera Cruz (275 miles) in 48 hours.

His despatches, and the accounts he himself brings, confirm what is said in Mr. Larkin's letter above of this New Eldorado. There is said to be nothing like this gold region, recently discovered by accident. The mechanics are deserting the towns, the seamen the whaling vessels, in search of gold, which is said to be gathered over a large surface in great abundance. We received these details last evening at too late an hour to bring them out this morning. They will amuse and astonish our readers in our next paper.

**Stoop a Little.**—The following story, related by Dr. Franklin, to a letter to Dr. Mather, has been often told, and is well worth telling again:

"The last time I saw your father," says Dr. F., "was in 1724. In taking my leave, he showed me a short way out of the house, through a narrow passage, which was crossed by a beam over head. We were still talking as I withdrew, he accompanied me behind, and I turning towards him, he said hastily, 'Stoop, stoop!' I did not understand him until I felt my head hit against the beam. He was a man who never missed an occasion of giving advice, and upon this, he said to me, 'You are young, and have the world before you; stoop a little as you go through it, and you will avoid many hard thumps.' This advice, thus beat into my head, has frequently been of use to me; and I often think of it when I see pride mortified, and misfortunes brought upon people by carrying their heads too high."

Loving and marrying for money, is like eating an unsavory bird for his fine singing.

Why is a soldier's wife like his fellow soldier? Because she is a companion-in-arms.

Why is a woman's tongue like a thunder-cloud? Because it is beyond the control of man.

## A NEWSPAPER.

A man eats up a pound of sugar, and the pleasure he has enjoyed is ended; but the information he gets from a newspaper is treasured up in the mind, to be enjoyed anew, and to be used whenever occasion or inclination calls for it. A newspaper is not the wisdom of one man, or two men; it is the wisdom of the age, and of the past ages too. A family without a newspaper is always half an age behind the times in general information, besides they never think much, or find much to talk about.—And then there are little ones growing up in ignorance, without any taste for reading. Besides all these evils, there's the wife, who, when her work is done, has to sit down with her hands in her lap, and nothing to amuse her, or divert her mind from the toils and cares of the domestic circle.—Who, then, would be without a newspaper?—Benjamin Franklin.

## CREATION OF A CATHOLIC HIERARCHY IN ENGLAND.

The new ecclesiastical arrangements which, many months since I was exclusively enabled to announce were in progress of completion, have at length been perfected by his Holiness Pope Pius. England is again to have her Catholic Hierarchy. Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, who has been for some weeks past to Rome, arrived yesterday evening in London with bulls from the foreign Pontiff, appointing Right Rev. Dr. Walsh, the present Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, Archbishop of Westminster; Rt. Rev. Dr. Wiseman, his Coadjutor; Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, to be Bishop of Birmingham, and Very Rev. Dr. Brindle, to be Bishop of Plymouth. In consequence of the advanced age of Dr. Walsh, the active duties of the Metropolitan Archbishopate will devolve on Dr. Wiseman.—Cor. of Dublin Freeman's Journal.

**Lynch Law in New Jersey.**—The Newark Daily Advertiser says, "A letter from Rockaway reports to us an outrage which disturbed that quiet place on Monday night by cries of murder. A young girl, suspected of an improper relation to a married man, who is in turn charged with abusing his wife, was violently taken from a bed in his house by four men and covered with tar and feathers, she piercing the air with outcries. The man pursued them, keeping up a fire of stones, but they persisted their work and left the girl in a deplorable condition. One of the men is said to be wounded, and all of them are said to be known."

**GONE ON THEIR JOURNEY.**—Gen. Lane, Governor of the Territory, and company, left here for Fort Leavenworth, on the Sacramento, or their way to Oregon. It is late for a party to leave upon such an expedition, but we understand that it is their purpose to accomplish the trip, if possible, this season. If they get to Fort Hall before the setting in of winter, in all its severity, they may accomplish it.—Captain Roberts and Company C. of the Mounted Rifles, accompany the General on the journey.—St. Louis Republican.

**GEN. TAYLOR'S PLEDGES.**—The Alabama correspondent of the Albany Atlas writes—

"The Taylor candidate for elector in this district declared the other day, in a public discussion in this county, (Green) that the people of the South had THREE HUNDRED PLEDGES—alluding to Gen. Taylor's negroes—that he would veto the WILMOT PROVISIO."

**Caution not to Drink in the Dark.**—We learn that there is a young lady residing in Corymans, (county of Albany) who eighteen months ago drank with water in the dark a small snake, since which time her body has grown nearly as large as a barrel, and the physicians attending her say that the snake now is about the size of a man's arm.—N. Y. Sun. Pretty tough, that.

