From the Democratic Review for June.

The Oregon Question.

[CONCLUDED.]

By the treaty of Utrecht (A. D. 1713,), all the Spanish titles to territory in the New World, as they stood in the time of Charles II of Spain, who died in 1700, had been confirmed and guarantied by Great Britain. By the treaty of 1763, the treaty of Utrecht was confirmed, and the river Mississippi was irrevocably fixed as the boundary between the English and French possessions. In terms it declares: "In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of America, that for the future, the confines between the dominions of his Britannic Majesty in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea." Nothing is said of the western limits of the French possessions, or of any claims of the English in that quarter. Now, if England had then any title to the northwest coast, another boundary should have been settled between her and France on that side. The omission to do so, implies that she had no title; or if she had, that she then renounced it forever, to all territory west of the Mississippi, and south of its source, or of the 49th parallel.

We have thus explained all the original titles to the country. It remains to trace them to the present claimants, Great Britain and America. Great Britain has no title by cession except what she may have obtained by the Nootka treaty: America has received by formal cession, from both France and Spain, all their rights: the first by the Louisiana treaty in 1803, the other by the Florida treaty in 1819.

At the peace of 1763, France ceded to Spain "all the country known under the name of Louisiana." In 1800, by a treaty between the republic of France and the King of Spain, in consideration of the republic enlarging the territories of the Duke of Parma, Spain ceded to the French republic "the colony or province of Louisiana, with the same extent which it now has in the hands of Spain, and which it had been when France possessed it, and such as it should be, according to the treaties subsequently made between Spain and other States." And in 1803, the same territory was "ceded to the United States, in the name of the French republic, forever, and in full sovereignty, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner as they have been acquired by the French republic, in virtue of the above mentioned treaty with his Catholic Majesty."

Considerable discussion has been had respecting the proper western boundaries of Louisiana as thus ceded. We are inclined to the opinion that it reached to the South Sea. To us, however, the question appears to be of less importance in its relation to the present controversy, for the reason that it could only concern America and Spain, and that their differences respecting it were settled by a full cession to America by the treaty of Florida. Louisiana might have been greater or less; it might have stopped at the mountains, or have gone to the Pacific, but England, in either case, had no rights there; she had parted with all she had to either France or Spain, at the peace of 1763.

The restitution of Astoria, after the war, is another important fact, by no means to be overlooked in this part of the argument. It will be recollected that the post was surrendered by Great Britain to the government of this country, by a formal act, so late as 1818; and if, as is asserted, there was any reservation in respect to its bearing upon the question of right, there is no evidence that any such reservation accompanied the act of delivery, or was made known to our government. One thing is quite clear, that if Astoria was upon British soil, it was unauthorized, and, having been taken in lawful war, this government had no claim whatever to its restitution. The act of restitution, therefore, admitted that America had rights in the territory, even so early as the breaking out of the war, and long before the cession, by Spain, of her rights by the treaty of Florida.

Between Spain and America, there arose a question, after the cession of 1803, respecting the proper limits of Louisiana; which was finally terminated in 1819, by the Florida treaty, by which it was agreed, that a line drawn along the 42d parallel of latitude, from the meridian of the sources of the Arkansas, westward to the Pacific, should form the northern boundary of the Spanish possessions, and the southern boundary of the American possessions in that quarter; "His Catholic Majesty ceding to the United States all his rights, claims, and pretensions to any territories north of the said line;" the United States on their part ceding Texas to Spain.

Whatever title, therefore, either France or Spain ever had to Oregon, except so far as the Nootka treaty may have modified the rights of Spain, has been completely vested in this country. So that, with that exception, which we are about to consider, whether we regard the title acquired by the original discovery of the coast on the Pacific and the Straits of Fuca, or by the Spanish settlements on that Strait, or at Nootka Sound, or that derived from the discovery of the river Oregon, the overland exploration of its stream, and the settlements on its branches' or the title derived from the discoveries and settlements on the Atlantic coasts and on the rivers St. Lawrence and Missisippi, we see them all tend to one point, and united in this country, vesting in us a title, as we believe, not to be shaken.

