

LICKING VALLEY REGISTER.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On motion of Mr. BORN, on Wednesday, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, (Mr. BORN, of Kentucky, in the chair,) and proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions proposing to refer to different committees the President's message.

Mr. GENTRY said, it had not been his intention to address the House on the subject of the Executive communication at the present time, but to wait till a more advanced period of the session, when a more tangible question should come before them. At such a period he had purposed to present somewhat at large his views on this subject of the Executive communication. His course had been changed, changed in part by the remarks of gentlemen in the debate yesterday, and in part, and indeed chiefly, by the denunciations contained in the message against those who belonged to the same political party with himself. The language held by the President in the part of his message alluded to, had induced him to alter his purpose, and to speak now. And he spoke now more for the purpose of showing that he was not afraid to speak than for any thing else.

The President of the United States in his message to both Houses of Congress had descended from the dignity of his high station, and violated the propriety of his office by assuming that all who dared to call in question the propriety of his acts in originating and continuing the present war, were guilty of affording "aid and comfort" to the enemies of the United States; terms which seem purely taken from the legal definition of treason; and his friends, in the debate of yesterday, if not called upon, had volunteered to reiterate the same charge against every independent American freeman who should have the temerity (and as they seemed to think the insolence) to call in question the conduct of the Chief Magistrate.

Mr. G. said he had chosen to express his sentiments now, simply in order to bring himself within the range of these denunciations. He chose to identify himself with those who were thus accused. Why, sir, (said Mr. G.) we are put upon our mettle: and if, after such language, we should decline to speak here on any and every subject connected with the Executive and this war, we may subject ourselves to the charge of having our lips paralyzed by fear. We are called on to maintain our rights as freemen, or basely to surrender them through dread of Executive power. Therefore I shall speak.

Mr. G. said it was not his intention to go elaborately into the constitutional questions, or questions of the law of nations, which had been discussed here by learned gentlemen who had taken part in this debate. He spoke that he might announce his own opinions, not to treat their words with disrespect. He held an opinion which seemed to be controverted by some gentlemen here, that a man might be loyal to his country and yet opposed to the President. He did not hold it to be just that the true and only test of patriotism was fealty to the President of the United States. He could imagine a set of circumstances—nay, circumstances now existed, when a man could uphold the cause of his country and yet strenuously oppose the Executive. It seemed to him that great mistakes had been made here on the doctrines of the law of nations; and the positions taken seemed to show that we had become so degenerate, that we had so far fallen from the high virtue of our patriot ancestors, as to suppose that the President of the United States, was the Government of the United States, and was possessed of unlimited power. We were rapidly advancing toward that maxim of royalty that "the king can do no wrong," and that none could be patriots who did not shout hosannas to whatever he might choose to do. Men might perseveringly vote supplies for the war; they might wet with their best blood our battle fields; but, if they did not, in the spirit and with all the servility of a spaniel, approach the throne, crawl to the foot of power, and there laud and justify all its deeds, whether good or bad, they were no better than traitors—the enemies of their country. If sentiments like these were to prevail, free-born American citizens must surrender all their rights to freedom of speech, and even to the liberty of thought. Let those whose inborn servility of soul qualified them for such employment go and offer their homage to the Executive. He trusted there were those in that House who felt that they had higher duties and a nobler destiny. They stood here, not to praise the President, but to maintain the constitution. Its continued preservation was of more consequence than any other question that could arise. He would take the liberty of assuming that the ambitious schemes of a President of the United States might be the source of more real danger to our Republic and its liberties than an army of one hundred thousand invaders. These would be met at every pass, and driven back with ignominy whence they came. But who would give us back our lost liberties, our violated constitution? When a petty usurper had come into power without the will of the people of these States, and almost without the wish or the knowledge even of his own party, and without qualities in his own character to command the respect even of the meanest persons in the country, men were not wanting to shout acclamations to all he did and all he said. History told us of nations who had lost their freedom in former ages; but who, in their strength to maintain it, had immortalized their names by deeds of noble daring and by a patriotism the most self-sacrificing. They lost their liberties only because they were overwhelmed by power which they could not resist. But we, citizens of the freest Republic on earth, were called to submit

without a struggle to lawless power, and were almost denied the ignoble privilege of a protest. But it could not be. The American spirit yet lived in the breasts of the American people. And the Democratic party could not, they dared not, to assume that the President was necessarily right, let him do what he would.

The general rule was, that it was expedient and wise, when the nation was engaged in a war constitutionally made, that all debate about the expediency or propriety of the war should cease, and that all should unite to bring it to an honorable conclusion, and when that was accomplished, then to hold the public functionaries engaged in originating and prosecuting it to a strict responsibility. That was the general rule; and, therefore, Mr. G. had hesitated to speak of this Executive communication, because he had hoped that we should soon have peace. But now he knew not when peace was to return. He did not know for what ends the war was waged, nor did he know the people any clue by which they could discover. Under such circumstances, he held it to be the duty of a representative in that hall to speak out freely his sentiments, both respecting the course of the Executive, and respecting the origin and conduct of the war. He held it to be his duty to support and maintain the rights of the legislative branch of the Government. The President was only an executive officer; nor could he rightfully wield any executive power. As commander-in-chief of the army and navy, he was but the agent of the people, to do that which the legislature, as their organ, declared to be their sovereign will. He had, as President, no right to make war but for the objects previously sanctioned by the legislative authority. Had this President engaged in that sort of war?

