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SPEECH OF MR. BEDINGER,

OF VIRGINIA.

In the House of Representatives December 18, 1845—On the resolutions of Massachusetts asking a change in the naturalization laws.

MR. SPEAKER: It is with a great deal of diffidence, and with some reluctance, that I have prevailed upon myself to take part in the discussion which the resolutions, now pending before this House, have elicited. And I am sure I should gladly avoid it if I thought that I could do so in strict accordance with my duty. But after what I have heard in the course of this discussion—after the turn which this debate has taken—after the enunciation of some of the doctrines which have been avowed by the advocates of the resolutions—and especially after the eloquent and beautiful remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [MR. LEVIN,] I feel compelled to add even my poor mite of opposition, not so much to the motion itself for a select committee, as to the sentiments embodied in the resolutions, and the doctrines avowed by their advocates.

I have said that the remarks of the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [MR. LEVIN,] were eloquent and beautiful, and I need not repeat it, for the House is aware of the fact. That gentleman is not in his seat, I believe, sir, and I regret the less, as what I shall say of him will be spoken in his praise, and I prefer to say it in his absence.

John Randolph once said upon this floor, that any one who could hold this House in silent and respectful attention was an orator. Certainly, in John Randolph's acceptation of the term, the gentleman from Pennsylvania is an orator. For no more attentive audience ever encouraged a public speaker than this House while he addressed it. And whilst the stream of his eloquence was poured out upon us, I could not but exclaim from the bottom of my heart, would to God such noble efforts we made in a better cause. For, sir, I must be pardoned for saying that in my poor judgement, the cause which has been so ably and beautifully advocated here is unworthy of the efforts which have been made to sustain it, unworthy of the zeal manifested for it, unworthy of the heads, and unworthy, I hope, also, of the hearts of its advocates. And notwithstanding the confident prediction which we have heard, that its course is onward, that there is a spirit now rising from hill and vallies, throughout our whole land, which will "laugh to scorn all opposition," notwithstanding this prediction so triumphantly made, I must venture my own poor prophecy—and if I possessed any reputation I would venture it all on the result—that when a few brief years shall have passed away, this cause will have gone down quietly to the tomb of the Capulets—will have sunk to utter oblivion, to be heard of no more forever. It must go down, sir, and why? Not because it has not giant arms and giant intellects to support and defend it—not because there are not hundreds of honest and excellent men, ready to devote themselves, heart and soul, to its support—no; but it must fall—it must speedily be abandoned and forgotten, because it lacks that spirit of vitality necessary to render it immortal. Because it is not based upon any great fundamental principle, by the successful advancement of which the condition of the human race would be ameliorated and improved. Because it is anti-republican in its tendency; because it is wholly selfish in its object and origin; because the voice of humanity is against it; and because it wants the broad foundation of justice and truth to sustain it.

Sir, what do the advocates of this cause desire? They would so alter and modify the present existing naturalization laws as to extend the period of probation, and deprive foreigners coming amongst us of the rights and privileges now guarantied to them, and thus discourage and check emigration. And the cry goes forth throughout the length and breadth of this land, that the institutions, the free institutions of our country, are in jeopardy from the prejudices and prepossessions of this class of our population, who, for effect's sake, are termed foreigners. Now, sir, let us look at this question for a moment. I do not mean even to attempt to argue it closely, lest, peradventure, I should be considered out of order. But let us look at it one moment. I have waited very patiently during the discussion of this subject for the *facts* upon which gentlemen rely in order to sustain their theory, that there really is danger to be apprehended from the ignorance or prejudices of our naturalized citizens. I confess, sir, I have waited in vain. I have heard fine specimens of rhetoric; have seen beautiful flights of fancy, and witnessed fine bursts of eloquence. But the *facts* for which I have waited, and which I should have supposed necessary to sustain the position assumed, have not been forthcoming, and the inference is that none such exist in the history of our country; for if they did, surely the ingenuity of gentlemen would have produced them in support of their cause. On the contrary, sir, not only is our past history utterly barren of any occurrences calculated to strengthen the impression endeavored to be made, but our whole experience is directly opposed to this groundless theory of nativeism. Not only is there no solitary instance recorded in our history of any attempt upon the part of our naturalized citizens against the institutions of our country, but our whole experience teaches us that they are among the very first to stand by those institutions, that they are equally as much attached to them, if not more so, than many of our "native" citizens; and that, if need be, they are often among the first to resist foreign aggression, and to arm in defence of those institutions. And, so help me Heaven, I believe that if the dark spot which now lowers upon our political horizon shall swell into the storm cloud of war, an army of emigrants from the "Green Isle" might be thrown by us there with such effect as should shake the mistress of the world on her sea-girt throne.

But, sir, it was said with much emphasis that this portion of our population did not come among us through choice, or from any love of our institutions and form of government; that they forsook not the tottering despotisms of the East because they loved the young republic of the West, but because they were *driven* thence by the strong arm of power, by the relentless hand of oppression, or by the stern necessity of seeking a refuge from starvation and misery. It was eloquently said that no one voluntarily expatriates himself; and that it must be some dire necessity which compels us to desert the haunts of our childhood and the graves of our ancestors! Grant the fact, sir; shall we then be told in the very next breath, that those who have been driven from their native land by the oppressions of a tyrannical government, and have come fresh from the remembrance of its oppressions and wrongs to this glorious land of ours, with their souls expanded and elevated by the great principles of our revolution, will look back, nevertheless, with longing eyes to the very despotism which crushed them; that they are prepared to overturn or undermine our institutions, and rear in their stead the old system of oppression while the pain of its yoke is still galling them? It is preposterous, it is monstrous to suppose it. Sir, but few of these emigrants leave any flesh pots to long for in the Egypt from whence they come. And though the ties of kindred and of blood will often call their memories back—though they may often sigh for the green hills or sunny plains of their native land, it is only for those familiar scenes, and not for the institutions of their country for which they pine. The exiled Swiss, when some familiar strain salutes his ear, will doubtless sigh for his snow-covered mountains; and the son of the "Emerald Isle" will often weep for the land of his birth; but the same memory which summons the tear to his eye will fire his heart with indignation against the system of oppression which drove him away.

