

common government to be established? And who can foresee or foretell, if Mexico, voluntarily or by force, were to share in the common government, what would be the consequences to her or to us? Unprepared, as I fear her population yet is, for the practical enjoyment of self-government, and of habits, customs, language, laws and religion, so totally different from our own, we should present the revolting spectacle of a confused, distracted and motley government. We should have a Mexican party, a Pacific Ocean party, an Atlantic Party, in addition to the other Parties, which exist, or with which we are threatened, each striving to execute its own particular views and purposes, and reproaching the others with thwarting and disappointing them. The Mexican representation, in Congress, would probably form a separate and impenetrable corps, always ready to throw itself into the scale of any other party, to advance and promote Mexican interests. Such a state of things could not long endure. Those, whom God and geography have pronounced should live assunder, could never be permanently and harmoniously united together.

Do we want for our own happiness or greatness the addition of Mexico to the existing Union of our States? If our population was too dense for our territory, and there was a difficulty in obtaining honorably the means of subsistence, there might be some excuse for an attempt to enlarge our dominions. But we have no such apology. We have already, in our glorious country, a vast and almost boundless territory. Beginning at the North, in the frozen regions of the British provinces, it stretches thousands of miles along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mexican Gulf, until it almost reaches the Tropics. It extends to the Pacific Ocean, borders on those great inland seas, the Lakes, which separates us from the possessions of Great Britain, and it embraces the great father of rivers, from its uppermost source to the Balize, and the still longer Missouri, from its mouth to the gorges of the Rocky Mountains. It comprehends the greatest variety of the richest soils, capable of almost all the productions of the earth, except tea and coffee and the spices, and it includes every variety of climate, which the heart could wish or desire. We have more than ten thousand millions of acres of waste and unsettled lands, enough for the subsistence of ten or twenty times our present population. Ought we not to be satisfied with such a country?—Ought we not to be profoundly thankful to the Giver of all good things for such a vast and bountiful land? Is it not the height of ingratitude to Him to seek, by war and conquest, indulging in a spirit of rapacity, to acquire other lands, the homes and habitations of a large portion of his common children? If we pursue the object of such a conquest, besides mortgaging the revenue and resources of this country for ages to come, in the form of an onerous national debt, we should have greatly to augment that debt, by an assumption of the sixty or seventy millions of the national debt of Mexico. For I take it that nothing is more certain than that; if we obtain voluntarily or by conquest, a foreign nation, we acquire it with all the incumbrances attached to it. In my humble opinion, we are bound, in honor and morality, to pay the just debt of Texas. And we should be equally bound, by the same obligations, to pay the debt of Mexico, if it were annexed to the United States.

Of the possessions which appertain to man, in his collective or individual condition, none should be preserved and cherished, with more sedulous and unremitting care, than that of an unsullied character. It is impossible to estimate it too highly, in society, when attached to an individual, nor can it be exaggerated or too greatly magnified in a nation. Those who lose or become indifferent to it become just objects of scorn and contempt. Of all the abominable transactions which sully the pages of history none exceed in enormity that of the dismemberment and partition of Poland, by the three great Continental Powers—Russia, Austria and Prussia. Ages may pass away, and centuries roll around, but as long as human records endure all mankind will unite in execrating the rapacious and detestable deed. That was accomplished by overwhelming force, and the unfortunate existence of fatal dissensions and divisions in the bosom of Poland. Let us avoid affixing to our name and national character a similar, if not worse, stigma. I am afraid that we do not now stand well in the opinion of other parts of Christendom. Reputation has brought upon us much reproach. All the nations, I apprehend, look upon us, in the prosecution of the present war, as being actuated by a spirit of rapacity, and an inordinate desire for territorial aggrandizement. Let us not forfeit altogether their good opinions. Let us command their applause by a noble exercise of forbearance and justice. In the elevated station which we hold, we can safely afford to practice the God-like virtues of moderation and magnanimity. The long series of glorious triumphs, achieved by our gallant commanders and their brave armies, unattended by a single reverse, justify us, without the least danger of tarnishing the national honor, in disinterestedly holding out the olive branch of peace. We do not want the mines, the mountains, the morasses, and the sterile lands