In expressing his own opinions, honestly held, Mr. G. could not avoid compromising some of the statements of the President in the late message. He joined issue with the President on the point of veracity. The President declared that this war had not been undertaken for conquest. Mr. G. believed otherwise. An executive message was a solemn State paper, and it should be of such a character as to command the belief of all. As a member of a co-ordinate branch of the Government, he ought, certainly, to give credit to statements officially made by the chief Executive officer of the Government, and an apology was due for not believing him. Mr. G. must refer to facts to show why he could not believe. What had happened in regard to the Oregon treaty? The President had told the two Houses of Congress, in his first annual message, that outside to the whole of Oregon was "clear and unquestionable." All must remember the course of things but a few weeks before the project of the British Government was submitted to the President, and by him submitted to the Senate of the United States. Who could forget that he had told a member of that body that he should maintain our right up to the parallel of 54° 40' at all hazards! And his Secretary of State had at the same time declared that he would lose his right arm before he would sign a treaty recognizing the parallel of 49° as our boundary. And a Senator, known to be high in the President's confidence, had said that if the President should ever consent to take the line of 49°, he would damn himself to so deep an infamy that the hand of resurrection could never reach him. All this must be fresh in the minds of all who heard him. Well; the British Minister submitted the project of a treaty establishing 49° as the boundary. Did the President reject it? No; he sent it to the Senate, declaring that, if following the bent of his own will, he should have rejected such an offer, but that it was a matter of too much consequence for him to act on it without asking the advice of his constitutional advisers, (well knowing when he said so what their decision would be, for a majority of two-thirds had already expressed themselves in favor of the boundary of 49°,) and he finally signed a treaty establishing that line. But, further than this, our Minister to the Court of St. James had recently returned from his mission abroad, and being invited to a public dinner to be given to his honor, he had said in his reply that, before he left the United States, he had possessed himself of the views of the American Government, and that, in laboring to get the line of 49° agreed upon as a settlement of the difficulty, he knew that his course was acceptable to the President and his Cabinet!

Now, in view of facts like these, would not the most zealous friend of the President be disposed to excuse Mr. G. for being a little skeptical in regard to official statements, when he had no proof of their truth but the declaration of the President of the United States. He believed, himself, that the present war was waged for conquest. The proofs were abundant, and perfectly conclusive; nor would the people be at any loss to find them. Congress were bound to examine into them, and every freeman was bound to do the same.

Mr. G. would here take the liberty of reading one document. It was a report from the War Department dated the 26th June, 1846. [He here read the letter of Secretary Marcy, respecting the regiment to be sent round Cape Horn, to consist of persons of good habits and various pursuits, who might be discharged in any foreign territory if it should then constitute a portion of the United States; if not, then at the nearest point within our territory, &c.]

Did this look like repelling invasion? Did it? Were men to go to California to repel invasion—to compel indemnity? Mexico had no army there to fight; no forts to take; nothing but a wild country sparsely inhabited. What was this picked regiment to go there for? The people would have no difficulty in understanding

such a fact; and all the sophistry of the President in this long message (and what was the whole message but one bundle of sophistry?) could never blind their eyes to a matter so plain and palpable. The message was nothing but a low demagogical attempt to deceive the nation—to tell just enough of the truth to cause the people to believe a lie. But he never could convince people of plain common sense that the war was undertaken for no other object than to make his own Administration glorious. The President was writhing beneath that scathing question—"Who is James K. Polk?" And he seemed determined to make every body know who James K. Polk was; and, as it was truly said by a poet—

"And fools rush in where angels fear to tread," he had ventured on matters beyond the compass of his powers. He had a predecessor much of the same stuff, and was seemingly resolved that the administration of John Tyler should not exceed that of James K. Polk. In fact the last was but a second edition of the same thing. This whole project of Southern annexation had been originated and brought on by Mr. Tyler; and this war was but carrying out that scheme. Nor was he, in this matter, prompted by a sense of gratitude to his predecessor for bequeathing to him so grand an enterprise; for Mr. G. held the man incapable of so high an emotion.

But the first question Mr. G. desired to ask was—How did this war come into existence? By whom had it been made? A large portion of the message was evidently devoted to an effort to show that Texas comprehended all the country east of the Rio Grande; that State having conquered the right of sovereignty over the whole country, as declared in the act of 1835. To be sure the President could not have expected to make Congress believe this, but he was trying to make the people believe it—though all of intelligent men know to the contrary. The candid and honorable Representative from the Richmond District (Mr. SPRAY) had admitted that Gen. Taylor, on approaching the left bank of the Rio Grande, found it occupied exclusively by people who owned no other Government but that of Mexico. No fact had been or could be produced to show that Texas ever had effectively established her jurisdiction over that part of the country. Yet the President spoke of all living east of the river as that Texas which had been annexed to the United States. But the annexing resolution spoke only of so much of the country as "rightfully belonged" to Texas, and to the Rio Grande, from its mouth to the source, why had the western portion been reserved as a question for negotiation? No; the President might try, but he never could make the people of the United States believe any such statement. He spoke only that he might lead the people to believe a lie. At the time of annexation, and since, it had been admitted by the most distinguished members of the Democratic party that the question of boundary was still an open question, and that the country lying between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was plausibly a matter of dispute.

Mr. G. did not say that all the intermediate country was debatable ground, because he well knew that on the west bank of the Nueces there were a few people who had taken part with the insurrection of Texas, and were under Texan jurisdiction. Texas had established a custom-house there, as the United States had done since. But the President drew the inference that because Texas owned a little strip west of the Nueces, she had of course jurisdiction quite up to the Rio Grande. In such an inference there was neither logic nor common sense.

Mr. G. here referred to and quoted the well known resolution introduced into the Senate by Mr. Benton, declaring that to seize the country up to the Rio Grande would be an act of direct aggression on Mexico, and would deprive her of part of some of her most valuable provinces. He insisted that no good would ever grow out of denying so palpable a truth, for honesty was always, in the long run, the best policy.

The President next undertook to give a history of the outrages of Mexico on the people of Texas, from the first existence of that State to the present time; and this was done with a view to create the impression that these were the causes of this war. But no man of sense could admit such an idea; it was intended for fools, and fools only. Mr. G. did not controvert the position that for these outrages we had had good cause for war against Mexico long ago; and if the President had openly brought them before Congress, and recommended war on that ground, Mr. G. did not know but he might have been in favor of it, but the case was otherwise, and the Executive had not consulted Congress in the matter till he was urged by imperious necessity. He left it all circumstances were such as to leave Congress no moral freedom of action; for he left them to choose between sacrificing Gen. Taylor and his army and formally recognizing the war. Nor were they allowed to debate the question or speak a word about it. They voted under the gag, and in this way gave the President fifty thousand men and \$10,000,000. Since then the President had been little other than a despot, and had waged the war by his own will alone. It was the war of the President, commenced and carried on for his own objects, without the consent of the body to whom exclusively the constitution had committed the war-power in this Government. The President was an executive officer, but whose will did he execute? The will of the people? Mr. G. had heard no such expression of their will; they had no where declared it to be their wish to annex half a dozen Mexican provinces to this Union. No; no such thing. The President had rushed forward on his

own mere motion; he was a usurper, a violator of the Constitution; and it would be treason, moral treason, not to denounce him.