But it has been said, that the origin "nativism" may be traced to a certain letter, written by a certain foreign demagogue, to certain citizens in this country—alluding, as I suppose, to the famous letter of Daniel O'Connell. And shall it be said, sir, that because a foreign demagogue chooses to write an impertinent letter, the American government and people must change their laws? Shall the nod of the Irish Jove—who cannot even thunder without the brogue—intimidate us into an alteration of our institutions in order to guard us against abject slaves who trembled at his nod? No, sir; I hope such a spectacle will never be exhibited to the world.

Sir, it is vain to deny the fact that our country has been greatly benefited, by the good will, the capital, and the exertions of foreigners. It is vain to deny that we are many years in advance of the position we would now occupy, if we had never received aid from abroad—even, if, indeed, we should be an independent nation at all; our history teems with the proofs of this.

The character of Lafayette has been eloquently and appropriately alluded to. Let me remind gentlemen of one other illustrious example, one which seems now to be almost forgotten, but one worthy to be cherished and remembered forever. Those among us who have read the history of Marion, by Weems—I am aware, sir, that it is a book which we read at school, a school-boy's book, if you choose, but, nevertheless, it is a *good* book, an excellent and an eloquent book, and one worthy to be read and remembered. I know of nothing better calculated to awaken in the youthful bosom that patriotism and love of country which cannot be too early instilled into our minds, than many of the scenes so glowingly described in that work. Those of us who have read it, will remember the description there given of the brave old Baron De Kalb—one of those generous strangers who left his own home to fight our battles. And having given us a description of his character—one marked by excellence and goodness—and having described also his glorious death, when, upon the plain of Camden, he fell "*covered with eleven wounds*," the eloquent old author goes on to say, that years afterwards, when the great Washington visited Camden, he eagerly inquired for the grave of De Kalb—it was pointed out to him—he stood over it long, with a countenance marked with thought; at length, breathing a deep sigh, he exclaimed, "So there lies the brave De Kalb, the generous stranger, who left a foreign land to fight our battles, and to water with his blood the tree of our liberty!" Would to God he had lived to share its fruit! Sir, it was a grateful and a beautiful sentiment, and one worthy of the Father of his country. And when I hear this ungracious and idle clamor which is constantly raised against our adopted citizens, I call up in my imagination the revered form of the illustrious Washington, standing over the humble grave of that "generous stanger." No storied monument rises to tell of his virtues, or claim a mournful tribute to his fate, but the rank grass and the green corn alone are waiving over it. I imagine the Father of his country standing there, and, as his mind reverts to that dark period and those fearful scenes—those scenes which "tried men's souls"—from which his country, aided by generous and noble *strangers*, had but then emerged—or as with the far-reaching eye of genius, he looks into the dim future, and beholds his beloved land advancing with giant strides along the paths of greatness, prosperity, and grandeur, happy at home and respected abroad, reclining under her bright constellation "like the chiselled Apollo, a model to the world"—I can imagine this glorious vision, this delicious dream, suddenly dispelled and put to flight by the harsh voice of some modern "native American," who shouts in his ear the watch-cry of his party, "down with the foreigners—down with the foreigners!"

Sir, I hope that I shall not be regarded as trifling with a subject which I deem of much importance, and which I would treat most soberly. But verily, when the ungenerous outcry—this wild war-whoop of the "natives," is borne to my ears, I cannot help being forcibly reminded of the anecdote of that respectable old lady, who, having been compelled nearly all the days of her life to borrow a washing tub, had at length one of those useful articles of domestic economy presented to her, whereupon the old lady exclaimed in an exstasy of joy, "Well, well; I have been borrowing a wash-tub all my life, but now I've got one of my own; and from this time forth, with the blessing of God, I'll neither borrow *nor lend*." Can gentlemen perceive no analogy between the cases? We were all foreigners once—at least our fathers were, unless, indeed, some of us, like Randolph of Roanoke, may have the good fortune to be descended from the aborigines—and throughout the whole of our national existence we have been well pleased to borrow aid from abroad. But now, that we have become strong and powerful, and able to stand alone—now that we are able to maintain the proudest position among the nations of the earth—now that we have procured a tub of our own, sir, shall we, Diogenes-like, creep into it, or, imitating the example of the old woman, solemnly resolve that henceforth we will neither borrow nor lend? I hope not, sir. Common gratitude forbids such narrow and selfish policy; the spirit of the American people cries out against it; it can never prevail in this country.

But it has been said that, whatever aid we may have derived from foreign nations or individuals, has been amply repaid by the generosity of our government and people; and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [MR. LEVIN] declared that France had been amply compensated for whatever aid she rendered us in the darkest hour of our country's history, by the payment to her of some $50,000,000.

He drew the accounts between this country and France, and struck a balance in our favor. Sir, it is the first time in my life that I have heard it avowed, that a debt of gratitude could be discharged by the payment of dollars and cents. The first time that I have witnessed the freedom and happiness, prosperity and glory of this great country—placed in the balance with fifty millions of dollars, and made to "kick the beam." No, sir; pile up your gold mountain high, you can never by that means extinguish the debt of gratitude which this country owes, and which this country acknowledges, to those who generously stood forth to aid in achieving her liberty.

But, again, we are told that we owe the aid which we derived from France, not for her love for us, but to her hatred of her great rival, England. Sir, the history of the French nation contradicts the assertion. For we know that a few years after our revolution—wraught to madness by the remorseless deeds of her proud oppressors—crushed, and bleeding at every pore—"mutilated and gory"—she rose in the majesty of her strength, and with one mad effort of frantic power shook the proudest pillars of monarchy to their foundations.

Sir, the dangers to the institutions of this country is not to be looked for from the quarter which seems to excite so much apprehension on the part of our vigilant "natives." There may be men among us, and I fear me that there *are*—God grant they may be few—who, to advance the schemes of their own paltry personal ambition, would not hesitate to strike at the heart of the constitution, and destroy forever this government, or ill-suited to the success of their unholy designs! There may be such men, but credit me, they are not to be found among our adopted citizens. Let gentlemen look for them in other quarters, and throw in their safeguards elsewhere. I apprehend sir, that the true ground of opposition to this portion of our population may be found in the fact that they are, as a class, too partial to the republican tendency of our institutions, and too ready to cast their sufferings in such manner as shall increase that tendency. It is not that they vote, sir, but that they do not vote as their opponents would have them, which calls down upon them such patriotic indignation. If they were not too partial to the principles of democracy, I think it possible this House and the world might have lost much of the eloquence and patriotism wherewith they have been edified of late. I repeat once more, that our real, our most threatening dangers are not to be found in that quarter. They proceed from a very different source. The *real* danger is to be apprehended from that party upon whom foreign influence does, indeed, work wonders; who look with eager anxiety to all that passes on the other side of the waters; who catch the tone of their political sentiments from abroad, and look to foreign laws for all they deem worthy of imitation.