of Mexico. To her the loss of them would be humiliating, and be a perpetual source of regret and mortification. To us they might prove a fatal acquisition, producing distraction, dissension, division, possibly disunion. Let, therefore, the integrity of the national existence and national territory of Mexico remain undisturbed. For one, I desire to see no part of her territory torn from her by war. Some of our people have placed their hearts upon the acquisition of the Bay of San Francisco in Upper California. To us, as a great maritime Power, it might prove to be of advantage hereafter in respect to our commercial and navigating interests. To Mexico, which never can be a great maritime Power, it can never be of much advantage. If we can obtain it by fair purchase with a just equivalent, I should be happy to see it so acquired. As, whenever the war ceases, Mexico ought to be required to pay the debts due our citizens, perhaps an equivalent for that Bay may be found in that debt, our Government assuming to pay to our citizens whatever portion of it may be applied to that object. But it should form no motive in the prosecution of the war, which I would not continue a solitary hour for the sake of that harbor.

But what, it will be asked, shall we make peace without indemnity for the expenses of the war? If the published documents in relation to the late negotiations between Mr. Trist and the Mexican Commissioners be true, and I have not seen them anywhere contradicted, the Executive properly waived any demand of indemnity for the expenses of the war. And the rupture of that negotiation was produced, by our Government insisting upon a cession from Mexico, of the strip of mostly barren land between the Nueces and the Rio Bravo and New Mexico, which Mexico refused to make. So that we are now fighting, if not for the conquest of all Mexico, as intimated in some quarters, for that narrow strip, and for the barren province of New Mexico, with its few miserable mines. We bought all the province of Louisiana for fifteen millions of dollars, and it is, in my opinion, worth more than all Mexico together. We bought Florida at five millions of dollars, and a hard bargain it was, since, besides that sum, we gave up the boundary of the Rio Bravo, to which I think we were entitled, as the western limit of the province of Louisiana, and were restricted to that of the Sabine. And we are now, if not seeking the conquest of all Mexico, to continue this war indefinitely for the inconsiderable objects to which I have just referred.

But, it will be repeated, are we to have no indemnity for the expenses of the war? Mexico is utterly unable to make us any pecuniary indemnity, if the justice of the war on our part entitled us to demand it. Her country has been laid waste, her cities burned or occupied by our troops, her means so exhausted that she is unable to pay even her own armies. And every day's prosecution of the war, whilst it would augment the amount of our indemnity, would lessen the ability of Mexico to pay it. We have seen, however, that there is another form in which we are to demand indemnity. It is to be territorial indemnity! I hope, for reasons already stated, that that firebrand will not be brought into our country.

Among the resolutions, which it is my intention to present for your consideration, at the conclusion of this address, one proposes, in your behalf and mine, to disavow, in the most positive manner, any desire on our part, to acquire any foreign territory whatever, for the purpose of introducing slavery into it. I do not know that any citizen of the United States entertains such a wish. But such a motive has often been imputed to the Slave States, and I therefore think it necessary to notice it on this occasion. My opinions on the subject of slavery are well known. They have the merit, if it be one, of consistency, uniformity, and long duration. I have ever regarded slavery as a great evil, a wrong, for the present, I fear, an irremediable wrong to its unfortunate victims. I should rejoice if not a single slave breathed the air or was within the limits of our country. But here they are, to be dealt with as well as we can, with a due consideration of all circumstances affecting the security, safety and happiness of both races. Every State has the supreme, uncontrolled and exclusive power to decide for itself whether slavery shall cease or continue within its limits, without any exterior intervention from any quarter. In States, where the slaves outnumber the whites, as is the case with several, the blacks could not be emancipated and invested with all the rights of freemen, without becoming the governing race in those States. Collisions and conflicts, between the two races, would be inevitable, and, after shocking scenes of rapine and carnage, the extinction or expulsion of the blacks would certainly take place. In the State of Kentucky, near fifty years ago, I thought the proportion of slaves, in comparison with the whites, was so inconsiderable that we might safely adopt a system of gradual emancipation that would ultimately eradicate this evil in our State. That system was totally different from the immediate abolition of slavery for which the party of the Abolitionists of the present day contend. Whether they have intended or not, it is my calm and deliberate belief, that

