THE UNION.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, MAY 28, 1845.

☞ Israel C. James, C. W. James, H. M. Lewis, S. H. Stevenson, J. F. Johnson, J. H. Stevenson, W. A. Pierce, James Pierce, James K. Whipple, W. H. Weld, O. H. P. Stem, Henry Platt, William Gouldin, M. Boullemet, Jesse Stansbury, A. Billing, and W. S. Wood, are authorized to receive new subscribers, and make collections for the "Union."

We are requested to say the same gentlemen are authorized to make collections for the "*Globe*."

LATEST ACCOUNTS FROM MEXICO.

We lay before our readers some further accounts from Mexico, through the New Orleans papers of the 20th instant. They came to New Orleans in the Havana papers of the 10th, by the brig Titian; and this intelligence was received at Havana by the royal mail steamer Thames, from Vera Cruz. The last dates are from the city of Mexico to the 26th April, and Vera Cruz to the 30th. This is one day later from the Havana, than the accounts brought the other day to New York, stating "that an English steamer arrived at Havana on the 9th instant from Vera Cruz, with despatches for Mr. Crawford, the British Consul at that port, advising him that the boundary line of Texas had been defined and settled, and her independence guaranted by a convention between England, France and Mexico. This information was brought to New York by Captain Baker, of the bark Falmouth, which left Matanzas on the 7th instant—two days after the arrival of the British schooner at Havana."

The Mexican accounts, via Havana and New Orleans, embrace the communication (which is below) from the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Mexican Congress. There *is no war* yet from Mexico. The minister blusters a little; "breathes the same warlike spirit, in the event that the people of Texas shall ratify the propositions of the United States for annexation. He subsequently proposed to raise a loan of three millions of dollars, at a rate of interest not to exceed fifteen per cent. per annum, to be appropriated to carrying on a frontier war with Texas."

But the most remarkable part of the intelligence, as presented by Senor Cuevas to the Chambers, as well as by the Mexican journals, is, that the government of Texas has made private overtures for a reconciliation with Mexico. The minister does not, in so many words, propose to recognise the independence of Texas; but, in the diplomatic style, suggests that "the Executive be authorized to receive the proposals of Texas, to form arrangements, *and to conclude such a treaty as they may deem honorable to the republic*, the same to be submitted to the examination and approbation of Congress."

The New Orleans Tropic proposes this solution as a key to the whole matter, viz:

"The Mexican government has been of the opinion, for some time past, that the only conceivable plan for preventing the annexation of Texas to the United States, is to recognise her independence! This has been brooded upon, and the only obstacle in the way has been the stubborn and unyielding pride of the Mexican government. After having declared for so many years, and upon so many occasions, that she would *not* recognise the independence of Texas, and she *would* go to war with the United States if annexation took place, it was hardly to be expected that she would incontinently back out from her positions, unless she had some reasonable excuse, or some occasion for a display of magnanimity. The good nature of some of the foreign envoys, resident at the imperial city, has removed the obstacle, and paved the way for negotiation. This was easily done, by a private communication to the government of Texas, stating that if *she* would make propositions for a peaceful settlement of their disputes, Mexico would lend a willing ear. That this was done, we have no doubt; and it is not remarkable that President Jones should be willing, by making propositions which were evidently desired, to spare the *pride* of an ancient enemy."

But, as the French say, "*All this is changed.*" All these events are explained away by subsequent developments from Texas herself. The minister's communication to Congress is dated on the 21st of April. Just before that time, the British chargé, Elliott, had no doubt some communications with Mr. Jones, the President of Texas. Mr. Jones probably authorized some propositions to be made to Mexico, on which Senor Cuevas founds his own suggestion to the Congress. It is certain that, some time in April, Mr. Jones declared that he expected to receive the offer of unconditional independence in sixty days, and that he would submit it to the people, along with the proposals from the United States. And this was at a time, too, when it was not ascertained whether he intended to call an extra session of Congress. But the timely force of the public sentiment gave a new aspect to the whole question. It overcame the hesitation of President Jones. It has baffled the designs of England. It has disappointed the calculations of Senor Cuevas, as well as of the party in our own country that has opposed annexation.

President Jones will henceforth support the measures with all his force. The National Register, his organ, has avowed its devoted adherence to annexation. The Congress of the 16th June will probably give its unanimous sanction to the measure of reunion. The convention will then be called to form her constitution. The legislature under that instrument will next be elected, and called together to elect her senators; and they, with her two representatives, will in all probability appear at the doors of our Congress before the 1st of January next, to ask admission as soon as her constitution has been sanctioned by that body. Such was the precedent set in the cases of Missouri and of Michigan.

We consider this late intelligence, therefore, from Mexico, as of little consequence. The reports it brings us are literally "the day after the fair."

From the New Orleans Courier, May 20.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

The English frigate Thames arrived at Havana on the 6th inst. She brought news seven days later from Mexico than that received here by the Creole—dates from Vera Cruz of April 30, and from the city of Mexico of the 26th. We give the following extracts from the Faro Industrial of Havana.

