

Poetry.

FREMONT AND VICTORY.

BY CHARLES S. WETMAN. AIR—"Suoni la Tromba."—PURITANI.

Men of the North, who remember The deeds of your sires, ever glorious, Join in our pean victorious, The pean of Liberty!

Far in the West rolls the thunder, The tumult of battle raging, Where bleeding Kansas is waging, Warfare with Slavery!

March! we have sworn to support her; The prayers of the righteous shall speed us, A chief never conquered shall lead us— Fremont shall lead the free!

Men of the North, who remember The deeds of your sires ever glorious, Join in our pean victorious, The pean of Liberty!

Political.

The Charges against Col. Fremont o. Speculation Triumphantly Refuted.

When honest, well-meaning persons write us that such and such absurd libels on Col. Fremont are circulating in their locality, and that they want documents wherewith to refute them, we cannot help answering that they take hold of business exactly at the wrong end.

Let us illustrate the character of these libels by a few ready illustrations: The conquest of California from Mexico was effected by very moderate forces, yet with very little bloodshed. Col. Fremont bore a most distinguished part in that conquest—at least, all the cotemporary accounts gave him the credit of so doing—Secretary Marcy's among the rest.

Of course so large a country as California was not conquered and could not have been held, by a force so immensely inferior in numbers as were its American conquerors to the hostile Mexican authorities, soldiers and people, but by the manifestation of extraordinary activity as well as courage.

horsemanship has been carried to its perfection. But this march could never have been made without repeatedly changing horses, which was effected by driving into a rancho or cattle estate, unseading and turning loose the tired and panting beasts, putting their equipments instantly on as many fresh animals, and spurring headlong forward.

Take one instance:—Col. Fremont deemed it necessary to head a party of his force and cross the Bay of San Francisco to capture a Mexican fort and spike the heavy cannon mounted thereon; for, though the fort proved at the time to be scarcely occupied, it would have become exceedingly formidable and annoying if a hundred or more Mexicans, who had not then been dispossessed of the country, and seen fit to throw themselves into it.

Probably most of our readers have seen or heard something about the 'six hundred cows' which Col. F. is said to have purchased on Government account in California, but to have turned over to a rancho to breed on shares for his own profit.

Col. Fremont while Governor of California, did contract with a stock grower for six hundred cows at \$10 per head, for the public service. As they were not immediately needed, they were left with a rancho or herdsman till they should be wanted on the usual terms half the increase to the owner and the balance to the herdsman, till they were wanted.

The Hon. Willis A. Gorman, M. C., from Indiana, now Democratic Governor of Minnesota Territory, was in Congress in 1853, and as Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, reported (Feb. 14) in favor of paying the claim of Col. Fremont for 10,500, borrowed and spent by him in the public service while Governor of California.

It was said that Col. Fremont had got this \$19,500 and bought the Mariposa land with it; and a distinguished gentleman of this House told me he had heard that he had purchased a large amount of cattle with it upon which he had made large profits.

As to the alleged purchase of a large amount of cattle and the grand speculation out of the operation, how did we act as to that charge? Did we believe it blindly? No, Sir, we went into an investigation of it, and what was the result? We found that he had purchased a certain amount of cattle for the use of the army, but because he had not the means for paying for them, he left the cattle in the possession of the vendor, who had finally to take them back for non-payment; so that transaction ended in smoke as does the charge.

Mr. Gorman then proceeded to vindicate Col. Fremont thus: "I will say for Col. Fremont, that when I went into the investigation of this transaction I had some prejudices which I thought perhaps might be unfounded, and which I am satisfied now were unfounded. The prejudices which

had been impressed upon my mind have been dispelled by the investigation of all his conduct in California, and I am prepared to bear testimony upon this occasion to the correctness of his whole line of conduct as an officer and as a disbursing agent. Not one dollar can be traced to his hands for which he cannot give to the Government satisfactory vouchers that it has been appropriated and properly applied.

Feb. 12, 1858, Mr. Campbell of Illinois, asked: "Were claims for articles fraudulently charged several times, presented by Col. Fremont, or were they presented by other persons pretending to hold them against the Government?"

Mr. Gorman—Those claims were not presented by Col. Fremont, but by other individuals.

Mr. Fuller—Those claims of which I speak are called the Vallesjo Claims, and they are recorded as being certified to by J. C. Fremont.

Mr. Price, (Democrat) of New Jersey—He certified that certain property belonging to those individuals was taken by the military officers of the United States, for the purpose of carrying on the war.

Mr. Disney—I understand that all these matters which have been discussed here to-day are not matters of claim upon the part of Col. Fremont, but upon the part of various individuals now in the State of California, for materials and property furnished to him, the evidence of which is his acknowledgement, in the form of certificates before you.