## RELIC OF THE WAR.

Santa Anna's liquor canteen is now in possession of Mr. McBride of this city.—It is made from the horn of a Mexican ox, is about two feet high, and is beautifully mounted with silver. When found in Santa Anna's tent at Cerro Gordo, it was filled with brandy.

Neal's Phila Gazette.

"Do you know," said a cunning Yankee to a Jew, "that they hang Jews and Jackasses together in Portland?" "Indeed, brother, then it's well you & I are not there."

Men are like bugles—the more brass they contain, the farther you can hear them. Women are like violets—the more modest and retiring they appear, the better you love them.

Gallantry has arrived at such a pass, out West, that, when a young lady sneezes, all the male bipeds give three cheers.

It is proposed to include marriage among the games of chance, made penal under the gambling law.

A Jesuit convent is about to be founded at Green Bay & another at Mineral Point.

From the Ohio Statesman.

## The Toils of an old Pioneer.

When Gen. Cass was appointed Governor of Michigan, in addition to the duties of that responsible station, he was entrusted with another equally, if not more important, that of Superintendent of the Indian agencies within that territory, which embraced a vast extent of country not included within the present State limits.

In keeping the Indian tribes in subjection to the general government, and in superintending the agencies, and looking after their interests, to the end that they might have no valid excuse for raising in arms against the frontier settlers, and to keep the agents of the British government from tampering with them, he had to traverse the lakes and the forests, far beyond regions where the white man dwelt, and, in so doing, General Cass incurred dangers, and endured hardships, which none but the brave spirit and the hardy frame of the Western Pioneer could endure.

To show the number of tribes placed by the government in his charge, & for whose good conduct he was held responsible, we copy, below, a letter giving the names and numbers of the different tribes of Indians, & the number of warriors they could bring into the field, for which we are indebted to a work lately published at Washington city:

No. Warriors.	No. Souls.
Wyandots of Ohio and Michigan.	600 2,500
Shawnees of Ohio & Indiana.	120 600
Senecas of Sandusky.	100 500
Delawares of Indiana.	150 750
Ottawas of Maumee.	80 400
Ottawas of the peninsula of Michigan.	400 2,000
Saganaw.	240 1,200
Potawatomes of St. Joseph and Huron.	100 500
Potawatomes of Chicago and Illinois at large.	400 2,000
Chippewas of Lakes St. Clair and Huron, and the precincts of Michilimackinac.	1,000 5,000
Chippewas of Lake Superior & the region north of the Lake of the Woods and the head of the Mississippi.	2,000 10,000
Menomones of Green Bay and Fox river.	600 3,000
Winobagoes of western Michigan, now Wisconsin.	1,000 5,500
Miamies, Weas, and Piankeshaws of the Wabash.	900 4,500
Sions and other bands from the west of Mississippi, and visiting and roving Indians.	600 3,000
	8,190 41,400

When General Cass first took charge of the Indians of the Northwest territory, the country was engaged in a war with England, and every effort was made by that government to enlist the different tribes in their aid, and for this purpose they were furnished, by English agents, with arms and ammunition—with money and presents—and a deep hatred was originally instilled into their minds against the United States, by the enemy. From these facts some idea may be had of the trials and troubles of General Cass, in taking care of these tribes and keeping them on terms of amity with our government.

As Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Gen. Cass had another and a delicate duty to perform, which was to purchase their lands from them, that the wilderness of the west might be, as it has become, fruitful fields and beautiful towns and cities.

In the performance of this delicate task, he either made or assisted in making, 17 different treaties, which ceded vast territories to the government.

From the same work, we give below, a list of the treaties thus concluded, with the dates when made.

Names of Tribes.	Dates of Treaties.
Wyandots, Delawares, Potawatomes, Shawnees, Ottawas, & Chippewas.	Sept. 29, 1817.
Dolawares.	Oct. 3, 1818.
Miamies.	Oct. 6, 1818.
Potawatomes of Saganaw.	Oct. 2, 1818.
Chippewas of Saut St. Marie, & Lake Superior.	Sept. 24, 1819.
Ottawas of L'Andre, Crocha, and Lake Michigan.	June 16, 1820.
Chippewas, Ottawas and Potawatomes of Illinois.	July 6, 1820.
Sions, Chippewas, Sacs & Foxes Iowas, Winobagoes, Menomones, and Potawatomes.	August 29, 1821.
Chippewas of Lake Superior & the area northwest.	August 19, 1825.
Miamies of the Wabash, Potawatomes.	August 5, 1826.
Chippewas, Menomones, and Winobagoes.	Oct. 23, 1826.
Potawatomes.	Oct. 16, 1826.
Winobagoes.	August 11, 1827.
Potawatomes, Sacs & Foxes, Winobagoes, Potawatomes, Ottawas and Chippewas.	Sept. 18, 1827.
Potawatomes.	August 25, 1828.
Chippewas, Ottawas and Potawatomes of the Illinois, Milwaukee and Manitouac.	Sept. 20, 1828.
Crocks.	July 29, 1829.
	April 4, 1832.