These titles *all* cover the country as far north as the 49th parallel, embracing the strait of Fuca and the parts adjacent; while the title derived from Gray's discovery extends to the head waters of the Columbia a little above the parallel of 52, and that derived from the Spanish cession of 1819 extends to the Russian possessions.

The most important grounds on which the British government defend their pretensions, are Drake's voyage and the Nootka treaty. The evidence, as we have already said of Drake's visit above 43, is too slender for serious argument. Indeed, we may say that whatever appearance of right there may be in these pretensions, rests altogether upon the treaty of 1790; and such, we infer, is the view of the British government itself: for there is no other reason for their confining their pretensions to joint occupancy and settlement. If any other of their grounds were valid, their title would be exclusive.*

The British government maintain that by virtue of that treaty they acquired a perpetual right to all parts of the northwest coast, "for all purposes of commerce and settlement, the sovereignty remaining in abeyance." The convention is in these words:

ART. 1. The buildings and tracts of land situated on the northwest coast of the continent of North America, or on the islands adjacent to that continent, of which the subjects of his Britannic Majesty were dispossessed about the month of April, 1789, by a Spanish officer, shall be restored to the said British subjects.

ART. 2. A just reparation shall be made according to the nature of the case, for all acts of violence or hostility which may have been committed subsequent to the month of April, 1789, by the subjects of either of the contracting parties against the subjects of the other; and in case said respective subjects shall since the same period have been forcibly dispossessed of their lands, buildings, vessels, merchandise, and other property whatever, on the said continent, or on the seas and islands adjacent, they shall be re-established in the possession thereof, or a just compensation shall be made to them for the losses which they have sustained.

ART. 3. In order to strengthen the bonds of friendship, and to preserve in future a perfect harmony and good understanding between the two contracting parties, it is agreed that their respective subjects shall not be disturbed or molested, either in navigating, or carrying on their fisheries, in the Pacific ocean, or in the South seas, or in landing on the coasts of those seas in places not already occupied, for the purpose of carrying on their commerce with the natives of the country, or of making settlements there; the whole subject, nevertheless, to the restrictions specified in the three following articles.

ART. 4. His Britannic Majesty engages to take the most effectual measures to prevent the navigation and the fishery of his subjects on the Pacific ocean, or in the South Seas, from being made a pretext for illicit trade with the Spanish settlements; and, with this view, it is moreover expressly stipulated that British subjects shall not navigate, or carry on their fishery, in the said seas, within the space of ten sea leagues from any part of the coasts already occupied by Spain.

ART. 5. As well in the places which are to be restored to the British subjects by virtue of the first article, as in all other parts of the northwestern coasts of North America, or of the islands adjacent situate to the north of the parts of the said coast already occupied by Spain, wherever the subjects of either of the two powers shall have made settlement since the month of April, 1789, or shall hereafter make any, the subjects of the other shall have free access, and shall carry on their trade without any disturbance or molestation.

ART. 6. With respect to the eastern and western coasts of South America, and the islands adjacent, no settlement shall be formed hereafter by the respective subjects in such parts of those coasts as are situated to the south of those parts of the same coasts and of the islands adjacent, which are already occupied by Spain: provided that the said respective subjects shall retain the liberty of landing on the coasts and islands so situated for the purpose of their fishery, and of erecting thereon huts and other temporary buildings, serving only for those purposes.

ART. 7. In all cases of complaint or infraction of the articles of the present convention, the officers of either party, without permitting themselves previously to commit any violence or acts of force, shall be bound to make an exact report of the affair and of its circumstances to their respective courts, which will terminate such difficulties in an amicable manner.

With respect to this convention, it is to be observed,

1. That it is an executory agreement, one of that class which is annulled by war; and which lasted therefore only so long as peace was preserved between England and Spain, which was six years.

It is not an acknowledgment of an existing right; but an engagement between the parties, that "their subjects should not be molested, in landing on the coasts, not already occupied for the purpose of carrying on commerce or making settlements;" an engagement of the same class with treaties for the regulation of navigation, tariffs, or fisheries.