The Vera Cruzano and other journals say the Texian government addressed propositions to that of Mexico on the subject of acknowledging the independence of the republic; and some of the papers say the propositions were favorably received. On the 21st April they were taken into consideration by the chamber of deputies, at the suggestion of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, who requested that the Executive be authorized to hear the offers of Texas in order to conclude a treaty that would be honorable to Mexico, submitting the result to the examination of Congress.

This motion excited warm debates, and all the journals are hostile to any negotiation not based on the re-incorporation of Texas with Mexico.

One of the journals contains an article which declares that the minister of the interior had published a memorial importing that it would be no disgrace to enter upon a negotiation for the acknowledgment of Texian independence. The writer of the article sees, in this opinion of the minister, the finger of England.

The following is a communication from the Mexican Executive to Congress, on the proposal of President Jones:

"GENTLEMEN: The affairs of Texas are so important, and so imperatively claim the consideration of Congress and the Executive, that we cannot, without incurring a heavy responsibility, postpone the resolution we have taken, to prepare for a denouement which shall reconcile at once the honor and interests of Mexico. The Executive having assembled a considerable number of troops on the frontier, and made use of all the resources in its power to accomplish the desired object, and being occupied with the business to be laid before Congress, for its part sees no other course than that of persisting in maintaining the republic in the position becoming her power and sovereignty.

"But circumstances have arisen which render it not only proper, but necessary, to enter upon negotiations, which may prevent the annexation of Texas to the United States. Think, in the first place, of the war which must inevitably break out between Mexico and the American republic, for which Mexico is not prepared; and reflect on the evils which such a rupture would bring upon us. Texas has made the first advance, and his eminence the President 'ad interim,' deeply penetrated with the importance of his duty, and the weight of a unanimous resolution on this subject, is of opinion that the executive should adopt no final determination without the concurrence first obtained of the Congress; he is of opinion that, under these circumstances, he cannot exercise the powers conferred by the constitution for conducting negotiations with foreign nations.

"The government, always faithful to its duties, and anxious to submit its acts to free discussion—convinced, also, that these national questions ought to be treated with a pure patriotism and a conscience that spurns all assaults and all prejudices,—is of opinion that, in the present situation of affairs, he cannot decline the offer of negotiation without violating his obligation to avoid the deciding on so delicate a point without submitting it to Congress. If he could make an arrangement that would satisfy the national honor, he would with pleasure submit it to Congress; and if that object could not be attained, the same executive, anxious for peace, would be the first to decide upon war, which would be the more just as all our exertions had been used to avoid it.

"The preliminary proposals of Texas are of a character honorable and advantageous to Mexico; and the executive, without deciding upon them, has not hesitated to receive them as the commencement of the arrangement desired by Texas. To refuse them peremptorily would inevitably annex Texas to the United States; and Congress will perceive, at once, that so ill-advised a measure would lay a terrible weight of responsibility upon the executive.

"To refuse to hear proposals which may lead to a satisfactory conclusion, advantageous to Mexico, would be the part of a fanciful patriotism. But when we are compelled to foresee and consider the evils of a frightful and ruinous war, let us try to avoid such misfortunes, and not brave them except in a crisis which involves our honor.

"If in view of the act for the annexation of Texas to the United States, the executive had followed the impulse of its own sentiments, Congress would have understood the importance of its conduct, in adopting a course which would have been gloriously sustained by the patriotism of all Mexicans. It is a great sacrifice for the President *ad interim*, and his ministers, to solicit the authorization at the end of this communication; but he owes this sacrifice to his ardent devotion to the republic, and to the certainty that, in making all honorable concessions for peace, if war should follow, it will be terminated in a manner worthy of the national arms, and of the claims of justice against the power that provoked it.

"Wherefore his eminence the President *ad interim*, in full council of his ministers, and with their unanimous concurrence, has charged me to submit to Congress the following resolution:

"'The executive is authorized to receive the proposals of Texas, to form arrangements, and to conclude such a treaty as they may deem honorable to the republic, the same to be submitted to the examination and approbation of Congress.'

"With the highest consideration, I am, gentlemen.

"LUIS C. CUEVAS.

"God and liberty.

"Mexico, April 21, 1845.

"To the Secretaries of the Chamber of Deputies."

The Diario de la Marina says that the amnesty bill with amendments would be approved on the 16th, granting eight days to Generals Santa Anna and Canalizo to quit the soil of the republic to undergo an exile of ten years. Their pecuniary liabilities are excepted, the abdication of the presidency by Santa Anna being accepted.

The American squadron, consisting of a frigate, a sloop of war, and two brigs, were moored in the road of Vera Cruz.

General Almonte is arrived in Mexico.

