DORCHESTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Cambridge Chronicle.

JOSEPH R. ECCLESTON,] "LIGHT FOR ALL." [Editor & Proprietor

NEW SERIES—VOL. 7. CAMBRIDGE, MD.—SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 11, 1844. NUMBER 34

TERMS.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING

At two Dollars and Fifty Cents per annum, payable half yearly in advance. No subscription will be received for a shorter period than six months, and no paper discontinued until all arrears are paid.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted on the usual terms, and where the number of insertions is not limited, they will be continued until direction to omit them is received, and charged accordingly.

MESSAGE.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for your approval and ratification, a treaty, which I have caused to be negotiated between the United States and Texas, whereby the latter, on the conditions therein set forth, has conveyed all its right of separate and independent sovereignty and jurisdiction to the United States. In taking so important a step, I have been influenced by what appeared to me to be the most controlling considerations of public policy and the general good; and in having accomplished it, should it meet with your approval, the government will have succeeded in re-claiming a territory which formerly constituted a portion, as it is confidently believed, of its domain, under the treaty of cession of 1803, by France, to the United States.

The country thus proposed to be annexed has been settled principally by persons from the United States, who emigrated on the invitation of both Spain and Mexico, and who carried with them into the wilderness which they have partially re-claimed, the laws, customs, and political institutions of their native land.—They are deeply indoctrinated in all the principles of civil liberty, and will bring along with them, in the act of re-association, devotion to our Union, and a firm and inflexible resolution to assist in maintaining the public liberty unimpaired—a consideration which, as it appears to me, is to be regarded as of no small moment. The country, itself, thus obtained, is of incalculable value in an agricultural and commercial point of view.

To a soil of inexhaustible fertility, it unites a genial and healthy climate, and is destined, at a day not distant, to make large contributions to the commerce of the world. Its territory is separated from the United States, in part, by an imaginary line, and by the river Sabine, for a distance of 310 miles; and its productions are the same with those of many of the contiguous States of the Union. Such is the country, such are its inhabitants, and such its capacities to add to the general wealth of the Union. As to the latter, it may be safely asserted, that in the magnitude of its productions it will equal, in a short time, under the protecting care of this government, if it does not surpass, the combined production of many States of the Confederacy.

A new and powerful impulse will thus be given to the navigating interest of the country, which will be chiefly engrossed by our fellow citizens of the Eastern and Middle States, who have already attained a remarkable degree of prosperity by the partial monopoly they have enjoyed of the carrying trade of the Union, particularly the coastwise trade, which this new acquisition is destined in time, and that not distant, to swell to a magnitude which cannot easily be computed; while the addition made to the boundaries of the home market, thus secured to their mining, manufacturing, and mechanical skill and industry, will be of a character the most commanding and important.

Such are some of the many advantages which will accrue to the Eastern and Middle States by the ratification of the treaty—advantages, the extent of which it is impossible to estimate with accuracy or properly appreciate. Texas being adapted to the culture of cotton, sugar, and rice, and devoting most of her energies to the raising of these productions, will open an extensive market to the Western States, in the important articles of beef, pork, horses, mules, &c., as well as in breadstuffs. At the same time, the Southern and Southwestern States will find, in the fact of annexation, protection and security to their peace and tranquility, as well against all domestic as foreign efforts to disturb them; thus consecrating anew the Union of the States, and holding out the promise of its perpetual duration.

Thus, at the same time that the tide of public prosperity is greatly swollen, an appeal, of what appears to the Executive to be of an imposing, if not of a resistless character, is made to the interests of every portion of the country. Agriculture, which would have a new and extensive market opened for its produce; commerce, whose ships would be freighted with the rich productions of an extensive and fertile region; and the mechanical arts, in all their various ramifications, would seem to unite in one universal demand for the ratification of the treaty.

But important as these considerations may appear, they are to be regarded as but secondary to others.—Texas, for reasons deemed sufficient by herself, threw off her dependence on Mexico, as far back as 1836, and consummated her independence by the battle of San Jacinto, in the same year; since which period, Mexico has attempted no serious invasion of her territory; but the contest has assumed features of a mere border war, characterized by acts revolting to humanity. In the year 1836 Texas adopted her constitution, under which she has existed as a sovereign power ever since, having been recognized as such by many of the principal powers of the world; and contemporaneously with its adoption by a solemn vote of her people, embracing all her population but ninety three persons, declared her anxious desire to be admitted into association with the U. States, as a portion of their territory.