they have done incalculable mischief even to the very cause which they espoused, to say nothing of the discord which has been produced between different parts of the Union. According to the system, we attempted, near the close of the last century, all slaves in being were to remain such, but, all who might be born subsequent to a specified day, were to become free at the age of twenty-eight, and during their service were to be taught to read, write and cypher. Thus, instead of being thrown upon the community, ignorant and unprepared, as would be the case by immediate emancipation, they would have entered upon the possession of their freedom, capable, in some degree, of enjoying it. After a hard struggle the system was defeated, and I regret it extremely, as, if it had been then adopted, our State would be now nearly rid of that reproach.

Since that epoch, a scheme of unmitigated benevolence has sprung up, which, if it had existed at that time, would have obviated one of the greatest objections, which was made to gradual emancipation, which was the continuance of the emancipated slaves to abide among us. That scheme is the American Colonization Society. About twenty-eight years ago, a few individuals, myself among them, met together in the city of Washington, and laid the foundation of that Society. It has gone on amidst extraordinary difficulties and trials, sustaining itself almost entirely, by spontaneous and voluntary contributions, from individual benevolence, without scarcely any aid from Government. The Colonies, planted under its auspices, are now well established communities, with churches, schools and other institutions appertaining to the civilized state. They have made successful war in repelling attacks and invasions by their barbarous and savage neighbors. They have made treaties, annexed territories to their dominion, and are blessed with a free representative Government. I recently read a message, from one of their Governors to their Legislature, which, in point of composition, and in careful attention to the public affairs of their Republic, would compare advantageously with the messages of the Governors of our own States. I am not very superstitious, but I do solemnly believe that these Colonies are blest with the smiles of Providence, and, if we may dare attempt penetrating the veil, by which he conceals his all-wise dispensations from mortal eyes, that he designs that Africa shall be the refuge and the home of the descendants of its sons and daughters, torn and dragged from their native land, by lawless violence.

It is a philanthropic and consoling reflection that the moral and physical condition of the African race in the United States, even in a state of slavery, is far better than it would have been if their ancestors had never been brought from their native land. And if it should be the decree of the Great Ruler of the Universe that their descendants shall be made instruments in His hands in the establishment of Civilization and the Christian Religion throughout Africa, our regrets, on account of the original wrong, will be greatly mitigated.

It may be argued that, in admitting the injustice of slavery, I admit the necessity of an instantaneous reparation of that injustice. Unfortunately, however, it is not always safe, practicable or possible, in the great movements of States and public affairs of nations, to remedy or repair the infliction of previous injustice. In the inception of it, we may oppose and denounce it, by our most strenuous exertions, but, after its consummation, there is often no other alternative left us but to deplore its perpetration, and to acquiesce as the only alternative, in its existence, as a less evil than the frightful consequences which might ensue from the vain endeavor to repair it. Slavery is one of those unfortunate instances. The evil of it was inflicted upon us, by the parent country of Great Britain against all the entreaties and remonstrances of the colonies. And here it is amongst and amidst us, and we must dispose of it as best we can under all the circumstances which surround us. It continued, by the importation of slaves from Africa, in spite of colonial resistance, for a period of more than a century and a half, and it may require an equal or longer lapse of time before our country is entirely rid of the evil. And in the meantime, moderation, prudence and discretion among ourselves, and the blessings of Providence may be all necessary to accomplish our ultimate deliverance from it. Examples of similar infliction of irreparable national evil and injustice might be multiplied to an indefinite extent. The case of the annexation of Texas to the United States is a recent and an obvious one which, if it were wrong, it cannot now be repaired. Texas is now an integral part of our Union, with its own voluntary consent. Many of us opposed the annexation with honest zeal and most earnest exertions.—But who would now think of perpetrating the folly of casting Texas out of the confederacy and throwing her back upon her own independence, or into the arms of Mexico? Who would now seek to divorce her from this Union? The Creeks and the Cherokee Indians were, by the most exceptional means, driven from their country, and transported beyond the Mississippi river. Their lands have been fairly purchased and occupied by inhabitants of Georgia, Alabama,