In the resolution offered by Mr. Cuevas the Congress is occupied with two bills: 1. The law of the American Congress impairs in no respect the sovereignty over Texas; that law violates the treaties between the two countries, and particularly their common boundaries, and Mexico ought to repel the threatened usurpation by force of arms. The second part of the bill calls all Mexicans to arms, and authorizes the executive to arm the whole of the permanent and local militia, with power to draw upon all extraordinary resources which may be thought necessary.

The earthquakes which were felt at Mexico on the 7th April produced great ravages. Several buildings in the capital were overthrown, and in the confusion may robberies and other crimes were committed.

A letter from Guanajuato says that the village of Rio Blanco no longer exists—the greater part of its population was swallowed up in a yawning gulf, like a dreadful cavern, with a mouth 400 feet long and 13 wide. A man who had two children swallowed up, says that more than 60 persons lost their lives. There was another earthquake on the 10th at Mexico, which lasted two seconds, and was twice repeated. The government had ordered religious solemnities to call down the protection of Heaven.

[*N. O. Courier.*

The above document will take some of our citizens by surprise. Though it had been whispered about that the government of Texas had made overtures to Mexico for the recognition of the independence of the young republic, the fact was neither officially known, nor generally believed. The communication of Senor Cuevas settles the matter beyond all "ifs or buts," and proves very conclusively that President Jones and his cabinet have been pestering Mexico to acknowledge Texian independence, in the hope that such an acknowledgment, by gratifying the national pride of the Texians might induce them to reject annexation. We entertain no such belief, but continue our budget of news.

The Mexican government, in the event of the failure of the proposed negotiations, is preparing for war. The authority of Congress has been required, in order to contract a loan of three millions of dollars, at an interest not greater than 15 per cent. Authority has likewise been asked for the settlement of the foreign debt of Mexico.

Various projects have been submitted to Congress for a general amnesty of the military chiefs against whom prosecution has been commenced, and some have proposed that the amnesty should be extended to all the political criminals, with the restriction that Santa Anna and Canalizo, and the four ministers who signed the decree of the 29th November, should quit the country for ten years, or submit to the continuation of their trial. The latter proposition, slightly modified, was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies on the 16th. Santa Anna, Canalizo, and the four ministers, are allowed eight days to determine whether they will choose an expatriation of ten years, or the continuation of their trials. Breaches of trust in pecuniary matters form an exception to this general pardon, and Santa Anna's abdication of the presidency is accepted.

General Almonte had arrived in the city of Mexico.

There are other items of information given by the Mexican journals, but they have been already published by us.—*N. O. Bee.*

From the New York Sun, May 27.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO—PROBABLE RESTORATION OF SANTA ANNA.

By the arrival at this port yesterday of the bark Eugenia, Captain Biscoe, we have our files from Vera Cruz to the 2d instant, inclusive.

The United States squadron, consisting of the steamer Princeton and other vessels, under the command of Commodore Stockton, had arrived at Vera Cruz a few days before the sailing of the Eugenia. The usual friendly salutes were exchanged between the squadron and the Mexican fortifications.

The British minister for Texas had arrived at Vera Cruz in a vessel of war from Galveston, and proceeded by express to the city of Mexico.

The friends of Santa Anna are rapidly extending their influence throughout the republic; and his restoration to power is looked upon as highly probable, if not certain. Among the causes which have tended to produce this extraordinary change in public opinion, the late earthquake may be ranked first in importance, the clergy having preached upon it as an evidence of the wrath of Heaven towards the people of Mexico, for their ingratitude to a great chief. The influence of Senor Almonte, the former private secretary to Santa Anna, and late minister in the United States, has also been exerted in favor of the fallen President. The next arrival may bring us accounts of Santa Anna's peaceable restoration to power. In the mean time the acting government has sent to Texas an *ultimatum*, offering independence, guarantied by France and England, provided Texas rejects annexation; which offer being, *de facto*, a recognition of independence, will be rejected; and the present government of Mexico, becoming unpopular at home, abdicates in favor of Santa Anna. Texas then comes into the Union.

It is the fault of the Mexicans themselves if they do not select a better man to preside over them. We have no wish to cavil with their selection; nor is it our business to dictate to them.

The earthquake of 7th April was disastrous in the interior. The Villa de Rio Blanco was left a mass of ruins, and half of the inhabitants were overwhelmed by the opening of the earth. Frightful chasms opened and closed alternately in the streets, swallowing the inhabitants as though huge monsters were feasting upon human beings.

The Mexican Congress remained in session. The President had proposed a loan of three millions of dollars to meet the expenses of a war with the United States, should Texas agree to annexation. The people are exceedingly anxious for a war with the United States.

ONE OF THE WHIG ORGANS.