That party who could justify foreign interference in American affairs, who could see nothing wrong, nothing to deprecate, nothing to resent, when Great Britain and other European powers stretched out their hands to meddle with negotiations between sovereign states, and set limits to our acquisition of territory.

That party who could look quietly on, or smile and applaud, when the government of Great Britain with armed hand would cram a poisoned drug down the throats of a weak and unoffending people, and when the injustice was resisted, would crush that resistance amidst seas of blood and carnage! This is the quarter, sir—this is the quarter from whence the danger to our institutions will come, if come it ever shall.

Sir, I did not design, at present, to discuss this question, at length. Upon some more appropriate occasion I shall be glad to have an opportunity to do so. When I rose I did not intend to say half so much as I have said. I regret that I have trespassed so long upon the time and patience of the House, and shall conclude by saying, that I shall feel myself compelled to vote against the motion to refer the resolutions to a select committee, for the reasons I have given.

For the Union.

CHEROKEE AFFAIRS.—No. VII.

Protecting the Cherokees against "domestic strife!"—A successful conspiracy—The United States protect the conspirators!—The majority principle perverted—Act of union deceptive and void, in law and in morals, yet the wronged party held to it—Special law for Indians!

Our last number concluded with the appeal of the western Cherokees to the United States for the protection of their government, laws, and persons, when the followers of Ross, having murdered the chiefs of the treaty-party, and deposed the chiefs of the old settlers, established a new government, and took all power into their own hands.

By the treaty of 1835, the United States bound themselves to protect the Cherokees against "*domestic strife*." This obligation embraced the western Cherokees, or it did not. That it did not, will hardly be asserted on behalf of the United States. If it did, then were the United States bound by that treaty, as well as virtually by preceding ones in de with the western Cherokees themselves, to protect them and their government against "*domestic strife*." To obtain that protection was the object of that appeal. How was the duty performed? *By protecting those who* RAISED *the strife*—BY SUSTAINING REBELS AND SUFFERING MURDERERS TO GO UNHUNG.

The government of the western Cherokees was a *legitimate* government. It was the government of the western Cherokee country. Every man who put his foot on that soil became subject to that government. There was no pretext for rebelling against it. Ross and his followers were offered at once all "its protection" and privileges. The elections were but four or five months distant, when the new-comers might, by their majorities, possess themselves of the offices and remodel the constitution to their liking. But they scorned to submit to the existing government for a day, and entered into a *conspiracy* to put it down. Through blood and terror, that conspiracy was successful, and ended in the establishment of the present system. And the United States have protected the Cherokees against "*domestic strife*," by *recognising the usurpation, and treating the blood-stained usurpers as the legitimate authorities of the country!*

In reply to their appeal, the western Cherokees were told that they must submit to a *majority!* The United States force a larger community upon a smaller, both being their "children;" and when the weaker cry out against the usurpation and tyranny of the stronger, their "father" tells them, You must submit; I cannot protect you! If these "children" had come together *voluntarily*, their "father" might, with propriety, have used that language; but having *forced them together*, against the will of both parties, it was but little else than cruel mockery to the weaker.

The western chiefs protested against this extraordinary principle, and called the attention of the government to their rights and condition. The consequence was a fresh order from the War Department to General Arbuckle, to bring about the adoption of a new constitution for the Cherokees, with the view of giving security to the old settlers. To that end, the Secretary of War instructed the general to insist on the following points, viz:

That the old settlers should be secured in the right to choose absolutely one-third of the officers in the Cherokee government.

That John Ross and William S. Coody should be forever excluded from office under the Cherokees—the former as *particeps criminis* in the murder of the Ridges, and the latter for justifying that crime.

After some delays, Gen. Arbuckle got together a delegation of twelve from the usurping government, and twelve of the leading men of the old settlers, who, however, never pretended to have any authority from their people, or from any regular council. To them Gen. Arbuckle submitted a form of constitution drawn up in conformity with his instructions. The old settlers were willing to accept it; but the usurpers plead want of authority to alter their constitution which they presented to the old settlers for acceptance. This was declined, of course, and the prospect was that nothing would be effected.

On a former occasion, when the western Cherokees found the United States negotiating to send in the whole Cherokee nation east upon them, they sought without success an arrangement by which each Cherokee, eastern and western, should share alike in the purchase-money of the Cherokee country east, and all the advantages which might grow out of the reunion of the two communities. They were now offered by the Ross party, backed by Gen. Arbuckle as the agent of the United States, an equal share in those funds with the eastern Cherokees, if they would sign an act of union. They were informed the amount would be from $70 to $200 per head. Gen. Arbuckle told them, as he has since testified, that, in his opinion, it would not be less than $70 per head.

Ross and his party insisted that the treaty of 1835 was a fraud, and that the Cherokee country east was still their property, which he valued at $20,000,000. A proportionate share of that property was also offered to the old settlers on condition that they would sign an act of union merging the two nations into one, and bringing all their property into a common stock.

They were promised also the immediate possession of one-third of the offices, and told that the existing constitution should not be binding upon them until they and their people had agreed to it.

By these promises of at least —— dollars in hand, an interest in the Cherokee country east, the immediate possession of one-third of the offices, and such a constitution as they might agree to, providing for their future security, twelve of the old settlers were induced to sign an act of union, recognising that very constitution which they were told should not be binding until assented to by them, and the laws passed in pursuance thereof, as the legitimate law of the land until altered. What was the result? One-third of the officers resigned, and old settlers were put in their places for a fraction of a term. That fraction expired, and there the benefits to them ended.