But Mr. G. had been led off. He was arguing to show that this war had been brought about by an unconstitutional act of the President of the United States. He had said that the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was subject to dispute and to negotiation, but the President had asserted our claim to it by force of arms. Mr. G. insisted that this was an act of provocation calculated and intended to produce a war; and it did produce it. It was a practical evasion of the constitution, which reposed the power of war and peace in the Representatives of the People alone. A large discretionary power was necessarily left in the hands of the President; and by the abuse of this he might bring on such a state of things that Congress could exercise no free volition in the case, but must decline war or suffer the country to be insulted. This was now the controversy between the President and the People of the United States.

Mr. G. here quoted the letter of Mr. Calhoun when Secretary of State, admitting the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, to be properly a subject of peaceable negotiation between the United States and Mexico.

Mr. G. said he would greatly like to know what instructions had been given to Mr. Slidell, when sent to negotiate on the subject of a boundary, when at the same time our navy was stationed on the Mexican coast? Gen. Taylor ordered to the Rio Grande.—Had he been instructed to insist on the cession of the California or of New Mexico? When those instructions should be submitted to Congress they could better determine whether this was undertaken as a war of conquest or not. Mr. G. regarded it, however, as certain that Mr. Slidell had been instructed not to agree to any treaty of boundary which did not include California, and perhaps New Mexico also.

The President seemed to have thought that if he only struck an imposing blow and made a strong military demonstration, that the Government of Mexico would be intimidated, and he would easily get all he demanded, and thus his name and his Administration would become glorious in history; but the war had lasted longer than he expected. Why had he sent armies into California and New Mexico? Did not this plainly show it was territory that he wanted?

The gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. DOUGLASS,) a distinguished leader in the Executive ranks, and a learned jurist, but, had stated to the House that, by the mere fact of conquest, New Mexico and California became part and parcel of the United States; that we had a perfect right to set up government over them; and further, that if a treaty of peace should be made without specific boundaries, all we had conquered would of course be annexed to the territory of the United States, and once in could never go back but by an act of re-cession or by a re-conquest.

Now, Mr. G. had no doubt that this foreshadowed the actual plan of the Administration to get rid of all those little difficulties and obstacles that sometimes attended the consulting of a legislative body. But it would not go. Even the more honest part of the Democracy themselves would never stand that. Old Virginia would not stand it. There was too much of patriotism, too much of the love of liberty yet remaining to sanction so gross an infraction of the constitution.

But his colleague, (Mr. STANTON,) a gentleman personally and politically associated with the President, had told the House that the President did not desire unjustly to wrest from Mexico any of her provinces, but that those who opposed the war were opposed to an event which was to constitute the great feature of this age, viz. the annexation of California; and that the man was blind who did not see that events all tended to such a result. [Mr. G. here quoted the report of Mr. SPRAY's speech.]

To what result? Obviously (according to the language) to the unjust and unauthorized wresting of California from Mexico.

Mr. STANTON. Does my colleague mean to say that was my meaning?

Mr. GENTRY. According to the language it must have been.

Mr. STANTON. Then the gentleman has scarcely a correct understanding of the French language.

Mr. GENTRY. That may be true. I am unlearned; but I submit to the learned here whether that it is not the import of the language used.

Mr. STANTON here explained. When he said things were tending to a result, he did not mean the unjust and unauthorized annexation of California, but simply the annexation of a large portion of the Mexican territory.

Mr. GENTRY supposed that the gentleman only meant that we must indemnify ourselves for the expenses of the war; and to do this we should be obliged—most reluctantly obliged—to annex some of her provinces, though the whole nation was opposed to it. Yes; the President had not made war for conquest; not at all. But he found conquest in his path, and he could neither get over it, nor get around it; so he "been picked it up." Now, Mr. G. insisted that no such annexation could take place without an act of the Legislature or a violation of the constitution. It was the desire of the people that these provinces should become a part of the United States, let them say so. But they had not, and they would not. The President was a usurper, and they were traitors to their country who did not so regard him, when he attempted thus, without authority of law or constitution, to annex vast territories to this Union, greater than the entire area of the original States. He

was a lawless usurper, and if the members of that House sanctioned him in proceedings like these, they were unworthy of the seats they occupied; they were no patriots, and guilty of the highest treason against their country. It was their duty to resist the encroachments of Executive authority.—Those encroachments always had been made, and always would be, when not resisted by the patriots who witnessed them.

But he had not time even to glance at all the points which he could not desire to notice. He believed the present Administration had been guilty of manifold crimes against the constitution, as well as against the prosperity and liberty of their country. Nor could any excuse be found for them, save that urged by the divine Saviour in behalf of his crucifiers: "Father to give them they know not what they do." Mr. G. doubted whether this Administration had sense enough to comprehend the vast, the stupendous dangers on which they were precipitating the country.

The President was going to conquer a vast region of country, larger than all the old thirteen States, and add it to this Union. Did any man know what he had intended to do with the two millions of dollars he had asked the House to appropriate for contingent expenses? A good Democrat had moved a celebrated resolution on that occasion prohibiting the purchase of any territory with the money, unless slavery was to be excluded from it. Surely, the people must be mad if they shut their eyes to the bearing of such a resolution. They were bound to anticipate the dangers which threatened them, and to call the people to the rescue. Their dearest interests

A mass of matter, original and selected, has been omitted this week. We have, for some weeks, been very much straitened for the necessary room to give to our readers all the matter we desired, although they have doubtless discovered, that since we took charge of the REGISTER, it has usually contained about double the quantity of reading matter that it contained previous to that time. We have had the subject of making the REGISTER a tri-weekly paper, under consideration; and have come to the determination to afford the citizens of Covington and Newport an opportunity of expressing their wishes upon the subject, by issuing a *Prospectus* for that purpose during the present or next month.