The following extraordinary revelations from the last "Richmond Whig," are calculated to excite as much indignation as surprise. This was the journal which was principally employed, during the last campaign, in raising against the republicans of Virginia the humbug clamor that they were concerned with a few ultra politicians in South Carolina, in plotting the dissolution of our blessed Union. The assertion was scouted by the whole republican party of the State; and no one was more open and bold in discrediting such a chimera than the present whig delegate elect of the city of Richmond, James Lyons, esq. And now we see this same press putting forth the following hasty, indiscreet, gratuitous predictions:

"But the coat must be cut according to the cloth; and nothing is more indubitable to the eye of historic experience than that Virginia must either resume her rank in the Union or be thrust still lower down—she must prepare to be conqueror or conquered—to maintain, at least, her sovereign footing, or to sink into a province. *We have little faith that this Union is going to continue much longer: it cannot, in the nature of things.* The unhomogeneousness and dissimilarity of its people—their clashing interests, principles, passions, and prejudices—the enormous extent of the empire, about to exceed any thing which the world has witnessed, while it is still historically true that the brevity of empires is always in inverse proportion to their magnitude—*every presage and every admonition from the past, warns us of an early dissolution of the Union.* The wonder is not that there will be dissolution, *but that there has not yet been dissolution*; as in natural history the phenomenon is not that man dies, but that he should live so long: or, as an old hymn expresses the idea:

'Strange! that a harp with thousand strings
Should keep in tune so long!'

"*To dissolution we must come.* It is as abhorrent to us as to any—but the wise man does not shut his eyes to avoid seeing danger as it really exists, but looks it in the face, to enable him, by a full survey of it, to shape his course—to grapple with it, to elude it, or to learn in time to submit to what is unavoidable.

"Suppose, for argument sake, *the Union dissolved, no matter by whose agency, with what motives, or under what new geographical boundaries; dissolution and war would be consequences scarcely possible to escape.* How would Virginia fare in such a contingency? To provide for what is so probable, not to say so inevitable, her statesmen ought to develop her resources. The danger which *may* come, they ought to regard as *certain* to come. That there is a possibility of our being enslaved, ought to be an argument for the adoption of all possible means which human wisdom can suggest to avert that last and greatest calamity.

"The true and only means indeed for the prevention of such a catastrophe, in our situation, are to unite every portion of the State by bonds of a common interest and common attachment—to make us by intercourse what we are not now, *one people*," &c.

The *Italics* are our own.

In reply to these ominous anticipations, we say at once that those who make them are not the men to prevent their fulfilment. They will be in the situation of the apathetic Turks, with the belief of predestination paralysing their energies, and preventing the adoption of the necessary remedies to defeat it. Our empire is not too large to be kept together. In fact, the introduction of internal improvements, and especially of railroads and steam power, will bring us nearer to the Pacific than Savannah was to Portland in 1789. The interests of this great country are, in part, *homogeneous*—that is to say, one portion of our country produces an article for consumption, and another furnishes a market to consume it; and different sections furnish different articles for exchange; and thus are held together by mutual interests, operating with the more force because of the free trade and the exemption of all duties between one section and another. Whenever our interests are so unhomogeneous that government cannot confer a benefit upon one section which is not a benefit, but rather a burden, upon another, it only shows that the government ought to be particularly careful how it exercises any such power at all, and how it stretches out its arm to confer a benefit upon the one section which only operates as a burden upon another. It is clear, therefore, that every practicable means should be used to knit this Union together; and it is astonishing to see how any man can coolly sit down to "calculate its value," or rashly predict its dissolution. Our motto is, that "this Union can and must be preserved." The very confidence that it must be maintained, leads every one to exhibit an additional spirit and determination to maintain it. Let others forget, if they can, the blood which was once shed in a common cause—the common glories which we enjoy—the proud satisfaction with which we have "trod the road to grandeur and to freedom together." Let them forget, if they can, the lessons which are taught by Washington in his valedictory address, and the mischiefs which will be spread over the whole country by the dissolution of the Union. The great body of the people will reverence and cherish it, as the Jews of old did the holy ark of the covenant. The man who believes in its downfall, could not (if he were correct in his anticipations) be too prompt in recommending to Virginia to apply her resources to her own defence. Her policy would be to erect the necessary forts on the south side of the Potomac, and to bristle its banks with cannon. We will not hold the whigs of Virginia responsible for the indiscretions of their organ. (That would, indeed, be too severe and unjust a disposition.) But we do entreat them to remonstrate in a frank and friendly spirit with the Richmond Whig; and to repress language which almost "betrays like treason," and holds up entirely false lights to deceive and encourage the foreign enemies of our country.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The "Cincinnati Gazette," of the 21st inst., gives some very interesting proceedings of the general assembly of the Presbyterian church of the previous day. The following is the report on the subject of slavery, which was adopted by the convention. Although there are some views of the subject which are pressed too far, and some expressions which might be modified for the better, yet the general spirit of the report is (compared with some others) liberal, considerate, and such as every southron can hail with great pleasure:

"The committee, to whom was referred the memorials on the subject of slavery, beg leave to submit the following report:

"The memorials may be divided into three classes, viz:

"1. Those which represent the system of slavery as it exists in these United States, as a great evil, and pray this general assembly to adopt measures for the amelioration of the condition of the slaves.