In the analagous case of the Newfoundland fisheries, Great Britain herself insisted that the liberty given us to fish and land on the coasts of Newfoundland was annulled by the war of 1812, taking occasion at the same time to declare that she "knows of no exception to the rule, that all treaties are put an end to by a subsequent war between the same parties."*

It has been said, indeed, on the part of the British government, that the engagements of this treaty, even if revoked by the war, were renewed by the following stipulation between Spain and England in 1814, viz:

"It is agreed that, pending the negotiation of a new treaty of commerce, Great Britain shall be admitted to trade with Spain upon the same conditions as those which existed previously to 1796, all the treaties of commerce which at that period subsisted between the two nations being hereby ratified and confirmed."

To this position there are two answers; first, that the liberty to settle on the northwest coasts was not part of a treaty of commerce; and second, that the stipulation obviously related only to the European dominions of Spain.

2. If no war between Spain and Great Britain had intervened, still the engagements of the Nootka treaty were in their nature temporary; intended to provide for a state of things where there were no permanent settlements, and quite unsuited to, indeed incompatible with, a real occupation of the country by permanent civilized communities with an established government, and a system of laws to be administered. The things contemplated by the convention were rather trading posts and a commerce in furs, than any such permanent occupancy as we have been mentioning.

To carry out and perpetuate the treaty, according to the British interpretation, would be to condemn the whole country to eternal waste except for the purpose of hunting and trading with the natives, or to place there, side by side, American citizens and British subjects, to cultivate the earth, build towns and carry on a traffic through the Pacific, each class governed by a different system of laws, different sets of magistrates, and owing allegiance to different governments. That surely is a state of things which we should be slow to admit was agreed upon, and slow to submit to.

There are some minor arguments brought forward by each party which we do not think it necessary here to mention. They do not change the aspect of the case as we have presented it. If the main arguments which we have examined do not decide it, the smaller ones will not.

The last propositions between the two parties for the settlement of the controversy were, on the American side, that the line of the 49th parallel, the boundary on this side of the mountains, should be continued to the Pacific; and on the British side, that the line should be continued only to the head waters of the river Oregon, and then down that river to the sea, the stream being the boundary, and to continue forever common to the two nations. Whether, in the late negotiations, different terms have been proposed on either side, we are not informed.

Upon the whole matter, we have formed an opinion the most decided that the American claim is founded in law and justice; and we think we do but declare the decision of the American people when we say that the 49th parallel is a reasonable and proper compromise, and the southernmost limit which America ought to concede.

With respect to the mode of dealing with the British Government, hereafter, we must say in the first place, that we should be slow to submit to the arbitrament of a European sovereign. There are many reasons of a political nature why a claim of this country to territory should not be decided by any potentate. Our rights are now in our own keeping, and we prefer that they should remain so; but, at the same time, notwithstanding this disinclination to the arbitrament of a foreign prince, we would take that much sooner than incur the chances and calamities of war. We would, moreover, on no compromise, recede from the 49th parallel. That divides the territory into two nearly equal parts: it carries our northern boundary in a straight line from the Lake of the Woods to the South sea, and it secures to us what we most want—the noble harbors about the strait of Fuca, and the exclusive control of the river Oregon, in its whole course. But we would not close the door upon negotiation. We would endeavor to persuade Great Britain that our rights were perfect, and that we were unanimous in maintaining them. We would not be in haste to close the negotiation, satisfied that every day adds strength to our possession. We would afford protection to our countrymen who may go there to settle or to trade; and for that purpose a law ought immediately to be passed, extending the jurisdiction of our Courts over American citizens in that country. So long as there was any hope of an amicable arrangement, we would not terminate the joint occupancy provided by the Conventions of 1818, and 1827, believing that to do so would but irritate, and might break off negotiation. But if negotiation does not promise favorable results, and as soon as a reasonable prospect of adjustment by that means were past, we would terminate the joint occupancy, in the mode provided by the conventions, and establish a territorial Government. If, then, Great Britain chose to resist, we would meet force by force.