Should we obtain the requisite number of subscribers, say 400 or thereabouts, the Tri-weekly Register will be published in Covington and Newport, and delivered in both places immediately after it is printed off, by faithful and punctual carriers.—The Weekly Register will also be much enlarged and improved; but neither can be done, without a patronage sufficient to justify the undertaking, and place contingency out of the question.

We are indebted to the Hon. JAMES T. MOREHEAD for Public Documents.

Although "a day after the feast," we present to our readers the complements of the season, hoping that the year upon which they have just entered, may, to each one of them, be a season of health and prosperity.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The Legislature of Kentucky convened at Frankfort on Thursday last, and was organized, we suppose, on that day. If so, the Governor's Message was delivered yesterday. We shall probably get a copy of the Message by to-day's mail, and as our paper will not appear again for a week, we shall issue an extra as soon after receiving it as we can, and send it to our subscribers. We know of no subject of particular importance that will be likely to engage the attention of the present Legislature, except it be the remodeling, or in some other way the giving of more efficiency, to our Common School System, which we can hardly doubt, the Governor will recommend.

THE WEATHER. It will be hardly worth while for us to inform our readers immediately in these "diggings," nor even those at a distance, what sort of weather we now have, and have had, for some days past.—We have called upon the "oldest inhabitant," and she assures us that she has never seen any thing just like it. She always, she says, had to have a *little* fire during the warmest Christmas she ever saw before, but this one has been so warm that she could hardly keep coal enough with the doors open and all the windows hoisted. Our recollection corresponds pretty much with that of the "oldest inhabitant." We have experienced several very warm Christmases, but never one, as Cheap John would say, so *warm* as this. We recollect an old saying,—after a green Christmas a *ful* graveyard; which we hope will not find a verification in the present year. Besides the warm weather, we have had some very heavy rains within the last few days. The Ohio and Licking Rivers are rising rapidly, and if the rains have been as heavy high up the Ohio, we may look for an unusual flood in that river.

VALENTINITY. Our venerable friend of the Cincinnati Atlas, NATHAN GUILFORD, Esq. took leave of the patrons of that paper on Thursday morning last. The Atlas was originally established by Mr. Guilford, and has been one of the best conducted and most interesting papers in the country. We hope he has been amply remunerated for his labor and enterprise in establishing and conducting the Atlas, and that he may realize good success in whatever else calling may engage. Mr. G. is succeeded in the proprietorship of the Atlas by Messrs. STEVENSON, LOOKER & TODD. The former of them, Mr. THOS. B. STEVENSON, was lately the editor of the Frankfort Commonwealth, and acquired a reputation for ability and industry, that but few of his contemporaries enjoyed. That he will conduct the Atlas with the same energy and ability, the high standing of the Commonwealth affords a sufficient guaranty. He will have able assistants in the different departments of the paper. Mr. LOOKER, the second member of the firm, is said to be a real *typo*—a printer all over. We recollect the name of *Looker* as being connected with the press from the earliest period of our *typographical* life, which has not been a very short one. But we suppose the Mr. Looker of the Atlas is not the "old man." Mr. TODD, the other member of the firm, is a gentleman of fine business habits and qualifications, and in his intercourse with his fellow-citizens, is every inch a gentleman. We wish them success, not only in a pecuniary point of view, but in spreading broadcast over the land those political truths that have heretofore been fearlessly put forth and ably sustained by the Atlas.

The National Intelligencer states that during the Executive session of the Senate, on the 1st, the nomination of GEORGE BARRETT, to be Secretary of the Treasury, and of JOHN P. HUNTINGTON, to be Attorney General of the United States, were confirmed.

WHAT'S IN THE WIND! By reference to our Congressional Summary, the reader will see that our immediate Representative, Hon. JOHN W. TABBATS, has introduced into the House a number of bills, having for their object the appropriation of near half a million of dollars to the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. These bills embrace some of the same objects and the same principle, that were embraced in the bill vetoed by Mr. Polk last summer. We are at loss to know what can be the object of our Representative. Whether he wishes, in good earnest, to get the money to clear the *pulk-stalks* out of those rivers; or whether he wishes to get his friend, James K. Polk in a *fix*—a dilemma, from which he cannot well escape, without running against one of those obstructions that very properly bear his name, and causing him self to sink, or reach the shore so badly crippled that he will never attempt to navigate any other stream except *Salt River*, we shall not pretend to say; but certain it is, the latter seems most probable, as he will as certainly veto all of the bills introduced by Col. Tibbatts, as he lives, if they are passed and presented for his signature. He can justify himself better now than he did in vetoing the river and harbor bill last summer. He can now say that in addition to his constitutional scruples, he needs all the money that can be raised, to carry on the Mexican war.

HE WON'T ANSWER. As we expected, the Editor of the Intelligencer will not answer the plain questions we put to him last week, which he could have done in half a dozen lines; but instead of that, he gives us near two-thirds of a column of mere stuff, that means any thing or nothing, just as he pleases. He applies to us the term "demagogue," because we expressed the belief that to restrict slavery to its present limits, while free territory might be extended either by conquest or purchase, was indirectly, if not directly, aiding the Abolitionists. We still contend for the correctness of our position, and believe that every candid man will agree with us; even the Abolitionists themselves will acknowledge that if they can restrict slavery to its present limits, while a half dozen or more free states may be admitted into the Union, their work will be half accomplished.

But it becomes an Editor who has not the independence to let it be known how he stands, to charge demagogism upon those who have. We repeat the questions we asked him last week.