This vote, thus solemnly taken, has never been reversed; and now, by the action of her constituted authorities, sustained as it is by the popular sentiment, reaffirms her desire for annexation. This course has been adopted by her without the employment of any similar measures on the part of this government. No intrigue has been set on foot to accomplish it. Texas herself wills it, and the Executive of the United States, concurring with her, has seen no sufficient reason to avoid the consummation of an act esteemed to be so desirable by both. It cannot be denied that Texas is greatly depressed in her energies by her long-protracted war with Mexico.

Under these circumstances, it is but natural that she should seek for safety and repose under the protection of some stronger power; and it is equally so that her people should turn to the United States, the land of their birth, in the first instance, in the pursuit of such protection. She has often before made known her wishes; but her advances have, to this time, been repelled. The Executive of the United State sees no longer any cause for pursuing such a course. The hazard of now defeating her wishes may be of the most fatal tendency. It might lead, and most probably would to such an entire alienation of sentiment and feeling as would inevitably induce her to look elsewhere for aid, and force her either to enter into dangerous alliances with other nations, who, looking with more wisdom to their interests, would, it is fairly to be presumed, readily adopt such expedients; or she would hold out the proffer of discriminating duties in trade and commerce, in order to secure the necessary assistance.

Whatever step she might adopt, looking to this object, would prove disastrous, in the highest degree, to the interests of the whole Union. To say nothing of the impolicy of our permitting the carrying trade and home market of such a country to pass out of our hands into those of a commercial rival, the government, in the first place, would be certain to suffer most disastrously in its revenue by the introduction of a system of smuggling upon an extensive scale, which an army of custom-house officers could not prevent—and which would operate to affect injuriously the interests of all industrial classes of this country. Hence would arise constant collisions between the inhabitants of the two countries, which would evermore endanger their peace.

A large increase of the military force of the United States would inevitably follow, thus devolving upon the people new and extraordinary burdens, in order not only to protect them from the danger of daily collision with Texas herself, but to guard their border inhabitants against hostile inroads, so easily excited on the part of the numerous and warlike tribes of Indians dwelling in their neighborhood. Texas would undoubtedly be unable, for many years to come, if at any time to resist, unaided and alone, the military power of the United States; but it is not extravagant to suppose that nations reaping a rich harvest from her trade, secured to them by advantageous treaties, would be induced to take part with her in any conflict with us, from the strongest considerations of public policy.

Such a state of things must subject to devastation the territory of contiguous States, and would cost the country in a single campaign, more treasure, thrice told over, than is stipulated to be paid and reimbursed by the treaty now proposed for ratification. I will not permit myself to dwell on this view of the subject.—Consequences of a fatal character to the peace of the Union and even to the preservation of the Union itself, might be dwelt upon. They will not, however, fail to occur to the mind of the Senate and of the country.—Nor do I indulge in any vague conjectures of the future. The documents now transmitted along with the treaty, lead to the conclusion, as inevitable, that if the boon now tendered be rejected, Texas will seek for the friendship of others.

In contemplating such a contingency, it cannot be overlooked that the United States are already almost surrounded by the possessions of European powers.—The Canadas, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, the islands in the American seas, with Texas, trammelled by treaties of alliance, or of a commercial character, differing in policy from that of the United States, would complete the circle. Texas voluntarily steps forth, upon terms of perfect honor and good faith to all nations, to ask to be annexed to the Union. As an independent sovereignty, her right to do this is unquestionable.

In doing so, she gives no cause of umbrage to any other power; her people desire it, and there is no slavish transfer of her sovereignty and independence. She has for eight years maintained her independence against all efforts to subdue her. She has been recognized as independent by many of the most prominent of the family of nations, and that recognition, so far as they are concerned, places her in a position, without giving any just umbrage to them, to surrender her sovereignty at her own will and pleasure.

The United States, actuated evermore by a spirit of justice, has desired, by the stipulations of the treaty, to render justice to all. They have made provisions for the payment of the public debt of Texas. We look to her ample and fertile domain as the certain means of accomplishing this; but this is a matter between the United States and Texas, and with which other governments have nothing to do. Our right to receive the rich grant tendered by Texas is perfect; and this government should not, having due respect either to its own honor or its own interests, permit its course of policy to be interrupted by the interference of other powers, even if such interference was threatened.

The question is one purely American. In the acquisition, while we abstain most carefully from all that could interrupt the public peace, we claim the right to exercise a due regard to our own. This government cannot, consistently with its honor, permit any such interference. With equal, if not greater propriety, might the United States demand of other governments to surrender their numerous and valuable acquisitions, made in time past, at numerous places on the surface of the globe, whereby they have added to their power and enlarged their resources.

