

Democratic Banner.

BY MOORE & HEMPHILL.

CLEARFIELD, PA., DEC. 14, 1848.

NEW SERIES—VOL. I, NO. 45.—WHOLE NO. 1120.

THE BANNER

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.

POETRY.

By Request.

THE POOR MAN'S DEATH AND BURIAL.

BY THE HILFORD BARD

I saw him stretched upon his bed,
With languid lip and eye;
No tears for him had yet been shed,
No friends had ho, alas! no wife
To weep around him now;
Almost he was alone in life—
Despair was on his brow.

One morn I sought his bed, and oh!
A touching scene was there;
A scene that filled my heart with woe,
A scene of dark despair;
A little girl, his only child,
Stood gazing in his eye;
Of crying out in accents wild—
"Dear father will you die?"

The dying father turned his head,
To gaze upon her charms;
A tear upon her cheek he shed,
And clasped her in his arms;
He strove to speak in tender tone,
And while in grief she cried,
"Dear father leave me not alone!"
He groaned—and wept—and died.

To Potter's Field I saw him borne,
To lie beneath the sod;
There was but one for him to mourn,
And three to break the nod.
No funeral pomp, no funeral prayer,
No funeral emblems were,
One little girl alone stood there,
And wept upon his grave.

Had he possessed of gold a store,
He might have been a knave;
Yet hundreds would have found his door,
And followed to his grave.
And thus it is, and was of old—
Disguise it as you can,
The man has made a god of gold,
And money makes the man.

Corcoran and Riggs, the American Bankers.

All the world now knows the American Rothschilds, Corcoran and Riggs; their fame has spread from this metropolis to London, Paris, Vienna, Hamburg, and in short, everywhere that trade and commerce flourish, and yet, within a very few years, they were as little known as the humble correspondent you have selected to give you the sayings & doings of Washington. Alas, what changes take place in this mundane sphere! Some men rise to fortune almost in spite of themselves, while bad luck and ill fortune pursue others from the cradle to the grave. The bare idea is enough to make a man a firm believer in predestination. The head of the house of Rothschilds was deeply impregnated with this feeling. According to his own admission, he would never have anything to do with an unfortunate man, declaring that he had known very shrewd and sensible people of that caste with their toes out of their shoes. Instead of eschewing such people, I think it would have been more to his credit to have relieved them.

The head of our Washington Banking House, W. W. Corcoran, is the son of a poor Irish shoemaker, who settled in Georgetown, in the District of Columbia, upwards of half a century ago, and was a warm hearted, generous son of Erin, a great lover of liberty, and a genuine disciple of democracy. In the struggle between the elder Adams and Jefferson, he was equally ready with his purse & shield, to promote or defend the cause of the people. By industry and integrity he amassed a handsome fortune, and retired from business. Such was the esteem in which he was held by his fellow-citizens, that he was chosen mayor, and held the office until he saw fit to resign it. In after years the depreciation in Georgetown was so great, that his estate, which was considered as ample competence for all his children, became a mere pittance. William, the present banker, was the youngest son, and commenced his career in the auction and dry goods business, in conjunction with a brother somewhat older than himself. The affairs turned out disastrously, and they failed, the partners sacrificing everything to meet the demands of their creditors.

Mr. Wm. Corcoran was then employed to aid in winding up the affairs of the old Bank of Columbia, which had turned over its assets to a branch of the United States Bank for the benefit of its creditors, and I am sorry to say it was not long before this very branch broke, like all the rest of that unfortunate concern. It was here, probably, that Mr. Corcoran first learned the rudiments of money-making. While engaged in this settlement, he paid his addresses to a daughter of Commodore Morris, a young, lovely and blooming girl, but the father having violently opposed the match, on account of Mr. C.'s circumstances, the young lady saw fit to give the old gentleman the slip, and united her destiny with Mr. C. She did not live, however, to see his present affluence, but died early, leaving an only daughter, now sole heir to the father's great possessions.

Mr. C. afterwards opened a broker's office in the city, and managed matters with so much skill, that his accumulations were exceedingly rapid. In the arrangement of some business for Mr. Elisha Riggs, of New York, that gentleman became so pleased with the financial skill evinced, that he placed his son, George W. Riggs, in partnership with Mr. Corcoran, with liberty to draw on New York to an unlimited extent. This was the commencement of the celebrated banking house of Corcoran and Riggs, and it went on in one full tide of successful experiment, from its first formation to the present time. The first government loan offered by the present administration was taken by this firm, and an enormous sum realized from the transaction. The house has ever been as liberal as successful. It gave the handsome donation of five thousand dollars to the poor Irish, at the time of the famine, and Mr. Corcoran has since given ten thousand for the benefit of the poor widows of his native town, besides numerous sums in charity to the poor of this city. Such men deserve the blessings of fortune to be showered on them. George W. Riggs retired from the firm before the second loan was taken in part by the house; but a brother of his taking his place, the original firm of Corcoran & Riggs still stands. Mr. Riggs is now enjoying *atium cum dignitate* on a beautiful country seat, about one hour's ride from Washington, where he gives up his time to the pursuits of literature, and the improvement and adornment of his Eden. Such is a brief history of the origin of the house of Corcoran & Riggs, a firm that has amassed more wealth, risen higher in public opinion, and wielded more influence, for its short career, than any other in the world.—*Washington Correspondence of the N. O. Delta.*

From the Pennsylvania.