THAT BIG WHITE OWL. A few days since a large *White Owl* appeared in the Queen city, and taking a position on the vane of one of the Churches, cut up some rather un-owlish shins. Our brethren over there appear considerably alarmed, and greatly puzzled at the owl's freaks of their visitor, and seem to think they were somewhat ominous,—if what, however, they do not pretend to conjecture. Of one thing we are satisfied, they were not born in the woods or they would not be so badly scared at an owl.

O'BLENNIS, THE MURDERER. Gen. LESLIE COMBS has received a letter from a gentleman in Donaldsonville, La. informing him that O'Blennis, who murdered his son (Frank Combs) about two years ago, had been shot by some Mexicans at Matamoros, where he had settled as a trader. A short time before his death he murdered a Mr. Townsend, who had a claim against him. Sooner or later the hand of retributive justice will be laid upon the murderer. He may escape for a time, sometimes for years, but seldom reaches the grave, except by the hand of the hangman or by violence.

The Liberty (Mo.) Weekly Tribune says, "the erection of a splendid Hotel in Independence has increased the value of property around that place from 50 to 100 per cent, and the erection of a College in Liberty would have the same effect." The reader may be a little curious to know why a *Hotel* at Independence and a *College* at Liberty, should produce the same result, when generally they are of an opposite tendency. The *why* and the *wherefore* may perhaps be found in the fact that Independence is in Jackson, a strong Loco-foco county, and Liberty is in Clay, a strong Whig county.

MESSES DAVIS AND BAYLEY.—During a debate in the House, some angry words occurred between Mr. Davis of Ky, and Mr. Bayley of Va. when Mr. Bayley pronounced something that Mr. Davis, had stated, a *lie*. We take the following paragraph in relation to the affair from the letter of Potomac to the Baltimore Patriot of the 24th ult. In another part of his letter he says he has learnt that the affair was made up;

Mr. BAYLEY having in a fit of passion in a debate, pronounced Mr. DAVIS a liar, and declared that what he had said was a lie, and owing to the fact that amid the confusion the words which he did utter were not understood alike by all who were listening in the House, Mr. DAVIS sent a message to Mr. BAYLEY, by the hand of Senator BARROW, demanding an explanation as to what he meant by the words he had used. Some friends of Mr. Bayley, learning what was in the wind, as they boarded in the same house with him, informed the proper authorities against the parties, who forthwith set about arresting them. Mr. BAYLEY was arrested and put under some \$5000 bonds, as is understood. But Mr. DAVIS wouldn't be arrested and left the District forthwith. It is generally understood that he is in Baltimore, ready to receive a proper explanation or to maintain his honor without an explanation or an apology for the affront which he conceives has been paid to him, as the other party may see fit to determine.

General BARROW, a distinguished politician of New York, died in the city on the 24th inst. in the 74th year of his age. Gen. Root had filled many offices of trust.

THE WAR.

The reader will find in to-days Register some very interesting news from our Mexican army and the Gulf Squadron. Papers of a later date than those from which we copy, furnish some further details of the news we have given; but nothing of a later date from the seat of war. Not having room for these details we will give the substance only of them.

A young man named Forrest, a volunteer from Tennessee, was killed by a Tavernee named Armstrong in Monterey, on the 29th November. Forrest was of a party of volunteers that had died at Armstrong's, and was supposed by A. to be the man who upset one of his tables and broke a number of dishes, to mblers, &c. Payment for the articles broken was offered but refused by A. who shot Forrest down. Armstrong was in custody, but as he does not belong to the army, it was supposed he would escape punishment, unless the Tennesseans should adopt the plan pursued by the Louisville Legion.

Several members of the Legion, had been murdered by Mexicans which so exasperated their comrades that they commenced retaliatory measures, and it is supposed that not less than *forty* Mexicans had been killed between the 25th of September and the 1st of November. To put a stop to this mode of warfare, Gen. Taylor, it is stated, had ordered the Legion to fall back upon Seralvo. The plan pursued by the Legion was the only one that they could adopt to put a stop to the assassination of their comrades, and we cannot of course blame them for what they have done. When the blood thirsty rascals know that some of them are sure to be punished, they will cease their butcheries of the Americans.

A great many desertions are said to have taken place from our army since the battle of Monterey. One letter writer estimates the number at 120. The regulars, who are mostly foreigners, when they desert, go to the enemy; but the volunteers make for Texas to take a Christmas dinner there. Some of those who induced the soldiers to desert, have been taken, and are in confinement—among them the son of the Alcade of Monterey, who is heavily ironed. He is said to be a fine looking young man. If old Hickory were there, he would have ten balls shot thro' the rascals; but it is not known what Old Zac will do with him—probably keep them in confinement until the war is over.

Among the items of intelligence copied from late Mexican papers, we extract the following.

Great preparations were making at San Luis Potosi to give the American Army a thrashing, if they should presume to make an attack upon that city. It is stated that 25,000 men were assembled there with 25 pieces of cannon. Impulse quantities of cannon balls, powder, &c., had been collected, and the fortifications were daily becoming stronger. The greatest enthusiasm is represented to prevail among the troops, and a determination to conquer or die.

There, (at Potosi,) says the Mexican newspapers, will the fate of Mexico be decided, and further resistance will be useless. Fears were entertained, however, that even there the fortunes of war would be against them, and accordingly we find preparations going on to defend the road to the capital. Forts were being erected at various points, and the passes were being strengthened, but these works do not seem to progress very rapidly. Santa Anna's evacuation of Tampico is defended, on the ground of his inability to resist the vessels of war; and that port being one in which the yellow fever rages fiercely eight months in the year, the editors predict that it will become a grave for thousands of Americans, as it was for the invading Spaniards.

The following letter appears in the Monitor of the 28th November:

SAN LUIS DE POTOSI, 14th Nov. The invaders are very near us—yesterday they entered Saltillo and must now also be in Tampico, because the correspondence which should to-day have gone to those points, has been cut off by order of Gen. Santa Anna. Who knows what will be our fate! However, we have 25,000 men, with 52 twenty-four pounders, and a supply of ammunition of all kinds, which is almost incredible, but having sent it myself, leaves no doubt on my mind.