To Mexico, the Executive is disposed to pursue a course conciliatory in its character, and at the same time to render her the most ample justice, by conventions and stipulations not inconsistent with the rights and dignity of the government. It is actuated by no spirit of unjust aggrandizement, but looks only to its own security. It has made known to Mexico, at several periods, its extreme anxiety to witness the termination of hostilities between that country and Texas.—Its wishes, however, have been entirely disregarded.—It has ever been ready to urge an adjustment of the dispute upon terms mutually advantageous to both.

It will be ready at all times to hear and discuss any claims Mexico may think she has on the justice of the United States, and to adjust any that may deem to be so on the most liberal terms. There is no desire on the part of the Executive to wound her pride, or effect injuriously her interest; but, at the same time, it cannot compromit by any delay in its action the essential interests of the United States. Mexico has no right to ask or expect this of us—we deal rightfully with Texas as an independent power. The war which has been waged for eight years has resulted only in the conviction, with all others than herself, that Texas cannot be reconquered.

I cannot but repeat the opinion, expressed in my message at the opening of Congress, that it is time it had ceased. The Executive, while it could not look upon its longer continuance without the greatest uneasiness, has nevertheless, for all past time, preserved a course of strict neutrality. It could not be ignorant of the fact of exhaustion which a war of so long a duration had produced. Least of all was it ignorant of the anxiety of other powers to induce Mexico to enter into terms of reconciliation with Texas, which, affecting the domestic institutions of Texas, would operate most injuriously upon the United States, and might most seriously threaten the existence of this happy Union.

Nor could it be unacquainted with the fact, that although foreign governments might disavow all design to disturb the relations which exist under the Constitution between these States, yet that one, the most powerful amongst them, had not failed to declare its marked and decided hostility to the chief features in those relations, and its purpose, on all suitable occasions, to urge upon Mexico the adoption of such a course in negotiating with Texas as to produce the obliteration of that feature from her domestic policy, as one of the conditions of her recognition, by Mexico, as an independent State.

The Executive was also aware of the fact, that formidable associations of persons, the subjects of foreign powers, existed, who were directing their utmost efforts to the accomplishment of this object. To these conclusions it was inevitably brought by the documents now submitted to the Senate. I repeat, the Executive saw Texas in a state of almost hopeless exhaustation, and the question was narrowed down to the simple proposition, whether the United States should accept the boon of annexation on fair and liberal terms, or, by refusing to do so, force Texas to seek a refuge in the arms of some other power, either through a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, or the adoption of some other expedient, which might virtually make her tributary to such power, and dependent upon it for all future time.

The Executive has full reason to believe that such would have been the result, without its interposition, and that such will be the result in the event either of unnecessary delay in the ratification, or of the rejection of the proposed treaty.

In full view, then, of the highest public duty, and as a measure of security against evils incalculably great, the Executive has entered into the negotiation, the fruits of which are now submitted to the Senate.

Independent of the urgent reasons which existed for the step it has taken, it might safely invoke the fact, which it confidently believes, that there exists no civilized government on earth, having a voluntary tender made it of a domain so rich and fertile, so replete with all that can add to national greatness and wealth, and so necessary to its peace and safety, that would reject the offer. Nor are other powers, Mexico inclusive, likely, in any degree, to be injuriously affected by the ratification of the treaty. The prosperity of Texas will be equally interesting to all; in the increase of the general commerce of the world, that prosperity will be secured by annexation.

But one view of the subject remains to be presented. It grows out of the proposed enlargement of our territory. From this I am free to confess, I see on danger. The federative system is susceptible of the greatest extension compatible with ability of the representation of the most distant state or territory to reach the seat of government in time to paticipate in the functions of legislation, and to make known the wants of the constituent body. Our confederated republic consisted originally of thirteen members. It now consists of twice that number, while applications are before Congress to permit other additions.

This addition of new States has served to strengthen rather than to weaken the Union.—New interests have sprung up, which require the united power of all, through the action of the common government to protect and defend upon the high seas and in foreign parts. Each State commits with perfect security, to that common government those great interests growing out of our relations with other nations of the whole world, and which equally involve the good of all the States. Its domestic concerns are left to its own exclusive management.

But if there were any force in the objection, it would seem to require an immediate abandonment of territorial possessions which lie in the distance, and stretch to a far-off sea; and yet no one would be found it is believed, ready to recommend such an abandonment. Texas lies at our very doors, and in our immediate vicinity.