Instead of receiving $70 to 200 per head as *per capita money*, without the assurance of which General Arbuckle and others have testified that, in their opinion, they would never have signed the act of union, *they have never received one cent!* More than half of that fund, with the connivance of this government, who through their plenipotentiary (for General Arbuckle's powers were very absolute) promised the western Cherokees a share of it as the price of their independence and their country, *has been sunk in the pockets of John Ross, and a few of his favorites*. And the rest—*where is it?* That interest in the Cherokee country east, which formed an item in the act pressed upon these people, is totally repudiated by the government, whose agent induced them to sign the act of which it was one of the considerations.

And instead of asking their assent to the constitution, it has been ever since inexorably enforced upon them, just as it came from the hands of the usurpers; and John Ross, instead of being excluded from all power, as the Secretary of War required, has become the standing chief of the Cherokee nation.

Now, I insist that some principle ought to be observed in dealing with Indians. Test this "act of union" by any principle of law, and what is it? TOTALLY VOID. It purported to merge two communities in one. The twelve old settlers who signed it were not *legally authorized* by the community they assumed to represent, nor was their act *ever legally sanctioned*. This is an INCONTESTABLE FACT. No man pretends the one or the other; and it is only the law which the white man too often makes *specially for the Indians*, by which they can be held to it. Test it by moral principle, and what is it? EQUALLY VOID. If it was not a fraud, every valuable consideration on which it was based *has totally failed*. Where is the *per capita* money? Where the twenty millions for the Cherokee country east? Where is the alteration of the constitution and the one-third of the public offices which were to give permanent security to the old settlers? *All delusions, or worse*. Yet the United States have hitherto held the old settlers with an iron grip to this state of union. Having bound them hand and foot by inducements never to be realized, this government cast them back to be kicked and cuffed, robbed, imprisoned, outlawed, hanged, assassinated, by those who before and since have treated in the same way the treaty party, whom it used and abandoned!

Thus have the United States treated the Cherokee old settlers, who, in compliance with their policy, were the pioneers of the Indian emigration west, and have always been their fast friends in peace and in war. Thus have they sustained the bloody usurpation of 1839, heaping power and wealth upon their bitterest enemies, and consigning their best friends to oppression, misery, and death!

In my next I propose a brief review of the conduct of this government towards the treaty party.

BOUDINOT.

N. B. I am glad to see a champion of John Ross in the field. Let both sides be heard.

For the Union.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1845.

To the Hon. WM. ALLEN:

MR. SENATOR—As the debate on the Oregon bill may soon come up before the Senate, permit me to note a few facts from history, which may not always be present to your mind.

It appears that England, in 1763, ceded all her right to the northwest coast to Spain, and received Florida and all the Spanish right in exchange. It appears also that, in the course of time, a new power came into existence called the United States; that this power, by various ways, obtained territory which reached to the Pacific ocean. It further appears that England, who was cut off by her own treaties from claiming any portion of the northwest coast, said to the United States, "Give me equal rights with yourself of all you claim." The United States said "No; I will not give you equal rights, but will leave the ports open to your subjects for ten years." Accordingly the treaty of 1818 was made, which stipulates that any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America westward of the Stony mountains, shall be free and open, &c., to the citizens and subjects of the two powers, first for ten years, and then until one year's notice. The northwest coast of America extends from Cape St. Lucas, in about latitude 22½°, to Prince William's sound, near latitude 60°, or from 23° to 61°, through 38 degrees of latitude. Now, if either party should claim any part, or the whole of this extended territory, the other party would have a right to have the country free and open to them.

Britain (as we have seen) had ceded away her right to claim; the United States had the right to claim California from the original charters of Virginia and Carolina, which extended the jurisdiction of these States to the Pacific ocean, as far south as latitude 30°. The United States had a right to claim the territory of the Columbia river by discovery and settlement, and the territory northwest of that river as a part of Louisiana. Thus stood the rights of the two parties in 1818, when the treaty was made. It was not necessary for either party to own any of the country to give rights to the other, but only to claim it; and if the United States at any time during the continuance of this treaty claim any part of California, this claim gives to British subjects equal rights with American citizens, until one year's notice.

It will be recollected that this treaty was made before either party had a title to any of this extensive realm, and that England had repeatedly acknowledged the title to be in Spain as far north as latitude 61°.

The historical facts of the case are, that the United States did purchase of Spain in 1819, for a valuable consideration, all the northwest coast north of latitude 42°; and, at the time of this purchase, all the civilized world, except Russia, acknowledged Spain to be the owner; from that moment the United States converted her right to claim into an ownership of the soil, and could at any time, without any infraction of treaties, give Britain notice to quit after 10 years from 1818.

From 1819 to 1824, Oregon extended from 42° to 61°, being 19 degrees of latitude; the whole of which was owned by the United States, subject only to the claims of Russia—all which territory was free and open to the citizens and subjects of the United States and Great Britain.

To adjust the claims of Russia, and give to each a clear title, the treaty of 1824 was made, whereby the United States ceded to Russia exactly one-third of the territory acquired of Spain—being 6° 20′—which brought the dividing line to 54° 40′; and thus reducing Oregon from 19 degrees, to 12 degrees 40 minutes, a clear title to which was obtained by the United States. Russia further ceded to the United States all her rights to territory as far south as 38° of latitude, where she had a settlement, but from 38° to 42° the Spanish title was not extinguished.

Britain looked on, and saw consummated and published all those treaties, and acknowledged their validity; she went further, and took up the ground where the United States had relinquished it, and made a treaty with Russia, whereby she obtained a cession of territory from north latitude 54° 40′ to the intersection of latitude 61°, longitude 141°, thence due north to the Arctic ocean; thus extending Oregon to the North sea.

For the sake of perspicuity, I shall divide the two parts into north and south Oregon.

North Oregon is all that tract of country, bounded north by the Arctic (in latitude 70°) ocean, west by the Russian possessions, divided by a meridian of longitude 141° west from London, south by south Oregon, belonging to the United States, separated by a parallel of latitude in 54° 40′, and east by the Rocky mountains.

By existing treaties, it is clear that this north Oregon belongs to the British; and it is also clear that all of south Oregon, south of 54° 40′, belongs to the United States. It also appears that north Oregon is larger in extent than south Oregon; the former extending through more than 16 degrees, and the latter more than 12 degrees, the width being about the same, will give about four square miles in north Oregon for every three in south Oregon; if the latter contains 300,000, the former contains 400,000 square miles.