There are 200 blacksmiths and carpenters working for the army, and besides the men there are 1000 country women working on the fortifications which is very satisfactory, as it shows the enthusiasm and good will which animates the people. In one store there has been sold 16000 daggers, bought by country people, both men and women—in every direction we see them making lances, sharpening swords, and fixing fire-arms, and other warlike arrangements, and we are all getting accustomed to the din of arms.

Major General Scott, accompanied by Major Smith, Capt. Monroe, and Lieuts. Scott and Williams, arrived in New Orleans on Saturday the 19th. The Picayune states that he was in excellent health and spirits.

LATE FROM THE SQUADRON. Total Wreck of the United States Brig Somers!—Great loss of Life.

The New Orleans Picayune of the 21st Dec. says that by the arrival of the bark Morgan, Capt. Hamilton, it has received dates from the Squadron at Anton Lizardo to the forenoon of the 13th inst.

Full particulars are given of the loss of the U. S. brig Somers.

Among the passengers on board the Morgan were Purser L. Washington, Jr. of the Mississippi steam frigate, with his clerk, G. Hutchinson.

The Somers was struck by a squall while endeavoring to cut off a strange vessel which it was supposed intended to run the blockade and enter Vera Cruz, when near Green Island, and sunk in less than ten minutes. As soon as practicable a boat was manned, and under charge of Midshipman Clarke and 17 men, she reached the shore.

As soon as the men were landed, Mr. Clarke, disregarding the most strenuous entreaties, resolved to shoot off again with a volunteer crew at the head of the boat, and after three minutes after the boat left the brig, Capt. Semmes, finding the vessel settling under them, gave an order for every man to save himself. All simultaneously plunged into the water, and grasped the posts, gratings, spars, coops and other floating objects at hand. Many must have gone down from the want of any support whatever: others struggled on frail floats to be finally drifted on the reefs and dashed in pieces. Some were driven to sea to be heard of no more, and others encountered the worst fate that could be apprehended in being devoured by sharks. Of near sixty who plunged from the wreck, only seventeen escaped.

There were lying at Sacrificos, about two miles to leeward of the wreck, H. B. M. ship Endymion and Alarm, and the brig Daring, commanded respectively by Capt. Lambert, Franklin and Mason; the French brig Pylade and Mercure, Capt. Dabut and La Voyaire; and the Spanish corvette Louisa Fernanda, Capt. Puente. As soon as the accident was discovered the boats of all these vessels were simultaneously called away. The crew of the Endymion to the number of two hundred came aft and volunteered.

Many interesting details are given.—Ten men were rescued from a spar. The first Lieut. of the Somers was taken from the *Fajaro* reef which he succeeded by a miracle in reaching safely. Five boats, representing each of the foreign vessels took from the island 23 persons to their respective vessels. The strange vessel proved to be the *Abasra*, bound for the squadron. A list of the lost and saved shows 37 men saved—37 lost.

List of officers and men lost in the Somers.
Henry A. Clemens, Acting Master.
John R. Hynson, Passed Midshipman.
Wm. G. Brasier, Ebenezer Terrell, Chas. H. Haven, James Ryder, James Thompson, Charles Lowe, Thomas Young, William Gillan, Mathias Green, Major Cain, Dennis Kelly, Alexander Anker, Charles McFarland, James Fennel, Charles True, John Day, William Purdy, Edward McCormick, William Elmley, Wm. Quest, John Hargrave, Wm. W. Cardy, John Christopher Myers, Clement C. Wellen, Thomas McGowan, Joseph Anton, Adolph Belmonte, Manuel Howard, Wm. W. Powers, Henry W. Spear, James Chapman, Lewis Johnson, Ignatius Leopold, Thomas Jefferson, Wm. H. Rose, Peter Hernandez.

List of those saved.
R. Semmes, Lieut. Commanding, M. G. L. Claiborne, Lieut. John L. Parker, Lieut. John F. Steele, Purser; John H. Wright, Passed Assistant Surgeon; Francis G. Clark, Midshipman; Edmund T. Stevens, Purser's Steward; Jacob Hazard, Yeoman. Steward.—Am. Colon, W. Johnson, Matthew Buck, John McGargo, John G. Nordan, Charles Seymour, John Williamson, John Pollen, John Smith, Henry Strommell, Thomas Mulhollen, George Wakefield, Wm. Keys, Francis Haire, William Toland, William F. Thompson, Christopher Lawrence, Joseph Todd, Stephen Maynard, Samuel Bennett, Thos. D. Burns, Wm. Power, Joseph Skipsey, Joseph Jones, Charles Nutlee, Washington Cooper, Wm. Dix, Francis A. Waldron, James Chambers.

At a late hour the Picayune adds the following paragraph to its account of the dreadful catastrophe:

"It may mitigate the gloom which this melancholy calamity must create, yet will increase the suspense of friends, when we state that it has since been ascertained, through the aid of other officers, that sixteen of the crew of the unfortunate Somers reached the shore on ben-coops, and are now encamped in Vera Cruz. One died immediately after landing from exhaustion. In our regular edition to-morrow we shall give full particulars of the disaster, also an account of the movements of the squadron. Commodore Conner and Perry were both at Anton Lizardo when the Morgan Dix sailed."

From the N. O. Picayune 20th.

FURTHER MEXICAN NEWS.

By the arrival of the schr. Martha Louisa, from Havana, we are placed in possession of our full and regular files of the papers of that city and our correspondence.

We learn verbally that Gen. Wool, who was for many years in the service of Mexico and who signalized himself in Texas and on the Rio Grande frontier, recently effected a landing at Laguna and had proceeded towards the Mexican capital.—Gen. W. is a Frenchman who retired to the United States, and was twice with a fortune, and has the reputation of being a brave officer.

The *Diario de la Marina* is particularly well informed in the Mexican affairs, and we gather from it some items.