Mississippi and Tennessee. Who would, now conceive the flagrant injustice of expelling those inhabitants and restoring the Indian country to the Cherokees and Creeks, under color of repairing original injustice? During the war of our revolution, millions of paper money were issued by our ancestors, as the only currency with which they could achieve our liberties and independence. Thousands and hundreds of thousands of families were stripped of their homes and their all and brought to ruin, by giving credit and confidence to that spurious currency. Stern necessity has prevented the reparation of that great national injustice.

But I forbear, I will no longer trespass upon your patience or further tax my own voice, impaired by a speech of more than three hours duration, which professional duty required me to make only a few days ago. If I have been at all successful in the exposition of the views and opinions which I entertain I have shown—

1st. That the present war was brought about by the annexation of Texas and the subsequent order of the President, without the previous consent and authority of Congress.

2d. That the President, being unenlightened and uninstructed, by any public declaration of Congress, as to objects for which it ought to be prosecuted, in the conduct of it is, necessarily, left to his own sense of what the national interests and honor may require.

3d. That the whole war making power of the nation, as to motives, causes and objects, is confined by the constitution to the discretion and judgment of Congress.

4th. That it is, therefore, the right of Congress, at the commencement or during the progress of any war, to declare for what objects and purposes the war ought to be waged and prosecuted.

5th. That it is the right and duty of Congress to announce to the nation for what objects the present war shall be longer continued; that it is the duty of the President, in the exercise of all his official functions, to conform to and carry out this declared will of Congress, by the exercise, if necessary, of all the high powers with which he is clothed; and that, if he fail or refuse to do so, it becomes the imperative duty of Congress to arrest the further progress of the war by the most effectual means in its power.

Let Congress announce to the nation the objects for which this war shall be further protracted and public suspense and public inquietude will no longer remain. If it is to be a war of conquest of all, or any part of Mexico, let the people know it, and they will be no longer agitated by a dark and uncertain future. But, although I might have foreborne to express any opinion whatever as to purposes and objects for which the war should be continued, I have not thought proper to conceal my opinions, whether worth anything or not, from the public examination. Accordingly I have stated,

6th. That it seems to me that it is the duty of our country, as well as the score of moderation and magnanimity, as with the view of avoiding discord and discontent at home, to abstain from seeking to conquer and annex to the United States, Mexico or any part of it; and, especially, to disabuse the public mind in any quarter of the Union of the impression, if it any where exists, that a desire for conquest, is cherished for the purpose of propagating or extending slavery.

Col. WYNKOOP, in command of one of the Pennsylvania Regiments, in Mexico, has written a silly letter denouncing the Whig presses for their fearless arraignment of the Administration in its war of conquest and national robbery. The National Intelligencer thus notices the letter:

"The Government paper has transferred to its columns a letter purporting to be from an officer of the rank of Colonel in the army now in Mexico, for no purpose, that we can perceive, so far as that paper is concerned, but to furnish to its readers evidence of the malignity of the administration and its adherents towards the National Intelligencer. We refrain from exposing our sentiment of those military gentlemen who can find no better employment in Mexico than writing letters for publication here, either with the idle thought of evering the press at home, or, still worse, but more probable, with the expectation of propitiating the powers that be, in view of the probability of a new creation of these days, of Generals in the army. We make no war upon our fellow-citizens, of any grade, who are absent from the country in military service. We shall, therefore, not treat as it deserves the letter to which we refer. It may come up at some future day. It is enough for the present—and, in that view, we congratulate the gallant Colonel upon the success of his demonstration—that the PRESIDENT has got his letter."