If that day should ever come, (which may God avert,) the consequences of the struggle are beyond the reach of human eyes. Some of them, however, we may reasonably anticipate: and, in regard to all, our countrymen have no just cause of apprehension.

The final result of the warlike operations would probably be the extinction of British power on this continent. At first, no doubt we should suffer immensely from want of adequate preparation to meet the vast disposable force under the control of Great Britain. It seems a weakness of republican government not to prepare itself for such emergencies. Jealousy of great establishments, especially those which are supported by the State, seems inseparable from popular institutions. Such, at least, has been our experience. Great Britain, on the other hand, is thoroughly prepared: with well disciplined and numerous armies, with ships of war hovering on every sea, with warlike stores and munitions, collected without stint of expense or labor, for many years. She has naval stations on every coast, fortresses, and troops, wherever there are islands which she could seize, and a belt of frowning fortresses all round the globe. With these well appointed means at hand, she would strike heavy blows in the first year of the war, inflicting upon us greater sacrifices, probably, than it would have cost us to keep adequately prepared for half a century.

But the vigor and elasticity of this people would bear them up against these assaults and losses; their resources, almost boundless, would be developed with greater rapidity than the calm times of peace could have produced: all kinds of manufactures possible to us would take root: and every means which the people could command, would be brought out, to serve the purpose of defence and annoyance. Every element of disaffection in the neighboring provinces would be nourished into rebellion. Republican armies would plant the standard of revolt in their soil. We should offer their inhabitants freedom from the galling colonial yoke: exemption from the swarms of foreign officers who infest their homes: self-government in its best and truest acceptation, and a union with our circle of free States. We should point out to them, if indeed it be not already impressed on their minds, the difference between the two systems, as they appear upon the opposite side of the St. Lawrence and the lakes. If they did not profit by the lesson and the occasion, they would prove themselves of a different spirit from what we take them to be.

On our southern border Mexico would probably be stimulated by the offers of England, added to the irritation which she now naturally feels, to join in the war; and the consequences of it would be, that the country would be overrun by invaders from the South and Southwest. What means of defence she has on her open frontier, we do not see. A western hunter will carry provisions enough on his back, to subsist him ten days, and by that time, he would place himself in the habitable and fruitful parts of Mexico. All the efforts of England, both at the South and North, would be exhausted on the sea coasts. She would make no impression on the interior; and from the interior would be organized forces which, aided by the disaffected population north of us, and the weakness of the races south, would carry American dominion from the ancient seat of the Aztecs to the Arctic sea.

Upon the ocean itself the contest would be long and bloody; but it is our conviction that it would end in breaking down the maritime superiority of England. We would not underrate English power on the sea. We know it well; but we do not fear it. We know that her mercantile marine is not a third greater than ours; and we believe that, in the long run, in a war of many years, as this would be, the armed marine would become proportionate to the commercial. In that case, considering the greater number of possessions which England has to defend, and the larger number of ships to convoy, the two navies would come to something like an equality of disposable force. And if that were to happen, who can doubt the result? We have now, it has been estimated, 200,000 men employed in navigation. If one-half of them could be placed in armed vessels, they would constitute a greater force than England has ever had upon the sea.

There are other results of a war between this country and England, perhaps even more important than any operations of arms, which we will briefly glance at. One of them is the complete and final emancipation of the American mind from English influence. How great this influence even now is we have too often occasion to observe and deplore.

There is among the people of this country a hereditary and undue respect for the name of England, an excessive admiration of her past history, and an exaggerated estimate of her present power. These are the remnants of colonial ideas, which half a century of independence and two bloody wars, one of them long and full of circumstances of exasperation, have not been sufficient to eradicate. The facts of our history have run far ahead of our opinions. With a government of our own choice, and laws of our own making, we receive from abroad the most effective of all laws—laws for the mind. If we do not act as we are commanded, we think much as we are commanded from Europe. From this injurious and disgraceful thraldom we are gradually emancipating ourselves. A war will do it at once.