The chief of the Mexican difficulties arise from pecuniary embarrassments, says the *Diario*. Santa Anna is continually calling upon the Government for means. The clergy, being called together by delegations both of the regular and secular orders, refused positively to guarantee a loan of two millions of dollars; but the Government, considering the straitened circumstances of the treasury and the necessities of the state—quite too urgent to be provided for by general contribution—had resolved to issue drafts to the amount of two millions of dollars upon the responsibility of the clergy, the clergy to be compelled to meet the sum within a given time, and the Government to guarantee the amount, as a loan to be ultimately reimbursed with interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum. To render these drafts at once available, the Government had determined to draw them for amounts varying from \$200 to 20,000 in favor of individuals of wealth and according to their circumstances, and compel them to advance the respective sums within eight days. Such is the forced loan to which Santa Anna has driven the Government, and which the latter excuses by alleging that "the clerical order, both secular and of both sexes, has always shown itself ready to make the greatest sacrifices." We are yet to see how the church will digest this measure.

We have at last a revelation in relation to the letter which the Commodore addressed to the Mexican Government towards the end of September, and the receipt of which on the 5th or 6th of November at Vera Cruz we mentioned. It was dated the 27th of September and was received on the 13th of November. It was to explain away the misunderstanding which the Mexican Secretary had evinced of Mr. Buchanan's previous offer to negotiate a peace. The American Government did not propose, as the Mexican Secretary understood the offer, to lay out of the question the causes, on each side, which led to the war; but to be an abandonment of their strongest claims on Mexico. They wished, however, to settle all the questions in dispute between the two Republics. Mr. Buchanan's last offer concluded by saying that the President, persuaded that he had done the duty of making proposals for peace, awaited with patience and hope the final decision of the Mexican Government. That although the longer the war

lasted the more difficult would it be to make a satisfactory peace, on account of the continually increasing expenses of it, yet he should always be ready to terminate the war upon terms of absolute justice. And that in the meantime he had no alternative but to prosecute the war with vigor, or until the Mexican Government should be ready to receive his overtures for peace in a kindred spirit.

On the 10th of November, by order of Santa Anna, a grand mass was celebrated, all the officers of the army being present, to implore the Divine aid for the happy issue of the war. The same night, the termination of the armistice was to be celebrated by a grand serenade.

The reports from Chihuahua were that the Government had organized a force of 1200 regulars and 10,000 volunteers, with fifteen pieces of artillery, and that all were to march against the enemy on the 8th of November. We do not believe the half of it.

The negotiations between Conner and other authorities at Tampico are given, but they are not important and we are crowded for room.

A private letter from Mexico assures the *Diario* that a good understanding existed between Santa Anna and the Central Government, but that the necessities of the General were such that he was constrained to insist upon the forced loan of two millions. His army amounted to 25,000 men, the best arm of which was cavalry. Gen. Taylor had suffered much from desertion and sickness, but the number of his troops was variously estimated. The Mexicans are continually apprehensive of a night attack upon San Juan de Uloa. An attempt was made, they thought, the night of the 1st ult., but it resulted in nothing, having been early discovered. We annex our correspondent's letter.

HAVANA, Dec. 6, 1846.
Dear Sir:—The British steamer is in to-day from Vera Cruz, and I send you an extra containing the news as published here. Rumor adds something to these, but you can judge for yourself. Santa Anna is said to have threatened to retreat to Queretaro if they don't send him the \$2,000,000 that he has asked for, which great exertions are being made to raise.—Some say he will fall back whether or no, in order to be nearer the capital on the opening of Congress. Propositions have been made to the British merchants for a loan of \$200,000,000, secured by a reduction of duties on articles now prohibited. The money and landed interest, it is said, are quite tired of the war, and Santa Anna's retrograde movement may possibly be in order to intimidate Congress into peace measures, while he apparently sacrifices his ambition and laurels (to be earned) to the will of the people. The initiated suppose him not to be inimical to peace. At all events he won't meet the enemy—if it is done at all, some one else must do it. The blockade is not considered at all an effectual one; several vessels sent from here have been discharged.

Yours, &c., AMICO.

From the N. N. Picayune 20th.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY.

Movements of troops—Later from Monterey—Death of Gen. Hamer—Marine Disasters—Loss of Government Steamer Gopher, &c. &c.

By the arrival, at half past 1 o'clock this morning, of the steamship McKim, Capt. Peck, we have dates from Brazos Santiago up to the 15th inst., with accounts two days later from Monterey. Among the passengers in the McKim were Col. Weller, Major Arthur, Capt. Cooper, Drs. Chamberlin, Hoxie, and Craig, Lieuts. Steward, Dolon, McMahon, Roe, Murphy, and Richmond, Messrs. Lann, Lemon, Tippet, Raines and Levinslock, and sixty-one sick and discharged volunteers.

The report of a duel between two officers of the Quartermaster's Department was a hoax.

The Steamship Virginia left the Brazos for Tampico on Tuesday, 15th inst., with Lieut. Col. Clarke and six companies of the Alabama regiment, numbering nearly 400 men, rank and file. The steamer Cincinnati and U. S. propeller James Cagle, left on the 16th with General Shields and staff. Mr. Lumsden of the Picayune and Capt. Shelby's company of Alabama volunteers—all bound for Tampico.

The McKim, which was nine days outside the bar before communication could be had to discharge her, reports the following vessels ready to unload at the Brazos; ships Ocean; Liberty and John Holland, bark Wm. Ivy, brig Architect and Etruria, schooners Wm. Thomson and Gen. Worth, and several other vessels.

The following letters from Mr. Lumsden, for which we are indebted to the politeness of Mr. L. Ivy, give all the news which has come to hand.

BRAZOS SANTIAGO, Dec. 12, 1846.

I have a little news from Monterey, as late as the 30th of November. Two regiments of Indiana volunteers, the 2d and 3d, and Lieut. Mackall's (Capt. Taylor's) battery had gone to Saltillo, to join Gen. Worth.

Gen. Twigg's division is on its march for Victoria.

Brig. Gen. Hamer, one of Mr. Polk's appointments, died at Monterey a few days ago, of inflammation of the bowels. His illness was of very short duration—no more, I learn, than two days.