Large popular meetings have been held in Kentucky, Ohio, and New Jersey, at which resolutions against the continuance of the War and in favor of Mr. Clay's resolutions, were adopted.—Meetings will be held in Philadelphia and New York next week for a similar purpose.

THE JOURNAL.



Huntingdon, Tuesday, December 7 1847

An Apprentice Wanted.

A boy from the country, between 14 and 16 years of age, who can read and write, is wanted at this office to learn the Printing Business. Application should be made soon.

Speech of Mr. Clay.

To the exclusion of almost everything else, we lay before our readers in this week's Journal, the great speech of Henry Clay, delivered before a public meeting in Lexington, Ky. It needs no eulogy or commendation from us, to insure its being read and fully appreciated by the intelligent citizens of Huntingdon county. That this speech, and its great author, have been attacked and vilified by the same base whelps of party who so ruthlessly assailed the white-haired Patriot in 1844, will render it none the less acceptable. The people will remember that the same voice which now so eloquently cautions them against the dangers to be apprehended from the anti-American spirit of conquest which is now sought to be infused into the public mind, warned them before the annexation of Texas against the disastrous consequences which would inevitably follow the consummation of that act. Had it been listened to then, the terrible loss of life and immense expenditure of money which has resulted from the Mexican war, together with an innumerable train of evils, would have been averted. Will the freemen of this country not pause and listen to its prophetic warnings? We think they will. If the unbiassed opinions of the American people could be ascertained, we venture to assert that two-thirds would approve the sentiments enunciated by the Sage of Ashland. In speaking of the great sensation produced by Mr. Clay's speech throughout the country, the Richmond Whig says: "No Message, in the most agitating period of our history, has ever been expected more anxiously or read with more avidity—though in the one case the opinions expressed carry with them only the moral force attached to the name of him who has uttered them, while in the other the authoritative decisions of the most influential department of the government are embodied. Can the sceptre of power add ought to the fame of a man, who, divested of all its emblems, and clothed only in the majesty of his great intellect, commands, what mere power can never do, the eager and earnest attention of millions of auditors!"

Huntingdon and the Central Rail Road.

We hope our good citizens will not forget that the Central Railroad will pass through the whole length of our borough, and that this fact is perhaps the more important because Huntingdon is the only town it touches, between this place and Harrisburg. The Railroad will pass through our town, but unless our citizens do something, it will only pass through. What, then, is to be done?—Among other important things, there must be a commodious Basin and every convenience for transshipping or transferring freight from Boats to Cars and from Cars to Boats. The importance of this is too manifest to require argument to prove it so. And without intending any disparagement to the Public Houses already here, at least one more Hotel, large and convenient, will be indispensable for the accommodation of travellers and visitors.

As our citizens are all interested in advancing the prosperity of Huntingdon, we hope they will at once use the proper means to secure the advantages which the Railroad holds out them.—A hint to the wise is sufficient.

The "Globe" misrepresents us when it says that we ever insinuated that there was anything wrong in the management of the repairs, or that we now say all is right. We have as yet expressed no opinion in the premises.

We learn from the Hollidaysburg Register that J. M. Bell, Esq., has been actively engaged for a fortnight past, soliciting subscriptions to the stock of the Central Railroad, and that he has procured from the citizens of Hollidaysburg and vicinity subscriptions amounting to \$60,000.