"2. Those which ask the assembly to receive memorials on the subject of slavery, to allow a full discussion of it, and to enjoin upon the members of our church, residing in States whose laws forbid the slaves being taught to read, to seek by all lawful means the repeal of those laws.

"3. Those which represent slavery as a moral evil, a heinous sin in the sight of God, calculated to bring upon the church the curse of God, and calling for the exercise of discipline in the case of those who persist in maintaining or justifying the relation of master to slaves.

"The question which is now unhappily agitating and dividing other branches of the church, and which is pressed upon the attention of the assembly by the three classes of memorialists just named, is, whether the holding of slaves is, under all circumstances, a heinous sin, calling for the discipline of the church.

"The church of Christ is a spiritual body, whose jurisdiction extends only to the religious faith and moral conduct of her members. She cannot legislate where Christ has not legislated, nor make terms of membership which he has not made. The question, therefore, which this assembly is called upon to decide, is this: 'Do the Scriptures teach that the holding of slaves, without regard to circumstances, is a sin, the renunciation of which should be made a condition of membership in the church of Christ?

"It is impossible to answer this question in the affirmative, without contradicting some of the plainest declarations of the Word of God. That slavery existed in the days of Christ and his Apostles, is an admitted fact. That they did not denounce the relation itself as sinful, as inconsistent with Christianity; that slaveholders were admitted to membership in the churches organized by the Apostles; that, while they were required to treat their slaves with kindness, and as rational, accountable, immortal beings, and, if Christians, as brethren in the Lord, they were not commanded to emancipate them; that slaves were required to be obedient to their masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, with singleness of heart, as unto Christ,—are facts which meet the eye of every reader of the New Testament. This assembly cannot, therefore, denounce the holding of slaves as necessarily a heinous and scandalous sin, calculated to bring upon the church the curse of God, without charging the Apostles of Christ with conniving at such sin, introducing into the church such sinners, and thus bringing upon them the curse of the Almighty.

"In so saying, however, the assembly are not to be understood as denying that there is evil connected with slavery. Much less do they approve those defective and oppressive laws by which, in some of the States, it is regulated. Nor would they by any means countenance the traffic of slaves for the sake of gain—the separation of husbands and wives, parents and children, for the sake of 'filthy lucre,' or for the convenience of the master—or cruel treatment of slaves in any respect. Every Christian and philanthropist certainly should seek, by all peaceable and lawful means, the repeal of unjust and oppressive laws, and the amendment of such as are defective, so as to protect the slaves from cruel treatment by wicked men, and secure to them the right to receive religious instruction.

"Nor is this assembly to be understood as countenancing the idea that masters may regard their servants as *mere property*, not as human beings, rational, accountable, immortal. The Scriptures prescribe not only the duties of servants, but of masters also, warning the latter to discharge those duties 'knowing that their master is in heaven, neither is there respect of persons with him.'

"The assembly intend simply to say, that since Christ and his inspired Apostles did not make the holding of slaves a bar to communion, we, as a court of Christ, have no authority to do so, since they did not attempt to remove it from the church by legislation, we have no authority to legislate on the subject. We feel constrained further to say that, however desirable it may be to ameliorate the condition of the slaves in the southern and western States, or to remove slavery from our country, these objects we are fully persuaded can never be secured by ecclesiastical legislation. Much less can they be attained by those indiscriminate denunciations against slaveholders, without regard to their character or circumstances, which have, to so great an extent, characterized the movements of modern abolitionists, which, so far from removing the evils complained of, tend only to perpetuate and aggravate them.

"The Apostles of Christ sought to ameliorate the condition of slaves, not by denouncing and excommunicating their masters, but by teaching both masters and slaves the glorious doctrines of the Gospel, and enjoining upon such the discharge of their relative duties. Thus only can the church of Christ, as such, now improve the condition of the slaves in our country.

"As to the extent of the evils involved in slavery, and the best methods of removing them, various opinions prevail, and neither the Scriptures nor our constitution authorize this body to present any particular course to be pursued by the churches under our care. The assembly cannot but rejoice, however, to learn that the ministers and churches in the slaveholding States are awaking to a deeper sense of their obligation to extend to the slave population generally the means of grace; and many slaveholders, not professedly religious, favor this object. We earnestly exhort them to abound more and more in this good work. We would exhort every believing master to remember that his master is also in heaven, and in view of all the circumstances in which he is placed, to act in the spirit of the golden rule, 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.'

"In view of the above principles and facts,

"*Resolved*, First, That the general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States was originally organized, and has since continued the bond of union in the church upon the conceded principle that the existence of domestic slavery, under the circumstances in which it is found in the southern portion of the country, is no bar to christian communion.

"Second, That the petitions that ask the assembly to make the holding of slaves in itself a matter of discipline, do virtually require this judicatory to dissolve itself, and abandon the organization under which, by the Divine blessing, it has so long prospered. The tendency is evidently to separate the northern from the southern portion of the church; a result which every good citizen must deplore as tending to the dissolution of the union of our beloved country, and which every enlightened christian will oppose as bringing about a ruinous and unnecessary schism between brethren who maintain a common faith.