Another result would be the purification of our own political atmosphere. "The cankers of a calm world and a long peace" are no fiction. They are undeniable realities. Offices go to those who need, not to those who are needed. Politics become a trade. Lesser qualities have as much appreciable value, and are associated with fewer scruples, than great ones. But when the State is in danger, patriotism and ability take precedence of selfishness and mediocrity. The first effect of a collision would be to bring the ablest and best men uppermost.

Let us not be misunderstood. For none of these reasons do we desire a war. Far from it. We deprecate it. We would do every thing we could consistently with our obligation and future safety to avoid it. But if it come, we shall consider it not an unmixed evil.

If this article had not already been extended as far as is reasonable to ask the attention of the reader, we should have gone into some further topics connected with the relations between America and England. We may, perhaps, return to them hereafter. Suffice it at present to add, that in what we have said, we desired to keep in view the distinction between the mass of the English people and the government of England. For the former, we have respect and sympathy. They are of our kindred and our flesh. But the latter is a selfish and insolent oligarchy. It strove to oppress us once, and is therefore our hater now. It is that we combat, and their spirit that we detest.

If ever the government of that country becomes so popular as to admit into it the just authority and influence of the people, (and there are indications that such a change is coming over the spirit of our fatherland,) we may reasonably expect to see a corresponding change in our mutual relations. Then we may hope to see England sincerely our friend and fellow. Then, instead of hostile diplomacy and hostile forces, may we have between us only messengers of friendship and of good.

D. D. F.

*"Great Britain claims no exclusive sovereignty over any portion of that territory. Her present claim, not in respect to any part, but to the whole, is limited to a right of joint occupancy in common with other States, leaving the right of exclusive dominion in abeyance."—*British statement, made by Messrs. Huskisson and Addington in the negotiation of 1826–7.*

*That our readers may be better able to compare the two conventions, we subjoin the third article of the definite treaty of peace of 1783—

"It is agreed that the people of the United States shall continue to enjoy unmolested the right to take fish of any kind on the Grand Bank, and on all the other banks of Newfoundland; also in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and at all places in the sea where the inhabitants of both countries used at any time heretofore to fish: and also that the inhabitants of the United States shall have liberty to take fish of every kind on such part of the coast of Newfoundland as British fisheries shall use (but not to dry or cure the same on that island,) and also on the coasts, bays and creeks of all other of his Britannic Majesty's dominions in America; and that the American fishermen shall have liberty to dry and cure fish in any of the unsettled bays, harbors, and creeks of Nova Scotia, Magdalen islands, and Labrador, so long as the same shall remain unsettled; but so soon as the same or either of them shall be settled, it shall not be lawful for the said fishermen to dry or cure fish at such settlement, without a previous agreement with the inhabitants, proprietors, or possessors of the ground."

The American plenipotentiaries insisted that these provisions were of perpetual obligation, for the reason that they were the acknowledgment of a previous right, common to all the persons composing the British empire before its dismemberment, and made part and parcel of their partition of territory and of common rights at the peace; but the British plenipotentiaries on the other hand maintained, that they were concessions depending for their continuance upon the continuance of the engagements between the two contracting parties, and revoked by that which revokes all contracts—a subsequent war. So that while the positions then taken by the American government do not contradict those which they now take respecting the Nootka treaty, the British government then maintained and adhered to a doctrine of public law wholly irreconcilable with their present pretensions.

The reader who is curious in such matters, will find some observations respecting the kind of conventions which survive a war, in the cases of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel against the town of New Haven, in 8 Wheaton's Reports, 464, and Sutton agt. Sutton, 1 Russel and Mylne, 663.

The distinction between what is called by the publicists *transitory conventions*, and other national compacts, may be illustrated by the distinction somewhat analagous between a conveyance, by which a title is actually vested in a grantee, and a contract, which gives no title, but a claim on the contracting party.