Mr. McLanahan, of Pennsylvania, in some remarks on the subject, said:

Upwards of \$200,000 of claims were presented to the Commissioners. They allowed and passed favorably on some \$31,000; the balance about \$170,000 were not sustained by evidence, and were consequently rejected. Of the \$31,000 allowed, the claim of \$19,500, on which Col. Fremont was imprisoned in London, was unanimously allowed, and placed first on the list submitted to us by the Commissioners.

This is the only demand against the Government in which Col. Fremont appears to have the slightest personal interest.

The debate shows that Col. Fremont had no interest in any other claim than that for \$19,500, which the Board of Commissioners unanimously allowed. As Mr. Gorman remarked:

The claims which are there stated originated in this wise. Col. Fremont, when there, when necessary, sent a guard of men to take the property of the citizens—mules, horses and cattle—for the public use. The owners came and made claim to Col. Fremont, as civil and military Governor of California, for compensation for their property.

The reader who wishes to pursue this investigation further can doubtless find a Congressional Globe, Vol. XXVI, and trace the debate throughout. The claims were very properly scrutinized, but no one questioned the integrity and good-conduct of Col. Fremont.

Personally, I know Col. Fremont, but very slightly. I have had the honor of an introduction to him. He is a small man, but he is as gallant as any mass of stuff the same size that ever was wrapped in a coat that would fit him.

Now I do not think that a man who has marched for a week feeding on green hides and on the skeletons of worn-out and diseased mules, would cheat his Government out of twenty or forty thousand dollars.

The bill passed—yeas, 88; nays, 40—the latter being about the usual number who vote against every private claim, no matter how obviously just. Nobody then questioned Col.

Fremont's honesty—even Mr. Toombs expressly disclaimed any such intention. Congress found a sum justly due to Col. F., and ordered it to be paid, as it did a larger sum on a different account two years later.

A Voice from Ashland.

All the patriots of our country, as well those of our own day and generation as those who have passed away, and whose memories are enshrined in our hearts, are speaking now, daily and hourly, upon the historical events which are at the present time progressing around us.

Henry Clay reposes in his grave, but his patriotic spirit hovers above us, and he speaks to the nation now with the familiar voice of other days.

Far different would I fear, be our case, if, unhappily, we should be led into war, into civil war—if the two parts of this country should be placed in hostile position towards each other in order to carry slavery into new territories acquired from Mexico.

Mr. President, we have heard, all of us have read, of the efforts of France to propagate—what, on the continent of Europe? Not slavery, sir, not slavery, but the rights of man; and we know the fate of her efforts of propagandism of that kind.

The power then, Mr. President, in my opinion—and I extend it to the introduction as well as to the prohibition of slavery in the new territories—does exist in Congress; and I think there is this important distinction between slavery outside of the States and slavery inside of the States; that all outside of the States is debatable, and all inside of the States is not debatable.

If such were the views of that great patriot and statesman upon the subject of the territory acquired from Mexico, what would he say when the effort is to force slavery into Kansas—a territory solemnly dedicated to freedom by the Missouri Compromise, (which he assisted to frame,) and for thirty-four years, by a national compact, sacred from the intrusion of the peculiar institution?

RAIN.—Many years ago a bet was made by a distinguished Virginian, with an English Lord, of £1-a-year, to increase in geometrical progression for the next succeeding twenty years, that it would rain in the county of Chesterfield, Va., (his place of residence,) on the first Saturday of August in every year.

Law is like prussic acid—a dangerous remedy, and the smallest dose is generally sufficient.

People become ill by drinking healths. He who drinks the health of others, drinks away his own.

Applause is the spur of able minds, the end and aim of weak ones.

"ICHABOD: JONES."

The New Hampshire Statesman says "there has been no time since the struggle with Britain begun, 1776, when the clergy and religious people of the State were so aroused as now. It is unnecessary to say in which direction their sympathies tend." Of course it is "unnecessary to say," for every body full well knows that this large class are not office-holders or office-seekers.

Seriously, this is the true and only reason why such a stampede is going on in all quarters from the Democratic ranks. Honest Democrats say, the name of the party, only is left. The noble principles of the party are absorbed in slavery extension, in sectionalism, and in a rapacious, unscrupulous scrambling for office.

THE BIBLE.

The Bible is the treasure of the poor, the solace of the sick, and the support of the dying; and while other books may amuse and instruct in a leisure hour, it is the peculiar triumph of that book to create light in the midst of darkness, to alleviate the sorrow that admits of no other alleviation, to direct a beam of hope to the heart which no other topic of consolation can reach; while guilt, despair, and death vanish at the touch of its inspiration.