"A division of the report was called for, which was accordingly taken, and the vote was first taken on the resolutions.

"Mr. McMaster moved to amend the first resolution by inserting the word 'sometimes,' so as to read 'under the circumstances in which it is sometimes found,' &c. The amendment was lost, and the resolution was passed almost unanimously.

"The second resolution was passed by an almost unanimous vote.

"Mr. McMaster also moved to amend the preamble, which was lost, and the preamble was adopted.

"The whole was then adopted—ayes 164, noes 12. Non liquet 3, excused 1."

THE TRUE SPIRIT!

We extract the following article from that capital paper, "*The Nashville Union.*" The resolutions, which we shall publish to-morrow, are in admirable spirit. They pursue the true distinction between a course that is too rash, and one that is too yielding. They are willing to negotiate; they deprecate war, but they deprecate still more the sacrifice of the rights and honor of our country. It is one of the most auspicious features of this meeting, that it presents both parties, without any regard to party lines, united in supporting the honor of their country:

"TEXAS AND OREGON MEETING.—The meeting called last week for the purpose of giving expression to the popular mind, in regard to the Oregon and Texas questions, was held on Saturday in the chamber of the House of Representatives. That spacious hall was crowded to overflowing, and we were glad to observe that both political parties were well represented. The meeting was called by the democrats—it was right for them to lead off in this matter—but they invited all to attend who are in favor of sustaining the President in the present crisis, and it was right for the whigs to feel themselves embraced in this call. There was nothing in it of party politics—it was a national meeting, an American assemblage, regardless of minor domestic divisions. The chairman of the meeting was a democrat, and he promptly announced the true character of the proceeding; whereupon two secretaries were appointed—one a whig and the other a democrat.

"The resolutions re-affirm our title to Oregon in explicit language, and give the strongest assurance to the President that the people of Tennessee will stand by and sustain him in maintaining that title. They deprecate war and approve the continuance of negotiations; but when our rights cannot be secured by negotiation, they are then for war as the last resort. The resolutions, however, are in another column and speak for themselves.

"The sentiments contained in the resolutions, and those expressed by the various speakers, were such as became American citizens, conscious of their rights and resolved to maintain them. They were cordially and warmly responded to by the dense audience, in which there was but one feeling—a deep and hearty devotion to the honor and best interests of the country.

"The President may rest assured that the people of Tennessee are heartily with him in the present crisis. They warmly approve the stand he has taken upon the Oregon question. They are prepared to support him in every possible manner in sustaining our title to the entire territory. They would avoid war if it can be done honorably and without surrendering any of our rights; but if the worst must come in order to preserve our territory and our honor inviolate, he may calculate with confidence upon a determined and efficient support from the chivalrous citizens of his own State. The patriotic sons of patriot sires have inherited the spirit of chivalry of country which have distinguished us as the 'volunteer State.' No domestic party divisions will be found in a conflict with a foreign power—we will present an unbroken front. We say then to the President, and so saying, we speak the sentiment of Tennessee, Stand firmly on the position which you have taken; let all negotiations be prosecuted with an eye to the preservation of our title and our honor; and when negotiation has proved unavailing and war must come, announce the result, and the sons of the Hickory State are ready for the conflict."

RUMOR.—The New Orleans Courier of the 20th (by this evening's southern mail,) states the arrival on that morning, at New Orleans, of the Mexican schooner Relampago, from Vera Cruz, which port she left on the 10th inst.

She is said to have been chartered at a high price, to bring despatches from the British minister at Mexico to the British minister at Washington. Mr. Johnson is the bearer of them, and intended to take his departure for Washington that same morning.

The "Courier" says:

"The Relampago brings a report that the Mexican government has positively declared war against the United States. We make this statement as we received it, without vouching for the accuracy of the rumor. It may be true or it may be false. If Mexico has declared war, it is odd that a Mexican captain, knowing the fact, would trust his vessel in the waters of the United States, where she is liable, according to his own story, to seizure and condemnation."

[The whole story wants confirmation. Letters have been officially received here from New Orleans, stating the report, but not in positive terms.—*Union.*]

A letter was received, by last evening's western mail, by a gentleman in this city, with the superscription and frank of Gen. Jackson, postmarked the 20th.

The President, the Secretaries of the Treasury and of the Navy, and the Attorney General, with their respective families, visited Mount Vernon to-day by land, and are expected, of course, to return this evening.

OFFICIAL.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Extract from a letter from Commodore Skinner, dated at Mesurado Roads, 4th March, 1845.

"The weather is very warm; the thermometer ranges in the cabin, well shaded, between 84° and 86° Farenheit. The tornado season is commencing; we have already experienced several, accompanied by much lightning and torrents of rain, but not much wind.

"The officers and crew, so far, enjoy good health and spirits."