Gen. Butler will remain in command at Monterey. I spoke of this some what uncertain in a former letter.

Col. Taylor arrived at Matamoros two days ago, with despatches for Gen. Patterson.

Mrs. Hart and her husband, Wells and a few other persons, here on their way to Tampico. They have been for a long time the pioneers of the drama wherever the army moves.

Gen. Taylor was to move, in column, on the 8th, 9th and 10th inst., for Victoria, with about 1500 men. Victoria is equidistant from Monterey and Tampico, and it was supposed that Gen. Taylor would make that place his headquarters.

By an advertisement in the Matamoros flag I see that Rice Garland is about to open a law office and land agency at this place and Matamoros, intending to pursue the legal profession in the courts of Texas. F. A. L.

BRAZOS SANTIAGO, Dec. 13, 1846.

I have another marine casualty to report before leaving this place—which you will perceive I have not yet done, contrary to all my expectations. "To-morrow," is still the word. But to the casualty.

lost,—the De Rossett having taken every person off when she was found to be in a sinking condition.

The Gopher had on board when she went down 254 bbls. pork, 44 bbls. of bread 14 bbls. of pickles, 64 bbls. of vinegar, 6 bales oakum, 2 coils rope and 2 bundles of cast steel—all the property of the United States. If "Uncle Sam" was a rich man, this would be a pretty place to "break" him. Two beach and bar are strewn with wrecks in all directions.

The pilot-boat Aerial was also lost at the same time and place. Two men, Capt. King and a sailor, were in her; they were also picked up by the De Rossett. A heavy sea struck the boat and literally broke her to pieces. I was a witness from the sand hills, at a short distance, of the scene of destruction.

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Dec. 21st.

SENATE.—On motion of Mr. Semple the President was requested to communicate to the Senate all such information as may not be incompatible with the public interests relative to the claims of our citizens against the Republic of Colombia.

Mr. Barrow submitted the following: *Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to inform the Senate if any officer or agent of the U. States was sent by him or by his direction, to Havana to advise, procure, or in any way, or in any manner promote the return of Santa Anna to Mexico; and if so, who was the officer or agent, and what were his instructions, and when was he sent on such mission. Also, that he inform the Senate by what means and through what channel Santa Anna was informed that an order was issued to the commander of our naval forces in the Gulf, directing said commander not to obstruct his (Santa Anna's) return to Mexico. And also, that he transmit to the Senate copies of any correspondence in possession of the Government relative to the terms and conditions on which Santa Anna was permitted to pass through our blockading squadron, or in any manner relating to the subject of Santa Anna's return to Mexico.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A personal explanation was made by Mr. Gentry, of Tenn.

Mr. Tibbatts, on leave, introduced bills of the following titles, viz: A bill making appropriations for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi, Ohio, and Missouri rivers. It appropriates \$240,000 to be expended on the Ohio, below the falls, the Mississippi, and Missouri rivers, and \$100,000 to be expended on the Ohio, above the falls.

A bill making an appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Arkansas river. Appropriates \$80,000 for that purpose.

A bill making a further appropriation for the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi river. Appropriates \$50,000 to be expended above the mouth of the Missouri.

Which bills were severally referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Thompson of Ky. offered the following preamble and resolution: Whereas the acquisition of territory by conquest, not absolutely necessary for self-protection, is repugnant to the genius of the United States Government, and dangerous in its tendencies upon the minds of the people;

And whereas, it is impolitic to acquire any portion of the Mexican territory without paying a fair compensation therefor, and the inhabitants of the country to be thus acquired should give free consent to the change before jurisdiction over them is assumed;

And whereas, to require a conquered nation to pay the expenses of a war because it happens to be the weaker Power, is an opposition to the genius of the people of man's nature, and such a rule to be made applicable in all cases would be the emanation of despotism, and unworthy a great Republic whose citizens love liberty;

And whereas, the cost of a war avowed to be waged for principle alone should not be the cause of its continuance: Therefore,

Be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That when Mexico shall make ample reparation for acknowledged indebtedness, and establish the Rio Grande as the boundary for the two nations, the peace between the Sister Republics so unhappily disturbed ought to be restored.

Objections being made to the reception, the House, by a vote of 33 yeas to 136 nays, refused to suspend the rules, and they were not received.

The Bill to admit the State of Iowa was passed.

The debate upon the President's Message was then continued by Mr. Jones, of Georgia.

TUESDAY, Dec. 22d.

SENATE.—Mr. Semple introduced and had laid upon the table, a joint resolution to amend the Constitution of the U. S., so as to deprive the Supreme Court of the power to declare as constitutional any law of Congress or of a State Legislature.

The resolution, inquiring into the return of Santa Anna to Mexico, submitted yesterday by Mr. Barrow, coming up in its order, Mr. Sevier asked that it might lie over for a day or two. It was then postponed till Tuesday wk.

After a short Executive Session the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The debate upon the President's Message was continued. Garrett Davis made another strong speech, and commented with much severity upon the Santa Anna intrigue. He rejoined to those who were charging the Whigs with treason by a most pointed retort. What was treason? It was giving aid and comfort to the enemy. And had not the Executive done this in admitting Santa Anna to the city of Vera Cruz? Supporting Commodore Conner, Morris, Perry, or any other naval commander, who had done this, would they not have been degraded before the House, under Court Martial orders? Unquestionably they would. And this was precisely what the Executive had done and he could not escape from the dilemma in which he was involved.

A Message was then received from the President, covering the instructions to Gen. KEARNEY, and others. The details were very long, occupying an entire page in the *Union*.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 23.

SENATE.—Mr. Semple, from the Committee on Roads and Canals, reported a bill to relinquish the National Road to Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri, upon certain conditions.

Mr. Breece, from the committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill giving the

assent of Congress to certain States to impose a tax upon the public lands within their borders, as soon as sold, without amendment.

The bill to establish the office of Surveyor General of the Public Lands in Oregon, and to grant donation rights to settlers, which were ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, reported a bill from the committee on Territories, establishing a territorial Government in Oregon. Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and made the special order of the day for the first Tuesday in January.