General Cass, it has been said, is identified with the early history of the west. By the above it will be seen that he reserved much of it from the Indians, and as a fact honorable to the straight-forward honesty of his character, no complaint of unfairness has yet been made of his dealings with the Indian tribes.

In speaking of these treaties, and the vast amount of territory ceded to the United States, the Nashville Union says:

"To accomplish these vast results, Gen. Cass had to make extensive journeys through the wilderness, on foot, on horseback, or in bark canoes; at one time at Greenville, at another at Prairie du Chien

and even far northwest of this latter point, pushing explorations to the base of the Rocky Mountains, and meeting with and conciliating the fierce warriors of those far interior wilds. In the discharge of these duties, he received and distributed among the Indian tribes in fulfillment of treaty stipulations many hundred thousand dollars—drawing the money from land offices in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and paying it out thousands of miles hence, without a cent of compensation upon the risk incurred. It may safely be said that no man now living has been so closely identified by early struggles, hardships, immense labor, and important services with the great West, as Lewis Cass.—The great west will now remember her early friend, and repay his valuable services with hearty confidence."

Aye, will the west remember the valuable services of her early pioneer, and in part will the west repay them by giving her electoral vote entire and unbroken for the gallant soldier and early protector of her exposed frontier. He gave the west to the Union, and in return the west, on the 4th of March next, will surrender to the Union her richest prize, in the person of Lewis Cass. The Republic needs his services, and in giving up her old pioneer, to preside over the destinies of the "ocean bound republic," the west, by her electoral vote, pledges him as worthy, and well qualified—honest, capable and faithful to the constitution.

From the Pennsylvanian.

## Wm. F. Johnston and the Relief Notes.

The present Federal candidate for Governor has secured for himself an infamous immortality, by the relief law of 1841. The people of this State, while the law exists, will have abundant reason to remember its progenitors. No act of legislation—save, possibly, the re-charter of the Bank of the United States—has been so prolific of disaster to the interests of the laboring community. It is certain that there never was a greater infringement upon the Constitution. Judge BANKS, the State Treasurer elected by our political opponents in 1847, declared, in his annual report of January, 1848, that the issue of paper money under this law, were "illegitimate, having been emitted by the State in contravention to that part of the Constitution which declares that no State shall emit bills of credit." A brief history of the pernicious consequences of this measure, will show that its results have been fully in accordance with its illegal and corrupt origin.

A fruitless attempt was made in 1842, in the legislature, to relieve the Banks from taking the issues under the Relief law, upon deposit, or in payment of debts. The consequence even of this unsuccessful attempt was, that the brokers & speculators excited such a panic and prejudice against these issues, that a loss to the people ensued, almost without a parallel in the history of paper money. This loss continued for an entire year. The period is still keenly recollected by all classes of business men—especially by the farmers, among whom Mr. JOHNSTON is now circulating, for the purpose of assuring them that he is their only benefactor.

It is known that the relief issues depreciated so much in 1842, that they could not be made available, save at a loss of 15 to 20 cents on the dollar to the holder.—The amount in existence that year was over two millions of dollars. This large amount of paper dollars was all the time in active circulation, and in a state of constant exchange. It was, therefore, being constantly shaved. At a reasonable calculation the whole two millions was subjected to this shaving operation once a week—making a loss, by the plainest calculation, of Nine Millions Six Hundred Thousand Dollars for that year! Who lost this immense sum? From whom were these nine millions six hundred thousand dollars abstracted? We unhesitatingly assert, in a great measure, from the farmer and mechanic! The process of this plundering system was curious, but simple. The heavy manufacturer bought up the depreciated paper to pay his hands at the end of each week, at the value upon the face of each note, and his poor workmen in buying the necessaries of life, were shaved the full amount of the discount upon every dollar. The farmer received it in payment for his grain, and, in order to turn it into good money, was compelled to sell it at the prevailing discount to the brokers. The small dealer was plundered in a greater or a less degree, by the same system of robbery. Indeed there was scarcely a class exempt from its ruinous effects. The only one who flourished upon it was the broker.

And yet the author of this scheme of financial villainy is before the people, asking their suffrages merely upon the ground that he is one of those who profess to have discovered the secret of doing the greatest good to the masses! Every mechanic, whom his Relief Law has cheated out of the reward of his honest labors—every farmer who has realized the blessings and benefits of the same unequalled measure—is now called upon to advocate the election of this modern NOKER, to the distinguished post of Governor of Pennsylvania.

Mr. JOHNSTON'S Relief Law was also