Extract from a letter of the 8th March, at the same place.

"It is my intention to sail to-day or to-morrow to leeward, touching at all points of interest along the coast, as far south as the southern limit of the station; and further south, should it be necessary."

No despatches received at this department by the late arrival from the coast of Africa, or from Vera Cruz.

OBITUARY.

The Charleston Courier announces the death of John Campbell, esq., at his residence in Marlborough district, on the 19th instant, from a hemorrhage of the lungs. He was for many years a distinguished member of Congress from the Peedee district; but at the last election declined being a candidate on account of ill-health. "He graduated at the South Carolina College in the year 1819, a member of the remarkable class of which the Rev. Thomas House Taylor and C. G. Memminger, esq., took the chief distinctions, and which gave to Congress all, or nearly all, at the same time, the Hon. Franklin H. Elmore, the Hon. William K. Clowney, the Hon. John P. Richardson, and the lamented subject of this notice, from this State, together with the Hon. Mark A. Cooper, from Georgia, and the Hon. Dixon H. Lewis, from Alabama—the last-named, however, after a time, joining and graduating with the class of 1820."

In the Mobile Register we see stated the death of a very old and popular citizen, John B. Hogan, of Mobile. The Register says: "Colonel Hogan was a gallant officer during the late war, and served the government with much energy in the last Creek war in this State. He has represented this county repeatedly in the State legislature, and was for a number of years collector of this port. An ardent, brave, warm-hearted man, always a decided, uncompromising party man, he had devoted friendships, and made bitter enmities. The last are, we trust, buried in his tomb. The first will long preserve the memory of his good qualities in the bosoms of his numerous friends."

[*Richmond Enquirer.*

MR. MCDUFFIE.—An extract from a private letter to the editor of the Augusta Chronicle, says:

"ABBEVILLE, May 22.

"I have just heard that Mr. McDuffie was attacked suddenly on yesterday with paralysis, and has lost the use of one side, and his speech."

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our New York correspondent.]

NEW YORK, May 25, 1845.

The administration of criminal justice in New York presents many singular features. There is an ultra sect of extra philanthropists existing in this community who oppose all capital punishment. They think all laws for the infliction of such punishment ought to be repealed, and perpetual imprisonment substituted. We have an organized society for promoting this view of the case, who will probably endeavor to bring forward their project into the deliberations of the convention to amend the constitution of this State, should the people determine to hold one. It is said Judge Edmonds, before whom Polly Bodine was tried, favors this novel feature in criminal jurisprudence. Without intending any disrespect to those who advocate the abolition of capital punishment, we must be permitted to say that, to us, there does not appear a plainer, more direct, or explicit declaration in Holy Writ, than that "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." We do not see what is to be gained on the score of humanity, by the substitution of perpetual and solitary confinement for capital punishment. Of the two modes, is it not very clear that hanging is the most humane? When the Bastile in Paris was demolished, and men who had been confined within its walls for twenty, thirty, or forty years, were liberated, it was found that a large proportion of them had become insane. Cutting off man from his fellows, and from speech, for life, no doubt would have the tendency to produce insanity. Is this better than hanging?

The effect of this new social opinion occasionally manifests itself with jurors here and in Philadelphia. To hang a man for murder in the latter city has become extremely difficult; and even in New York, where the doctrine is only believed in to a limited extent, convictions for murder are found extremely difficult. We do not see how a judge, who entertains any doubt as to the moral soundness of the law prescribing capital punishments for certain heinous offences, can conscientiously take his oath to execute them, and sit as judge for that purpose!

Considering the black turpitude of Polly Bodine's case, there has been the most remarkable delay in visiting her crime with justice. It has now been about a year and a half since this woman was charged, on what would appear the most conclusive evidence, with the commission of a deed unequalled for atrocity in the annals of crime. Her brother's wife and child are found murdered, and the body of one partly consumed by fire, communicated to the house. The husband was from home, his wife and child being unprotected. Polly Bodine was intimate at her brother's; often visited his wife, and staid with her all night. Polly, at the time of the murder, was living with a man by the name of Wait—her husband having been sent once to the penitentiary, and afterwards died.

On the night of the murder, the 25th December, 1843, she was on Staten island, and seen there early next morning seeking a ferry boat to come to New York. On news of the murder and arson reaching New York, she becomes alarmed; and instead of rushing to her brother's house to grieve over the murdered bodies of his young wife and innocent babe, she, on hearing that parties had entered Wait's store and inquired for Wait or her, takes to flight, and wanders about the city, endeavoring to secrete herself from recognition and pursuit. After she was arrested, it was found she had pawned her brother's silver spoons, and other articles of value, at certain pawnbrokers' in the city; the spoons having the initials of her brother's name marked upon them, and she being recognized by the parties with whom she had pledged them, as the woman who had deposited them there subsequent to the murders on Staten island. It also appeared in evidence, that Wait, with whom she was living in New York, was severely pressed for money. It was thought she had heard her brother speak of having a thousand dollars in cash in the house, and that the act was done to enable her to obtain possession of it, which she, however, failed in doing, as her brother had concealed it, before leaving, in a wood pile near the house.