It is possible that our negotiators with Russia might have obtained a more northerly boundary for the United States, as we see that Russia ceded to England the very next year almost the whole of the identical territory—viz: from 54° 40′ to 61°, which was ceded by Spain to the United States, and by the United States ceded to Russia. Be that as it may, the treaty has been made and recognised as the law of the land, by all the nations interested now for twenty-one years; and I presume no American statesman has any desire to disturb this boundary, although we have much more reason to demand from England the six degrees and twenty minutes which we ceded to Russia, than England has to claim any part of south Oregon. We once owned this part of Oregon, and may make the plea that, if Russia wished to part with it, she should have first offered it to the United States. Whereas England never owned a foot of land south of 54° 40′, and has no kind of pretence for any, either in law, equity, or justice. Her treaty with Russia, in 1825, is the first treaty on record whereby England obtained the sovereignty of any of the northwest coast.

By taking up the boundary in 1825 as the other powers had left it, and treating thereupon, Great Britain has acknowledged the validity of previous treaties.

When this treaty was completed, the boundaries on the northwest coast were truly defined, and the territory divided between Spain, the United States, Great Britain, and Russia, and have remained so for twenty years. The treaty of 1818 still continuing in force, gives to the citizens of the United States and the subjects of Great Britain equal rights to enter and trade in any part of north or south Oregon, from latitude 42° to the Arctic ocean. It also gives them rights to enter the Russian possessions in America, because Russia made her treaties subject to the incumbrance of the notice. This notice has been given by Russia to the United States the present year, and is not considered cause of war. The United States can now give notice that her portion of Oregon, south of 54° 40′, or south Oregon, is no longer "free and open" to the subjects of Great Britain; and this will be no cause of war, because it is in the treaty.

After this notice, American citizens have still an equal right with British subjects to enter and trade in any part of north Oregon, from 54° 40′ to the Arctic ocean; and this right will remain until the British government gives to the United States the one year's notice stipulated in the treaty.

Undoubtedly, the titles were all settled twenty years ago; and, at any time since 1825, Russia had a perfect right to sell, and could give a good title to, any portion of territory west of longitude 141°, and north of latitude 61°; and England could give a good title to any land east of that line, as far south as 54° 40′; and the United States could, since that year, and can now, give a good title to any land from latitude 54° 40′ to 42°. Britain has the same right to claim the city and county of New York as she has to claim any of south Oregon.

American statesmen who consider this subject calmly and coolly, will find that they have the same right to legislate for Oregon that they have to legislate for any other territory of the United States.

If England wishes any portion of our territory in Oregon, she can offer an equal quantity of her territory in Canada. "A fair exchange is no robbery."

If the western boundary line be so plain, whence comes all this bluster that England will go to war with us for asserting our own? Comes it not even hence from British spies among us—agents, perhaps, of the Hudson Bay Company? They have everywhere made use of our newspapers and periodicals, publishing false lines and false boundaries, until they have deceived the very elect. The most bold, daring, and impudent, has been the circulation of the false line of 49°, whereby England has already obtained from the United States a large tract of country east of the Rocky mountains, being the northern part of Louisiana; and now she seeks, by the same subterfuge, to obtain our best possessions on the Pacific.

Editors of newspapers cannot always be on their guard; and then the articles are couched in such seeming moderate language, that they attract attention. They generally pretend to take the American side of the question, representing that it is for our interest to abandon such distant possessions—talking as though they were part of us, and had the welfare of our country at heart, when, in fact, they are lying tongues, sent among us for the purpose of deception. They assume all shapes: now, a good whig advising the whig party to stand firm, and rescue their country from the danger of a war with England; anon, some one of the gang will assume to be a moderate democrat, and, getting the ear of some democratic editor unawares, will advise the President to adopt moderate measures; "that right is on our side, to be sure, but it is not expedient, at this time, to plunge the nation into a war," and all such nonsense. Sometimes they flatter the President, and say, that "he is now popular with all parties, and he had better do nothing to disturb that popularity." I would ask, how comes it that the President is popular? I will answer: by action has he made himself popular; by boldly asserting American rights, and daring to maintain them, has he entwined himself around the hearts of the American people, and not by fawning to the British lion. Our worthy President, for one, has not been caught in the trap of these British writers in American garb—these wolves in sheep's clothing!

RECAPITULATION.

In 1763, Britain sold to Spain all her right to the northwest coast; in 1819, Spain sold to the United States north of 42°; in 1824, the United States sold to Russia north of 54° 40′; in 1825, Russia sold to Great Britain north of 54° 40′—with reservation of seacoast, &c.; and thus the titles stand at present.

Respectfully,

Your most obedient,

CHAS. FLETCHER.

GREAT RISE IN THE OHIO.—From the Louisville Journal of the 15th we cut the following:

"THE RIVER.—The river has risen about three and a half feet since Friday, and was still swelling slowly last evening, with seven feet three inches in the canal by the mark. It is covered with floating ice, which renders navigation very difficult. The rise is from the Big Sandy and other streams south of it. The river at Pittsburgh was still closed at the last dates, but it is probable that ere this it has opened there also, and we may therefore expect high water.

"The Cumberland had ten feet water on Harpeth shoals on Friday.

"The Tennessee river was rising, and large masses of ice were running out of the Wabash."

The rise would seem to be extraordinary, and was accompanied by many serious accidents in the river, owing to the immense fields of floating ice set in motion. The passengers of the steamer Pike No. 8, return thanks to the captain for his skill in managing his boat, under circumstances thus detailed:

"We were in the middle of the Ohio, surrounded by a dense body of ice, extending about two miles up the stream, and half a mile down it. In an instant of time, that vast body was set in motion by the rapid rise of the stream, and our boat at once became the sport of an angry current, and large masses of ice, by which we were driven violently in every direction, and were momentarily expecting the boat would be submerged, and that the most fearful consequences would ensue. To the great strength of your boat, and your intrepid conduct, as well as that of your officers, are we deeply indebted for our present safety."