The Gold Discovery in California.

The accounts from California all concur in stating that the developments of the mineral wealth of that country are of the most extraordinary character. The last advices are more like fairy tales than reality. The whole population has turned to gold-hunting, and with almost miraculous success. Col. Mason, for some months military Governor of California, writes to Washington, that with a sufficient number of men to aid, he would collect gold to pay off all the debt contracted for the war with Mexico, as well as our whole national debt besides, in less than a year. He writes in a strain that proves all the other statements to be correct, and invokes the prompt interference of Government to secure the results of this invaluable discovery. He speaks of what he saw himself, and fears to write all he witnessed, lest he might not be credited. The following extract of a Washington letter in the Baltimore Sun, gives some other items of information on this subject.

California is one of the results of the *unholy and expensive* war with Mexico. It has been denounced as without value, and as a burden to the Union, by the opposition. Who knows but it may prove to be the most magnificent acquisition of the age—indefinitely more so than the conquest of England has been to England, or that of Cuba to Spain!

Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 1848. It is reported, with truth and reason I believe, that Colonel Mason of the army, commanding our forces in California, has sent an official account of the extraordinary gold and quicksilver mines of California to the Secretary of War, and that similar accounts from officers in the navy have recently reached the Secretary of the Navy. The previous reports that all other kind of business, except digging for gold is deserted, is confirmed, and the extraordinary price of flour, which is said to have risen to \$50 a barrel, maintained to the latest period. Solid lumps of gold have been found equal to \$4,000 in value, or almost as large as that found on the White Hall estate of Maj Heiss, in Virginia.

The mines, with the exception of the property belonging to Messrs. Forbes & Suter, are on the public lands of the territory, and their value is, I believe, estimated at a thousand millions of dollars.—From this, of course, an equally enormous discount must be made. Gold and silver, like every other product of the soil, requires labor, and if that labor, as is stated in the accounts, is now remunerated at the rate of \$20 a day, the profits even of these wealthy mines must be limited.—Alexander Von Humbolt has proved that the poor silver mines of Saxony are more profitable than the rich silver mines of Mexico, furnishing the silver dollar 16 cents cheaper than it can be furnished in Mexico.

The gold region of California is said to extend on both sides of the Sierra Nevada, and to embrace a surface larger than that of the State of New York. If these discoveries are really of the importance these statements lead us to infer, they will probably be embodied in the respective reports of the Secretaries of the Army and Navy, as otherwise Congress itself will institute an inquiry, and demand an ac-

count of them. It is indeed a strange and mysterious fact, that while all other countries are involved in great national disasters, every thing seems to prosper in the United States, both in war and in peace, and in our foreign and domestic relations.

If the above accounts, which resemble, in more than one respect, the Arabian Nights' entertainment, are correct, the Governorship of California may prove to be a more desirable appointment under General Taylor than a membership of his Cabinet, and some "disinterested" politicians will, no doubt, insist on the removal of Gen. Lane. Col. Jefferson Davis is already mentioned in connection with that appointment too, but it is thought by many that Gen. Taylor will insist on having at least one intimate, private, personal friend in his Cabinet, and that friend is Col. Davis.

Ireland—Its Population and Resources.

We find in a recent number of the *London Agricultural and Industrial Journal*, some interesting statistics bearing upon the questions of population, food and labor in Ireland. It is stated that the population of Ireland, as determined by the census of 1841, is 8,175,124 souls, of whom four millions are males; & of these, two millions and a quarter may be considered as of the laboring age. Now, as there are in Ireland thirteen millions and a half acres of arable land, there is precisely the allocation to every 100 acres of 17 laboring men; but as of the Irish population only two-thirds are actually engaged in agriculture, it may be considered that to every 100 acres there are 11 laborers dependent for employment; and on those again are dependent for support, females, old men and children, to the number of 29; and these persons must be supported by the land out of its produce before profits can be reckoned, or the value and proportions of rent can be struck—in all 40 persons, of whom 20 are females, 9 are feeble old men and children, and 11 are working men. Thus for the whole country:

Agricultural females,	2,709,286
Old men and boys,	1,219,178
Agricultural laborers,	1,490,107