GATHERING OF THE HUGUENOTS.—A new French Protestant or Huguenot Church has been erected in Charleston, S. C., for the purpose of gathering the lineal descendants of the Huguenots in the vicinity of that city into a congregation. This church, as we learn by the *Charleston Courier*, was dedicated on the 11th instant, when a dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Charles Howard, the pastor.

GOV. DORR'S HEALTH.—The Providence Gazette states that Gov. Dorr's health is probably *worse than it has ever been before* since his confinement. He is bent nearly double with his old enemy, the rheumatism; and if not soon restored to a healthful atmosphere, must pay the debt of nature.

The city authorities of Providence refuse the use of any public building to the friends of Dorr to hold a meeting in. They are compelled to hold them in the open air.

The Public Money.

It will be remembered that when the Whig Congress repealed the Independent Treasury law, they adopted no better substitute than the old exploded "pet bank system," which was liable at any crisis, to explode in bankruptcy, and cheat the Government out of all its funds; and which they had previously condemned in the most positive manner. All the Democrats could do, under the circumstances, was to demand that the Deposite Banks should give security, according to the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury. As a matter of necessity, therefore, the public deposites have been kept in banks selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, up to the present time. Some doubts and rumors having been expressed and started in various quarters, the Washington Union notices some of them, and says:—

"No permanent system has been adopted by the Secretary of the Treasury. He is engaged at present in securing the public moneys, and rendering the mint most active and efficient; increasing the deposites in the mint, and the coinage, especially of dimes and half dimes, to be used under the new post office law. The Independent Treasury Bill has been repealed; and the Secretary is further embarrassed by the provision of the act of the 17th June, 1844, recognizing to a certain extent the then existing Deposite Bank System, and declaring, further, "that no changes be made *except for non-compliance with the instructions of the Treasury Department, or the failure to furnish sufficient security*." This provision was no doubt designed to be changed, whenever the Democratic party should come into power in the two Houses of Congress. That the Secretary of the Treasury will carry out his specie doctrines to the full extent permitted by the law, and especially that he will increase the coinage, is certain. But he will not attempt to violate or evade the law, to carry out any doctrine he may entertain.

We repeat, the Secretary is contributing his proportion of public duty to facilitate the introduction of the new post office law. He has already drawn upon the places of deposit for Mexican dollars, &c., to be sent to the mint and branch mints in different sums of $30,000, 70,000, 100,000, and 50,000—to the amount, in all, of $250,000, to be coined into dimes, for the use of the people under the new post office law. More will be sent, to the full extent authorized by law. The next issue will probably be of quarters, when a sufficient number of dimes and half dimes is coined."

The Gift of the Gab.

The following amusing article has been going the rounds of the London papers, and it presents a laughable anecdote at the expense of two well known geologists, Dr. Buckland and Mr. George Stephenson:

"Once upon a time, at a gathering of fine spirits at Drayton Manor, Dr. Buckland, Sir William Follett, and Mr. George Stephenson were among the guests assembled. The immortal railway engineer is remarkable for peculiar notions on disputable points in various sciences. For instance, he knows by the effect of electricity on a rail whether the road pays or not; and, as he has gone as deep as most men into the bowels of the land, he rejects theories alike of Werner and Hutton—the advocate of water and the advocate of fire—and announces his own views with so much original vigor that they at once startle and amuse. Sir Robert having the leading professor of geology at the same table with the expounder of new notions on stratification, contrived to bring them into intellectual collision. Mr. Stephenson disputed the facts of formations as alleged, and Dr. Buckland defended them; and he combatted the arguments of his opponent with such happy fluency and ready reference, that he crushed his adversary with as much apparent power as one of the engineer's own locomotives would an obtruding rabbit, when the engine was going at the rate of forty miles an hour. Mr. Stephenson felt that he was worsted, not defeated; but, being pleasantly and politely chafed, the efforts he made to recover his position only served to aggravate the pains of his wounds. Although it was only a friendly controversy, he was considerably irritated and he slept but very little that night.