From the Burlington (Iowa) Territorial Gazette.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This is the first annual message of Mr. Polk, and for that reason, coupled with his position on the Texas and Oregon questions previous to his election, and that assumed in his inaugural address, this document has been looked for by the American people with more feeling and anxiety than any other document of the kind since the close of the last war. For some time previous to the assembling of the present Congress, the Washington Union, being the organ of the administration, assumed a position on the Oregon question harmonizing with the feelings and meeting the approval of ninety-nine hundredths of the whole American people. Whether the position taken by the Union was the position of the President was matter of conjecture merely. And we must confess, for ourselves, we did not allow the belief, though we hoped the President would come up to the mark indicated by the Union. The mist hanging over the then future has at length been dispelled. This message is before us. And we do not hesitate to say that, in point of ability, it is not exceeded by any previous document of the kind ever communicated to the American Congress. But the ability with which it is put forth is by no means its highest commendation. It exhibits, completely and fully what the American people have always been desiring in their Presidents—an uncompromising opposition to any and all dictation from abroad, and a spirit at once patriotic and wholly American.

From the Annapolis Herald.

LEGISLATURE OF MARYLAND.

On Monday last both houses of the legislature met, a large majority of the members being present. The Senate fully organized on Tuesday by the re-appointment of the old officers. The House organized on the same day by the appointment of the following officers, all the members being present except Thos. L. Hall, esq., of Baltimore county.

William S. Waters, esq. of Somerset, elected speaker, over Daniel S. Biser, esq., of Frederick—the former receiving forty, and the latter thirty-seven votes.

George G. Prewer, esq., of Annapolis, re-elected chief clerk, over John Nick Watkins, esq. on the part of the democrats.

Eli Duvall, esq., of Baltimore city, chosen reading clerk, without opposition.

Messrs. John S. Bombegardner, of Carroll, Geo. W. Dawson, of Montgomery, James M. Cormack, of Charles, C. H. Hardcastle, of Caroline, and John W. Rider, of Somerset, were chosen committee clerks.

Benjamin L. Gantt, esq., of Prince George's county, for many years speaker of the House, was appointed sergeant-at-arms.

Samuel Whittington, last year sergeant-at-arms, was appointed door-keeper.

In the House on Wednesday a writ of election to the sheriff of Caroline county, was issued by the speaker for an election to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Capt. Thomas Wheeler, a member elect of said county.

In the Senate on Tuesday, the testimony taken by senator Sellman and Blackistone, in the Frederick county contested case, was ordered to be printed.

SOLLERS'S POINT.—This morning Mr. Vansant of Baltimore city, submitted a preamble and resolutions instructing our senators and representatives in Congress, to urge the passage of an appropriation for the erection of naval fortifications on Sollers's Point Flats, which were unanimously adopted.

PORK TRADE IN THE WEST.—A very intelligent New York merchant, who has been largely engaged in the pork business for a number of years, returned to Cincinnati last week from a tour through the Sciota valley, and furnished the Atlas with the following statement of the number of hogs that will probably be slaughtered this season at the points named:

Beginning at Columbus, and taking the line of the canal to Portsmouth . . .	110,000
Between Portsmouth and Cincinnati, on the river . . .	66,000
At Cincinnati . . .	280,000
At Lawrenceburg . . .	8,000
At Aurora . . .	3,000
At Madison . . .	80,000
At Louisville . . .	110,000
At Westport, Charleston, Vevay, Rising Sun, and other towns between Cincinnati and Louisville, on the river . . .	50,000
	707,000

This he estimates to be less than one-half the number that will be slaughtered west of the Alleghany mountains this season, putting the whole number down at 1,500,000. Last year's slaughter he puts down at 840,000. "Although this is only an estimate," remarks the Atlas, "yet the data from which it is made would seem to warrant the conclusion that the number of hogs slaughtered this year is much greater than last year, or greater than has been generally supposed."

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Union:

NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1845.

The news yesterday from Washington was, as the letter-writers say, "favorable for the continuance of the peace of the country," and yet the very mischief was to pay among our "fancy" gentlemen of Wall street. Stocks—*i. e.* fancy ones—tumbled as I have seen a row of bricks after being set on end; touch the last one, and they all fall "flat as a flounder." How will the "Express" account for this? That paper said the war panic was playing the mischief with Wall street. Now, I suppose, the peace panic is doing the same thing. When will the community learn to look upon the tricks of Wall street gamblers as of no more importance to the real business affairs of the country than the operation of the two Yankees, who made each an independent fortune, by *swapping* coats. The "bulls," by some nicely-managed scheme, run up stocks to-day—taking the last dollar from an associate sitting at the same board—and turn and laugh at their victim's "greenness" with all the coolness imaginable. But to-morrow comes the "bears'" turn. Some terrible affair has happened; a bank in Passamaquoddy has broke; Polk is determined; war with England is certain, and down rush "fancies," and a dozen "bulls" are flat upon their backs, their money all gone, and they learn the next morning that the "disastrous news" originated in Wall street.

We are full to repletion with "reports" from Washington in reference to the Oregon and the Mexican questions. What to rely upon, few seem to know. Not a few of our prominent commercial men, as well as others, are apprehensive there will be no reduction of the tariff at this session, predicated upon the assumed hostility of certain southern politicians towards the assertion of our just rights to Oregon.

The argument made use of is this: if measures eminently proper, just, and right, in reference to that territory, are to be defeated by southern members, the effect will be to create a feeling of perfect indifference on the part of the friends of this great measure about any alteration of the present tariff law.

Such might be the effect, though I should regret to see either or any measure defeated through any mere sectional jealousy. We want not war; but our rights, clear and unquestionable rights, must be maintained; and a craven wretch must he be, who would first stop to count the cost in dollars. Mr. Maclay, the democratic member of Congress from this city, well said in his admirable letter, read at the late meeting of young men at Tammany Hall, that "as there is a period when forbearance ceases to be a virtue, so, too, there is a time when nations *must not compromise the public honor, and relinquish the public rights, for no other sake than that of peace*."

Our members of the State legislature leave the city to-day for Albany—the new year being the commencement of the duties of that body. We shall probably have the governor's message on Saturday, when we may expect to learn his excellency's views upon both State and national affairs.