Total, 5,418,571

Now if we refer to the circumstances under which the working land upon the large farm system is conducted, we shall find, as well from practice as from the estimates put forward by the best informed writers, such as Professor Low, that on a farm of 500 acres there will be permanently engaged the farmer, his steward or foreman, and twenty workmen. There will be at certain seasons extra field-work done by men, women and children, who, if not of the families of the workmen, must be drawn from some source external to the farm, and must, except at those short periods, live upon means not derived from farm labor. The staff of the farm employed upon and living by means of it is reckoned as above. Now let us suppose thirteen and a half millions of acres of arable land in Ireland arranged and cultivated on this plan, there will be employed twenty-two persons to each 500 acres; but we have seen, that upon 500 acres there are dependent fifty-five working males. Employment cannot therefore be afforded to one half, indeed but to two-fifths, and there will remain:

Females,	1,725,671
Old men & male children,	721,503
Laborers,	894,063

Total, 3,351,242

For whom the land can afford no employment; who cannot by their labor earn in any way their share of the produce of the land; and the question, truly important for the landlord who has to seek for rent, as well as for the farmer who has to pay rent, is the manner in which these three and one third millions of surplus people are to be removed, or in some way provided for.

We have presented, it will be understood, not our own views, but the substance of an article from a foreign periodical. Sir Richard Kane is the reputed author; but by whoever written, it contains food for reflection.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

We find in the Boston Atlas several interesting communications from a correspondent in the copper mine region of Lake Superior. One of them details some remarkable discoveries which have been recently made, a few miles interior from the mouth of the Ontonagon river. A large mass of native copper, weight estimated at seven tons, was found in the loose ground. A vast amount of labor had been expended upon it. Every inch of it had been battered and hammered over, and attempts had been made to pry it up, and place it on a platform. All this was the labor of a race of beings long since passed away. There is too much skill manifested for the present race of Indians, and yet the workings are too ancient to have been those of white men. Many loads of rude stone hammers are found buried a few feet beneath the surface. They are so abundant that in stoning up a cellar it was found more convenient to use them than to throw them out. Hemlock

trees two feet in diameter, and from examination two and three hundred years old, are growing over the workings, and have to be felled to enable the miners to excavate the earth. Remains of charred wedges and levers and copper gads are found under these trees and under the principal mass. These ancient workings can be traced for more than half a mile through the forest, and an expenditure of \$50,000 at this time, would not pay for the accomplishment of an equal amount of labor.

Their great antiquity would seem to carry us back to other tribes. Yet it is not impossible that the present Indians may be the descendants of those who wrought them.

A General War in Europe Predicted.

—If we are not greatly mistaken, a European war is inevitable. What will the war be for? We say, in the prophetic language of the illustrious George Canning—a war of principle—a war which shall decide, at the cannon's mouth, whether a democratic or a monarchical government is the best system of securing to the people the greatest portion of freedom, protection, encouragement and happiness.

This war, we fear, is about to commence, and we have a prophetic idea of its terrible but just result. The "Cities of the Plain," (Paris, Vienna, &c.) must be destroyed, and hardly a stone left to tell where they stood. This would be an agony, a wholesome scourge of the pestilential channels of revolution.

But what of England? How is she to escape? There is no escape for her.—London and the large towns must pay the penalty incurred by their own wantonness. The people of England cannot any longer bear the pressure of the national debt.—The shopkeeper cannot pay his rent, nor can the householder pay his tax without impoverishing his children. What is then to be done? We have eight hundred millions of debt; why should not these creditors be placed as Lord John Russell, and Sir Robert Peel have placed the merchants, planters and others of the East and West Indies? If these must be ruined, disguised under the term "sacrificed" for the public good, why are the fundholders to be spared? Every man in England encouraged by the dishonest government of the day, who has invested the profits of his industry in railroads, is distracted and mourning over his lost fortune and his means of existence. But why is the fundholder alone in quiet possession of undisturbed investments.—*Liverpool Paper.*

TAKING THE PAPERS.

Some years ago, a lady, noticing a neighbor of hers was not in her seat at church, one Sabbath, called, on her return home, to enquire what should detain so punctual an attendant. On entering the house, she found the family busy at work. She was surprised when her friend addressed her—

"Why, is! where have you been to-day, dressed up in your Sabbath clothes?"

"To meeting."

"Why, what day is it?"

"Sabbath day."

"Sal, stop washing in a minute! Sabbath day? Well, I didn't know; for my husband has got so plaguey stingy he won't take the papers now, and we know nothing. Well, who preached?"

"Mr. Hodgkinsnivey."

"What did he preach about?"

"It was on the destruction of the world, and the day of judgment."

"What is the world destroyed? Well, well, it might be destroyed a dozen times, and we know nothing about it! It won't do, we must have the papers again, for every thing goes wrong without the paper."