This is the substance of Polly Bodine's case, whose father is a man of means, and, with other members of the family, has employed the ablest counsel to defend her; and Polly, although found guilty by a jury of her country, still lingers in the "Tombs."

Judge Edmonds, before whom she was tried, gave a very fair and liberal charge.

We hope, however, the belief attributed to the judge, in the new notion of wrong in capital punishment, is not correct. And we also trust he is not the man of such weak credulity as that attributed to him by a correspondent in New York to a Cincinnati paper, to the effect that a Dr. Gray had under his *mesmeric control* some poor, weak, nervous woman, of such powerful clairvoyance that she could describe past events, as well as the present and future, at a distance from her, and of which she was previously ignorant; that one day, when entranced by Dr. Gray, she declared to him that Polly Bodine did not murder Mrs. Houseman and child, her brother's family; but that they were killed by other parties, or that men had done it. The correspondent goes on to say, that Judge Edmonds went to Dr. Gray's house to hear the girl repeat her story, and that it made a strong impression upon his mind!! If true, can this be the 19th century, or is it the age of witchcraft and wizzard craft of the dark ages?

The Journal of Commerce, on the 24th instant, published an interesting letter from a gentleman in South America, descriptive of a journey to the capital of *Paraguay*. He, with his companions, set out from Rio Janeiro, passed out the southern borders of Brazil, by the way of the department of Rio Grande, and the town of Puerto Alegre, and finally entered Corrientes, and from thence entered Paraguay, finally reaching the town of Asuncion, (Assumption,) the seat of government for Paraguay, which is a large town built after the Spanish fashion. It is situated on the east bank of the Paraguay river, about one hundred and seventy miles above its confluence with the Parana. They found a civil and hospitable reception by his Excellency Don Andres Gil, Secretary of State, who presented them to his Excellency the President Senor Don Carlos Antonio Lopez, whom they found a corpulent man, "weighing over two hundred and fifty pounds." He entered into familiar conversation with them; defended the non-intercourse policy of Dr. Francia, who foresaw the civil wars that were likely to break out; stated he had not been so cruel as represented; that it was true, he visited summary justice upon those who plotted treason, but that a great many, reputed dead, were afterwards found imprisoned, and set at liberty. He assured the party that citizens from the United States would always be welcome to visit Paraguay. He spoke favorably of the United States, and thought we ought to recognise the independence of Paraguay and establish commercial relations. He thought if some of our enterprising citizens would place a steamboat on the Parana, they would do well; that such a boat, drawing not over four feet of water, could ascend the rivers of the Palcomayo and the Amiso to the richest portions of Bolivia, and that the voyage to Buenos Ayres could be made with great facility. He said, during the Spanish government, a vessel of 500 tons was built at Asuncion and sent to Spain.

The writer states that the country is beautiful, and well adapted to the growth of sugar, cotton, tobacco, corn, &c., and supplies many cattle, with quantities of hides, wool, &c., which are exported from the town of Nembuco, forty leagues down the Paraguay river, below Asuncion. The imports at this point are valued at 500,000 silver dollars, which are increasing and capable of being greatly augmented.

The people of Paraguay are so far off, and have been so long isolated, that they have not yet had a cotton gin in the country, though the President, who had never been out of Paraguay, had heard of one. They relied upon the primitive mode of getting rid of the cotton seed with the fingers. The writer, however, states that a cotton gin is on its way to the country, which messenger of civilization and progress, we imagine, will soon be followed by others, such as the steam engine and the printing press, wooden clocks, &c. The writer thinks the people exhibit more general comfort, industry, and cleanliness, than the Brazilians, with their herds of negroes. Although the Catholic religion is tolerated, yet it has been stripped of its power to do harm. The curé are poor, and dependent upon local aid for support.

The mode of collecting revenue is unique, and such as might afford clearer notions of the enormous duties paid in this country, if levied and collected in the same manner. For instance, at their only port of entry, Nembuco, the revenue officer collects in kind. The duties average about ten per cent.; hence he takes every tenth hat, every tenth pair of boots, or shoes, and so on throughout. Now suppose, at our ports, the collectors took forty hats out of every hundred, and forty pair of all shoes and boots, and forty yards of woollen carpets, and broadcloth, and sixty pounds of iron, out of every hundred, and one-half of all the ready made clothing brought to the country: this plan would put things in a very striking light, and, according to the Tribune's political economy, and others of "*th silk*," the merchant who had been thus robbed by law, of forty hats, boots, yards of cloth, sixty pounds of iron, and one-half of his stock of ready-made clothing, could afford to sell the remnants, left by government in his possession, so *much the cheaper!!!*

We are in favor of acknowledging the independence of the republic of Paraguay. It had sustained, after all, a more decent