We are soon, so it is stated, to have another distinguished visiter among us—no less a personage than Baboo Dwarkanauth Tagore, an East Indian of much note, now in London. He is worth, "'tis said," the moderate sum of $60,000,000—is now living at the St. George hotel, Albemarle street, London, at the rate of $50,000 per annum—dines often with her Majesty, and kicks up considerable of a dust generally. He certainly would prove a "fat one" for some of our Wall street gentry, if they could only get him to "touch the fancies;" but in all probability Tagore understands commercial affairs too well for that; being a merchant of Calcutta, he knows how money is made, and, I presume, also knows how to spend it. Let our fair country-women, who are fond of foreign characters, keep an eye upon Baboo's movements, for to become Mrs. Dwarkanauth would be no small spec.

The first of January (to-morrow) is the most pleasing day for New Yorkers of any in the year. The whole city will be in motion. The gentlemen calling upon their female acquaintances wherever they are to be found; new acquaintances made; old and almost obsolete friendships renewed; congratulations given and received; health, happiness, and a *thousand* happy returns of the season drank in a glass of wine, or sipped in a dish of coffee; the life, spirit, animation, gaiety, and real hearty good feeling everywhere seen and felt by old and young, male and female, really makes the first of January here one of the green spots in our existence. I will leave this, and prepare my list of calls for the morrow.

LEDYARD.

NEW YORK, January 3, 1846.

Eighteen hundred and forty-five! 'Tis gone. Like an old friend with whom we have been on familiar terms, and from whom we have received many, very many of the good things of this life, but who has quietly, gently sunk into the grave, so has the year 1845 gone, departed from us forever—while we poor mortals are left to toil on, to clamber up the steep ascent of life until the closing year of our own existence shall sink into the deep abyss of the PAST.

Knowing, as we do, that every day brings us nearer to the grave, yet we greet each rising sun with a smile, each new year's morn with joy and gladness. Strange mortals! strange mortals!!

The first of January, ever a happy and glorious day in the city of Gotham, was this "new year" an improvement on all previous ones. The day was just cold enough to make a quick and rapid step agreeable and necessary for the comfort of the visiters, and apparently improved the appearance, increased the vivacity, and heightened the beauty of the visited. There never was a more general turn-out of all and every class of mankind than on Thursday; and our streets, as you may easily conceive, presented a curious and unique appearance—for among all the countless throng which encumbered every street and avenue of this vast city, not a female, not a solitary petticoat was to be seen. Swarthy, grey-headed, bearded, and beardless men was alone to be seen; all, all hurrying on as if their arrival at a certain house, on a certain moment, to pay their respects to a certain lady, of a certain or uncertain age, was of the first importance to their very existence. Then how warmly we are greeted by the happy, smiling angels within. Not a cloud hovers on the brow—not a sorrow is traced on the blooming cheek. Joy alone sits there triumphant. He rules the hour, unless, perchance, Cupid usurps his throne or reigns jointly with him.

The compliments of the season are tendered; a moment of glib and lively conversation ensues, a gentle shake of the hand, and adieu; when off we go to meet with other angels just as happy, just as gay, and just as beautiful. Oh, it is a glorious day, and I am mistaken if it is not, ere long, celebrated in the same delightful way throughout the Union.

There is little here in the way of news. Great preparations are on foot for balls on the 8th of January—the 30th anniversary of the battle of New Orleans. The Tammany society are making unusual exertions for a splendid affair at Tammany Hall, while a grand jubilee ball is to be given by the Texas and Oregon association at Castle Garden. This younger portion of our great democratic family, who say they are ready and willing to fight for our rights, do not mean to give up all the dancing to the sachems of Tammany, but are fitting up the immense rotunda of Castle Garden—which will easily accommodate 6,000 persons—with unsurpassed splendor and magnificence; and it will undoubtedly be one of the most grand and gorgeous scenes ever witnessed in our city. Let not a single reader of the "Union," who can reach here in time, fail of being present on the 8th. If they do not like the teeming throng of fashion—the young and budding beauties at Castle Garden—they can go among the more staid and sober-aged—the old and mellow counsellors of Tammany Hall. I promise them an overflowing cup of joy and pleasure at either place.

The steamer Acadia, which sailed on the 1st, took out over 30,000 letters for different parts of Europe. This shows, in a slight degree, the position the United States hold towards other parts of the world.

The number of vessels which arrived at New York from foreign ports during the year 1845, was—

American . . .	1,505
British . . .	276
Bremen . . .	58
Swedish . . .	54
All other nations . . .	151
Total . . .	2,044

With the exception of the year 1843, there has arrived here a smaller number of British vessels this year than in any previous one since 1838. The number of passengers landed in this city from foreign ports during the year 1845, is 82,960. This number is more than 20,000 above that of 1844, and more than 8,000 above that of 1842, which, next to the present year, was one of the most prolific we have ever had. At a safe calculation, these passengers brought with them, on an average, $200 a piece, (for a large portion of them retired immediately into the country and purchased farms,) which would make a sum total of $16,592,000. Over sixteen millions of hard dollars, besides strong hands and willing hearts, have these emigrants brought with them to add to the wealth of the country; and yet there are those who would stay this tide of emigration, and not allow the land their own fathers fled to from persecution and from want, to continue to be the refuge and the home of others, just as good, and perchance better, than they. We have no better citizens than are most of our emigrants and children of emigrants; and it is all idle to suppose that the emigrant of to-day is not just as good as the emigrant of fifty, one hundred, or three hundred years ago, from whom you, and I, and all the members of the present Congress, and the President of the United States, descended. Away, then, with your *nativism*—that most contemptible of all ideas—and let us not, after proclaiming freedom to the world, turn our backs coldly upon those who seek our shores to enjoy that which we, as republicans, alone taught them to know, understand, and appreciate.

While some of these little narrow-souled creatures would stand with fixed bayonets pointed at every emigrant arriving here, an expedition is fitting out in New England for Oregon by water—a distance four times as great as from Europe here. Supposing they should find a "native" party in Oregon on their arrival. The brig Henry, of 153 tons, has been purchased in Salem, Massachusetts, and soon sails with passengers. On her arrival, she is to run as a regular packet between the Columbia river and the Sandwich islands. Success to her.