Bill has almost lost his reading, and Polly has got quite morose again, because she has got no poetry or stories to read. If we have to take a cart load of potatoes and onions to market, I am resolved to have a newspaper.

We received last evening news of the safe arrival of the steamer Democrat, Cass master, at the head of Salt river, & give the following extract from her log book:—

"Met Steamer Whig, Capt. Taylor, below Availability bar, where she had been aground since 1844, her crew in a state of mutiny, having thrown her old commander, Clay, overboard. We learn that Capt. Taylor succeeded in lighting his boat over the bar by throwing his entire cargo of principles overboard, and is now making arrangements to refit the old boat or build a new one, ready for a trip up Salt river in 1852, where he is bound to go. This mutiny grew out of a division of the spoils."—*Louisville Democrat.*

Abolition of Slavery in Kentucky.—A gentleman of the most respectable character and standing, who has recently made a tour of the State of Kentucky, and who conversed with a large number of the leading citizens of that State, says that in the Convention about to be held to frame a new constitution, provision will be made for the abolition of slavery in that State. Its immediate and unconditional extinction, he thinks, will probably not be secured; but that it will be done within a few years, is certain.—*New York Post.*

Be just, but trust not every one.

MESSAGE

OF THE

President of the United States.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

Under the benignant Providence of Almighty God, the representatives of the States and of the people are again brought together to deliberate for the public good. The gratitude of the nation to the sovereign Arbiter of all human events, should be commensurate with the boundless blessings which we enjoy.

Peace, plenty, and contentment reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world.

The troubled and unsettled condition of some of the principal European powers has had a necessary tendency to check and embarrass trade, and to depress prices throughout all commercial nations; but notwithstanding these causes, the United States, with their abundant products, have felt their effects less severely than any other country, and all our great interests are still prosperous and successful.

In reviewing the great events of the past year, and contrasting the agitated and disturbed state of other countries with our own tranquil and happy condition, we may congratulate ourselves that we are the most favored people on the face of the earth. While the people of other countries are struggling to establish free institutions, under which man may govern himself, we are in the actual enjoyment of them—a rich inheritance from our fathers. While enlightened nations of Europe are convulsed and distracted by civil war or intestine strife, we settle all our political controversies by the peaceful exercise of the rights of freemen at the ballot-box. The great republican maxim, so deeply engraven on the hearts of our people, that the will of the majority, constitutionally expressed, shall prevail, is our sure safeguard against force and violence. It is a subject of just pride, that our fame and character as a nation continue rapidly to advance in the estimation of the civilized world. To our wise and free institutions it is to be attributed, that while other nations have achieved glory at the price of the suffering, distress, and impoverishment of their people, we have won our honorable position in the midst of an uninterrupted prosperity, and of an increasing individual comfort and happiness. I am happy to inform you that our relations with all nations are friendly and pacific. Advantageous treaties of commerce have been concluded within the last four years, with New Granada, Peru, the Tropic of Capricorn, Belgium, Hanover, Oldenburg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Pursue our example, the restrictive system of Great Britain, our principle foreign customer, has been relaxed; and a more liberal commercial policy has been adopted by other enlightened nations, and a more general and greatly enlarged and extended. Our country stands higher in the respect of the world than at any former period. To continue to occupy its proud position, it is only necessary to preserve peace, and faithfully adhere to the great and fundamental principle of our foreign policy, of non-interference in the domestic concerns of other nations. We recognize in all nations the rights which we enjoy ourselves, to change and reform their political institutions, according to their own will and pleasure. Hence we do not look behind us, according to their own authority. We recognize all such actual governments, not only from the dictates of true policy, but from a sacred regard for the independence of nations.

While this is our settled policy, it does not follow that we can ever be indifferent spectators of the progress of liberal principles. The government and people of the United States hailed with enthusiasm and delight the establishment of the French republic, as we now hail the efforts in progress to unite the States of Germany in a confederation, similar in many respects to our own federal Union. If the great and enlightened German States, occupying as they do a central and commanding position in Europe, shall succeed in establishing such a confederated government, securing at the same time to the citizens of each State, local governments adapted to the peculiar condition of each, with unrestricted trade and intercourse with each other, it will be an important era in the history of human events. Whilst it will consolidate and strengthen the power of Germany, it must essentially promote the cause of peace, commerce, civilization and constitutional liberty throughout the world.

With all the governments on this continent, our relations, it is believed, are now on a more friendly and satisfactory footing than they have ever been at any former period. Since the exchange of ratifications of the treaty of peace with Mexico, our intercourse with the government of that republic has been of the most friendly character. The Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Mexico has been received and accredited; and a diplomatic representative from Mexico of similar rank has been received and accredited by this government. The amicable relations between the two countries