Under every view which I have been able to take of the subject, I think that the interests of our common constituents, the people of all the States, and a love of the Union, left the Executive no other alternative than to negociate the treaty. The high and solemn duty of ratifying or rejecting it, is wisely devolved on the Senate by the Constitution of the United States.

JOHN TYLER.

WHIG GUBERNATORIAL CONVENTION.

After the nomination of Thomas G. Pratt of Prince Georges county had been promptly responded to by the Convention, and unanimously adopted:—

Mr. Cousin then addressed the Convention in an eloquent manner. He alluded to the recent triumphant victory of the Whigs of Maryland as taking the van in the Whig cause and leading to the successful results in other States which have characterized the recent elections, and to the importance which attaches to the approaching State election, preceding as it does the Presdential election. He conclued by pledging St. Mary's county to the support of the Hon. Thomas G. Pratt.

Mr. Crain, of Charles county, addressed the Convention in a forcible manner and said that the delegation from Charles county did not come into the Convention for the purpose of advancing the interests of any individual but to promote the interests and insure the success of the Whig party.—He hoped that the party would not attempt to concentrate on individuals but unite for the benefit of the Whig cause. He believed there would be union among the Whigs, and that the hopes in which our adversaries indulged of division in the Whig ranks, and a consequent defeat, would be fallacious, and concluded by pledging the support of the Whigs of Charles county to the support of the nominee of the Convention.

Mr. Pitts addressed the Convention in the eloquent and felicitious manner for which he is so deservedly celebrated. After expressing his gratification at the spirit of compromise and harmony with which the deliberations of the Convention had been conducted, he said that the Whigs of Baltimore had stricken down the very alters at which Democracy worshiped—that the Whigs of Baltimore gave every thing for the cause and nothing to the man, and if any one supposed that their individual disappointments would prevent them from rallying at the polls at the next election in all their strength—he was a stranger to the hearts of the Whigs of Baltimore. They had passed through a fiery ordeal, and the citadel, so called, the last lone asylum of Democracy had fallen before the conquering phalanx of the Whigs, and they had marched in triumph over its ruin.—He then concluded by pledging the vote of the Whig party of Baltimore to the support of the Hon. Thomas G. Pratt.

Mr. Roman pledged the Whigs of Washington and Alleghany to the support of the nominee of the Convention. He gave an interesting sketch of the labours and success of the Whigs of Washington county, by which they changed the vote from a majority of five hundred for the Democrats to a Whig majority of two hundred and fifty, and offered to accept on the spot the draft of the President of the Convention for a Whig majority of two hundred and fifty.

Mr. Alexander, of Anne Arundel, returned thanks in the name of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties, for the honor conferred on them by the choice of the Convention, and expressed the gartification experienced by them at the unanimity with which the nomination was made and the very liberal spirit which prevailed throughout all the members of the Convention.

Messrs. Tilghman of Talbot, Bond of Hartford, Long of Somerset, Brengle of Frederick, Keyser and Kilbourn of Baltimore county, and other members, also addressed the Convention, pledging their respective counties to the support of the nominee.

Mr. Bowie of Montgomery gave an interesting biographical sketch of the Hon. Thomas G. Pratt: having known him intimately from his youth, he knew his success in life arose from no family influence he was the orphan child of a widowed mother—he rose by his native energy, pure in purpose and upright in heart; he had rendered service to the State and was one of the noble band of twenty one who held the bonds of society together when boldest hearts trembled. He concluded his eloquent address by invoking the delegates to redeem the promises they had made to support the nominee of the Convention.

Resolutions of thanks were then tendered to the officers of the Convention, for the able and impartial manner in which they have discharged their duties.

The Chair was desired to appoint a committee of one from each county and the city of Baltimore whose duty it should be to select a State Central Committee for the State of Maryland.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS AT SIWAH.

It is stated in Wilkinson's Modern Egypt that they have a curious custom in receiving strangers at Siwah, the Oasis of Ammon. As soon as any one arrives, the Shekhel Khabbar, "shekh of the news," presents himself, and after the usual tokens of welcome, preceeds to question him respecting any sort of intelligence he may be able to give.—As soon as it has been obtained from him, the shekh relates it all to the people; and so tenacious is he of his priviledge, that even if they had heard it at the time from the mouthof the stranger they are obliged to listen to it again from this authoized reporter. Married people alone are allowed to live in the upper part of the town, and there no strangers are admitted, Nor is a native bachelor tolerated; he is obliged to live in the lower towns, and is thought unworthy to live in the same quarter as his married friends, until he has taken a wife. He then returns to the family house, and builds a suite of rooms above his father's; over this the second married son establishes himself, and the stories increse in proportion to the size of the family. This suffices to account for the height of many of the houses at Siwah. A similar regulation seems to have been observed in ancient times; and Q. Curtius says the first circuit contains the old palace of the kings (shekhs,) in the next are their wives and their children, as well as the oracle of the god, and the last is the abode of the guards and soldiery.