"He was early up next morning and sought to cool his temper in the spacious garden at Drayton Manor. He had not taken many turns on the silica when Sir William Follett made his appearance. His first salutation was, "George, you made a pretty fool of yourself last night." "I have a strong suspicion of that kind myself, Sir William," replied Mr. Stephenson, "but I am convinced that I am right after all." "To be sure you were," said Sir William, "but you cannot talk. I never heard such a bungler. You were full of facts—wonderful facts; and Buckland had only sophistry to oppose you. He beat you to a stand still, because you had no rhetoric." "I am, Sir William, no lawyer." "But I am. Come, sit down in this alcove; and now, before we are called breakfast, repeat to me your whole theory." Mr. Stephenson did as Sir William desired. He went through the process of fire and water, the operations of electricity, the nature of salts, the position of strata. "That will do," said Sir William. "Now at dinner to day hold your tongue; leave Buckland to me." After dinner, Dr. Buckland, excited by his triumph of the preceding evening, soon introduced mineralogy. Sir William, in his quiet, gentle way, drew him into a controversy, closed upon him, out-talked him, and prostrated the professor as effectually as the professor had overthrown the engineer the evening before. Sir Robert enjoyed the encounter; no one was displeased; and as they rose to retire, Sir William whispered, "George, what do you think now?" "Think!" replied Mr. Stephenson, "I think that there is nothing in earth or on it like the gift of the gab."

WHAT THE NORTH DOES FOR THE SOUTH.—The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, makes the following amusing summary of the means which the North furnishes to the South:

"They build our houses, they adorn them with every comfort and convenience of which we have ever conjectured. They educate our children, and cover our nakedness from head to foot, with hats and shoes, coats and shirts; we eat their flour, cheese, butter, apples, codfish, potatoes, pickles, pork and onions; we feed our cattle with their hay, drive their horses in their harness to their hay, drive their horses in their carriages with their whips; we walk with their sticks, ride on their saddles, write on their paper, wash with their soap, scrub with their brushes, sweep with their brooms, milk in their pails, cook in their pots, strike with their hammers, blow with their bellows, cut with their axes, sow with their seed, reap with their hooks, pull with their leather, whitewash with their lime, paint with their paint, march by their tunes, read by their lights, drink their Congress water and rum, smoke their cigars—and last and best of all these blessings, we marry their pretty girls, who make the best of wives."

GALVANISM.—A writer in the Journal of Commerce says that the use of galvanism in promoting the growth of plants is spoken of as something new. The Tribune mentions an experiment wherein a plant was made to grow three-fourths of an inch in twelve hours, by this means. But he is credibly informed that this mode of forcing rapid vegetation has been known and practised in the East Indies from time immemorial. It is practised in India by the jugglers and the Fakirs for the entertainment of the vulgar. A gentleman mentioned to him some extraordinary exhibitions of the kind, which he saw in India, a year or two ago. In these instances, they were put in the ground, covered with a basket, frequently watered, &c., and the plants grew six inches in half an hour.

GOVERNMENT MAIL STEAMSHIPS.—The President and his Cabinet have had up for consideration the scheme for transporting the mails between the United States and foreign countries. It is stated that Colonel Sloo is the most prominent competitor for the contract for the steam vessels to run between New York and the ports of New Orleans, Galveston, Vera Cruz, Havana, &c., and he has raised a capital of a million and a half of dollars for the undertaking.

A letter from California says that foreigners with facility become citizens and obtain large grants of land. In 1844 the alcades or Justices of the Peace, of three-fifths of the towns were foreigners, they having become citizens, and married to California lasses. Two out of the 7 of the State Legislature are foreigners also.

OREGON EMIGRANTS.—One of the editors of the Western Expositer, writing from the Kaw village, thus speaks of one of the companies now on the route to Oregon:

"A beautiful prairrie, which the wild taste of the Kaw Indians have settled for their permanent village, one hundred miles from Independence, is the rendezvous of the Oregon emigrants, assembled here to complete their final organization. One hundred and four wagons arranged in an oval ring, and linked together with ox chains form at once an immense caral to enclose the stock, and an impregnable fortress to protect them. One hundred more wagons encamped in groups at small distances completes the troop here assembled, which, dotting the plain with their snow white covers, resounding with a busy multitude plying to and fro in business of preparation, or herding the cloud of stock engaged in devouring the luxuriant grass, combine to heighten in interest a scene full of animation, sunshine, and excitement. The emigrants have been engaged during the day in framing and adopting a system of regulation for their general government, and in the election of officers. Dr. Walsh, of Cooper county, Missouri has been chosen captain, Stephen H. L. Meek, pilot.