THE PRESIDENCY.—A fierce contest is going on at present between Vice President Dallas and Mr. Secretary Buchanan, for the Locofoco nomination for the Presidency. The latter is generally backed by the office-holders, and appears to be taking the lead. In Virginia, we notice that the Valley Star, the Augusta Democrat, the Shenandoah Sentinel, the Woodstock Sentinel, and the Virginia Spirit of Jefferson, have all taken ground in favor of Mr. Buchanan's nomination. This looks as if Father Ritchie was at work in the Old Dominion.

Hon. John Bell, Whig, has been elected U. S. Senator from Tennessee. Mr. B. was appointed Secretary of War by Gen. Harrison, but resigned when John Tyler turned traitor to his party. He is a gentleman of rare abilities.

The Washington Union contradicts the Peace rumors in circulation, and says that so far from Mr. Trist's negotiating a peace, he has been ordered to return.

Military Election.

An election for Lieut. Colonel of the 2d Regiment, comprising the Battalions of Huntingdon and Manor Hill, was held on Saturday last. A. K. CONYX, Esq., was supported by the Invincibles of Huntingdon, and received 154 votes, being the whole number polled. Our express from Manor Hill is not yet in, and we are therefore unable to state for whom our brethren in arms! of that battalion voted. Mr. C. is, however, without doubt elected.

Congress assembled on yesterday. Parties being so nearly balanced, and several members expected to be absent, there is some doubt as to which party will elect the officers. From the fact that one or two Whigs have announced their intention of voting for Mr. French for Clerk, it is thought he will be elected. Mr. F. is the present incumbent.

The editors of the Pa. Intelligencer propose issuing a Daily Paper during the Session of the Legislature at \$2 for the Session.

The editor of the Pa. Telegraph also proposes to issue Daily for the same time at the same price. These papers will be principally devoted to publishing the doings of the Legislature.

Major Iturbide, son of the late Emperor of that name of Mexico, arrived at Louisville on the 23d and passed through Cincinnati on the 24th. Major I. was taken prisoner in the battle of Huamantla, and has as such obtained leave on his parole of honor to travel whithersoever he chooses. He is on his way to Philadelphia, where the family of the late Emperor reside.

The Philadelphia Ledger, referring to Mr. Clay's Lexington speech, says he is "behind the age, like Mr. Webster, Mr. Adams, Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Berrien, and Mr. Buchanan!" The same sapient editor, last summer, thought Gen. Scott "behind the age," in urging the impropriety of invading Mexico with less than 30,000 men, and inferred that "Marshall Turren" would be more at home with a "hasty plate of soup," than at the head of an invading column!—Gettysburg Star.

GREAT FRESHET ON THE KANAWHA.—The Philadelphia papers have the following despatch, dated Cincinnati, Nov. 26:

"The Kanawha river, on Friday last, rose 40 feet in thirty hours, overflowing the Salt Works, and destroying one hundred thousand bushels of salt. Great damage was done to the Salt Works all along the line of the river, and large quantities of valuable timber floated away. The river was still rising fast when last heard from."

TEN HOURS LABOR.—The Philadelphia Ledger says, that the laboring men, operatives, and mechanics, in some of the neighboring counties, held meetings preparatory to applying to the next Legislature, for a law declaring ten hours a legal day's work.

Hon. Simon Cameron partook of a complimentary supper at Pottsville, got up a few nights ago.

Col. Burnett is named as a candidate for the office of Brigadier General, vacated by the death of General Hopping, of New York.

An enthusiastic meeting was held in New York, on Monday, to adopt an address to the Pope sympathizing with him in his noble efforts in behalf of liberal principles. The Mayor of the city presided, and HORACE GREELY, Esq. reported the Address.

Mr. Editor:—I see by the Penn's Telegraph, a recommendation of Mr. J. L. SLENZ, of Hollidaysburg, for a situation as Transcribing Clerk of the Senate. Mr. Slentz has had some experience in, and is well fitted for the duties of this office, and from his faithful service to the Whig cause, I think him justly entitled to it. W.