THE PRINCETON'S GUN.

The Trenton State Gazette thus speaks of the proposed method of forging a new gun for the Princeton, of the same size as that which bursted:

Col. Josiah N. Bird, of this city, has contrived a mode of making large wrought iron guns, which has received the approbation of Captain Stockton, and a gun of the size of the "Peace Maker" is to be immediately constructed at the iron works of Messrs. Bird & Weld. We are promised a more particular description of the invention; but at present, we can only state that the process will be commenced by placing together, in the form of a cylinder, a number of wrought iron staves of the whole proposed length of the gun, and of proper breadth, and four or six inches in thickness. These will be held together by wrought iron hoops, lying close together, the whole length of the staves, and welded upon them. Upon this row of hoops, another of larger diameter will be laid, and these welded upon the former; and additional rows will be put on, and welded to those previously on, until the desired thickness shall be obtained. The rim of the hoops will be about six inches wide, and they will be so laid, that the middle of the rims in one row of hoops will cover the joints between those of the next smaller row. The sides of the hoops will be carefully turned smooth, before they are laid on. The rims of the hoops will be thicker at the ends than in the middle, so that when, after being put on in a heated state, the hoops cool and contract, they will bind those under them, not only on the staves, but to each other, and thus present a resistance in both directions to the explosive force of the powder.

The proposed advantage of this mode of construction is, that the welding of small pieces of iron, such as of one row of hoops upon the surface of the others, can be done perfectly; while it is scarcely possible to weld large masses perfectly, or without destroying the strength of the iron.

Dying Rich.—The following lines, from the U. S. Gazette, have the eloquence of truth to recommend them:

An active business man is a rational man, and a blessing to the community. He keeps in gratifying exercise the talents which God has given him, which, of itself, is a blessing to him. He gives employment to the hand of industry, which is far better than giving alms to the unimployed. These are the legitimate and rational end of active business pursuits and wealth-getting—the gratification of the active powers, and promotion of industry. But the desire of growing rich, merely to die rich, is one of the most foolish intentions that ever entered the heart of foolish man. Experience has fully and emphatically taught the lesson, that much wealth left to heirs is, eight times out of ten, not a blessing, but a curse. Its expectation beguiles the soul—spoils all the manly powers. Its possession leads to misjudgement, excess, and finally, exhaustion and ruin. The time will yet come, when men of wealth will be wise enough to make a gradual disposition of their property while living—not prospective, but operative—and thereby have an eye to the use which is made of it, and participate in the greatest enjoyment that wealth is capable of giving—that of seeing it do good to others. They will dismiss the foolish aspiration of "dying rich," with the almost certain reflection that their heirs, sooner or later, will die poor.

A lecturer at the East recently took the ground that no man could become "an established fact in society," unless he got married.

The last version we have seen of the classic motto, "Root, hog, or die," runs as follows:—"Perforate the soil with thy proboscis, thou Queen City quadruped, or relinquish thy vitality."

"Why, mother, almost every word in John's letter is spelt wrong. You'd not have me marry such a man, surely." "La, me! I suppose that's the way to spell in the town where he lives. They have different fashions in every thing."

The following is not a bad specimen of the havoc sometimes made by those who write complimentary notes in the third person.—"Mr. A. presents his compliments to Mr. B. *I* have got a hat which is not *his*, if *he* have got a hat which is not *yours;* no doubt *they* are the expected one."

The following poetical superscription (says the Maine Farmer) we find advertised among the list of letters at the Post Office in this village:—

Take me to Maine before I get rusty,
To Mrs. S. P——, who lives in Augusta."

An exchange paper advertises a "house for sale *containing* about an acre of land." A very "dirty" concern.

"My spected bredren," said a venerable looking preacher of the Ethiopian race "blessed am dey dat spects nuttin, for dey aint gwine to be disappointed."

The utmost *discord* recently reigned at *Concord*, in the Granite State, it taking the inhabitants three days to elect their town officers.

©Maryland State Archives, msa_sc6044_1_5-0001.jpg