It seems to be not at all in accordance with public feeling in this section, for our government to offer to open the negotiation again on Oregon. Any one who entertains such a sentiment, must greatly have mistaken public opinion in every section of the Union. The 49th parallel may possibly be accepted by our government if the offer comes from Great Britain. Of this, however, I know nothing. Certainly we never can, nor never should, again offer it; and if it is finally fixed upon, the universal desire is to see the whole territory south of the line unencumbered and free for our own use alone. We want no British harbors, or bays, or islands, *within our own territory*. Let the line be a straight one from the Rocky mountains to the ocean, and ALL south of it down to the 42d parallel should be ours alone.

We are looking anxiously for the new tariff bill; for, among all the exciting questions, this is considered of the first importance by a large portion of our citizens. The present collector takes a deep interest in the bill about to be presented. He, having been a merchant, knows and feels the importance of freedom in trade. His able assistant, (Mr. Bogardus,) who is now in Washington, is a practical merchant, also, and is fully capable of imparting much valuable information to the Committee of Ways and Means, or to Mr. Secretary Walker, on this important subject.

It is reported that combinations are forming, or attempting to be formed, between certain politicians of the conservative order and the whigs, with the banks, in order to defeat the independent-treasury bill. It is proposed, among other things, that the banks pursue the policy of "putting the screws" to the public, after the fashion of the old United States Bank.

But let them try it. It requires but one more "bank" panic to induce the public to rise *en masse* and sweep the corrupt institutions from existence forever. The passage of this bill is actually necessary to give full effect to the new tariff bill; and I hope to see it become a law previous to the latter.

LEDYARD.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIMENTS AND EXTRAORDINARY CURES.—In the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, of Tuesday morning, the editor in an amusing article, purporting to give his last recollections of Paris, which he left on the first of the month—relates some experiments which he saw in the public slaughter-houses of Paris, (*abbatoirs*,) of a very remarkable character.

The translation is made by the New York Courier and Enquirer:

The *first experiment* was in order to resolve the much-mooted question, whether perception is extinguished by decapitation. Accordingly, several sheep and calves being brought out, the head of each was struck off at a single blow—a lighted candle was then held before the eyes, which—horrible to say—contracted and were agitated *two minutes after the decapitation!* It is horrible to think, as a possible thing, that a human being guillotined, may think and feel two minutes after the head is separated from the body—minutes that would be ages of unspeakable agonies. It is, indeed, probable that the sensation which thus survives is purely animal, and that intelligence and unconsciousness are annihilated by the blow that separates the head. But it is horrible that there should be room even for a doubt on this point, and that it should be seriously a matter of question among some of the learned.

It seems, moreover, that the possibility of such a thing was foreseen by *Guillotin*, the learned philanthropist, whom science and humanity have so unworthily rewarded, in giving his name to the instrument he invented. M. Bizet possesses a model designed by Guillotin himself, in which, above the fatal circle into which is thrust the neck of the victim, is a heavy hammer, which in its descent strikes the head at the same moment it is separated by the axe from the body, and thus stuns it into unconsciousness. The machine has been used in France without this accessory of provident humanity, because, perhaps, the revolutionary tribunal deemed it too complicated for their expeditious operations. Now this precaution ought to be adopted.

The *second experiment* I witnessed was to establish the marvellous effect of the *Bocchieri water*. This water, called after the Neapolitan chemist who invented it, and who retains the secret of its preparation, has caused a sort of revolution in medicine and surgery. Every one knows the comparative inability of surgery to arrest sudden hæmorrhages—especially of the arteries—injuries to which are so rapid in their consequences that the patient is often dying before the usual remedies can be applied. Mr. Bocchieri has obviated this difficulty. In the experiment which I witnessed, two operators divided the carotid artery of two sheep. The one was immediately put into the hands of surgeons, to be treated according to the best methods known to science. The other was treated with the *Bocchieri water*. The animal treated *secundem artem*, or scientifically, died of the hæmorrhage—the other, dressed with this marvellous water, was *running about and eating twenty minutes afterwards!* This caused the famous Lisfranc to exclaim, "Gentlemen, here is a result which may be summed up in two words: here is *death*, and there is *life*."

When the lint which had been steeped in this water was removed, the wound was found perfectly dry, and free from any tinge of blood. The doctors, struck with this, caused the animal to be killed; and on dissecting to the artery, it was found that there was no scar, but an actual production of the vessel; thus seeming to prove that by its action on the *fibrine* of the blood it produced a new organization of the tissue.

Mr. Bizet has ascertained that in the different slaughter-houses of Paris, in the course of one year, 1,145 cases of severe cuts sustained by the butcher boys, had been cured by this water in an average of twenty minutes each.

Other extraordinary cures have been effected by it, especially in checking spitting of blood, which is now under the control of the physicians; and external wounds may be cured by it almost with the watch in hand.

M. Gaillardet adds that the experiments he witnessed were made at the instigation of the commander of the cavalry in Paris, with a view to the introduction of this remedy into the military hospitals.

DISCOVERIES IN SCIENCE, &c.

It will not, perhaps, be out of place here to mention, for the information of American *savans*, that a most interesting and important scientific discovery has just been made in that very theatre of the royal institution of Great Britain, which, not many years ago, was the scene of Sir Humphrey Davy's brilliant triumphs. Mr. Faraday, the celebrated chemist—of whom, you will remember, I gave you a sketch in my first series of Pen and Ink-lings—has, in the prosecution of his researches into the nature of electricity and magnetism, succeeded in obtaining, experimentally, what, with untiring industry and the utmost confident perseverance, he had long sought for—the direct relation of electricity and magnetism to light. This amazing step in scientific research has produced the greatest sensation; and the scientific public are on the tiptoe of expectation; for Mr. Faraday is, in a coming lecture, to give the full particulars of his brilliant discovery—the results of which cannot but be of immense importance, and may produce an entire revolution in our present modes of procuring and diffusing artificial light. It is said that the distinguished English philosopher will, in the before-mentioned lecture, exhibit the magnetism of light, the illumination of the lines of magnetic forces, and a new magnetic combination of matter. When the evening meeting is held, I shall attend, and will report the proceedings for you in *extenso*, if I find them to be of great interest.

[*Boston Atlas.*

A GARDENER.—Wanted, a gardener, well qualified, both as a vegetable and flower gardener. Apply at this office for reference, &c.

Dec 26