"From the census which I have succeeded in taking, there were present, males 421, females 138, children 448, cattle 3,261, wagons 233, horses 182.

"This morning the warlike news from England, reached the camp, at the announcement of which all declared that they went equally determined to settle and to conquer."

Since the departure of the company here alluded to, other companies have left St. Joseph, Savannah, and Council Bluffs, in numbers fully equal to the one above spoken of.

RUSH FOR OREGON.—The St. Louis Era of June 3' says—

Several hundred persons are here anxious to engage in the expedition that is about to be undertaken by Capt. Fremont beyond the mountains. They display an intense anxiety to engage in that service. To avoid private interviews with such a crowd of applicants, Capt. Fremont gave notice that he would, on yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, at the Planters' warehouse, explain publicly the objects and purposes of his expedition, the nature of the service, and the terms and conditions with which they must comply who desired to engage with him. At the time and place appointed, he attended, and made an attempt to explain himself; but so great was the crowd of applicants, and so pressing and urgent were their demands to be engaged, that they crowded on him and made so much noise and clamor in support of their respective claims, pretensions, and recommendations, that he could neither hear, nor be heard, and gave up as a bad job the task of explaining his views to them verbally. He finally stated that he would give them the desired information through the public papers, and the crowd adjourned. This is the strongest manifestation of the Oregon fever that we have yet witnessed. The expedition is expected to start from this place during the present week, and to leave Westport about the 15th of the present month.

THE "EXCHANGES."—The N. Y. News observes, in a late money article, that

"The promptness and regularity with which exchanges 'regulate themselves' of late years should not be lost sight of. A large political party staked their claims to power upon the necessity of a National Bank, to collect and pay moneys in different sections of the country. The fact is, that without any regulation whatever, bills were never more equally in supply to the extent of the demand, or more uniformly within a fraction of par. From Boston to New Orleans throughout the entire Atlantic coast, the extreme rate is not over ¼ per cent. discount, and the average affords but a small commission to the broker. On no point of the Union is the rate so high as would cover the cost of transportation of specie. The supply of bills so nearly equals the demand that the competition of many individual negotiators reduces the rate to a very small fraction of one per cent. as their remuneration for buying and selling. Under a national monopolizing "regulator" the reverse was the case. That institution kept the rate as high as possible to be under the cost of transportation of specie. It could not exceed that rate as long as it paid specie, because to demand the coin was a single check upon its greed. The present admirable state of the exchanges, may be ascribed solely to the absence of the 'regulator.'"

The effect of cheap postage in increasing the Post-office revenue, in England, is shown by the late financial accounts. The increase of net revenue, it will be seen, is nearly fifty per cent.

"The gross revenue for the year 1844 was £1,705,-067, giving an increase of nearly £80,000 as compared with 1843. The apparent increase in 1844, taking the Post-office returns for 1843 as the standard of comparison, is, in each case, more than double the amount here given; but as we stated at the time, those returns gave the revenue, both gross and net, too low by about £85,000. The actual increase in net revenue in 1844 is greater than for any year since the war, except 1825, when it was £92,000; and in 1836, when it was £81,000. From 1840 (the first year of penny postage) to 1844, the increase of net revenue is nearly fifty per cent."

ROTATION.—The following extract from General Jackson's first Message contains sound doctrines, which we commend to the perusal of those superannuated office holders who are complaining that the President has made them give place to others, more efficient and equally entitled to the patronage of the Government:

"I cannot but believe that more is lost by the long continuance of men in office, than is generally gained by their experience."

"The incumbent became an officer with a view to public benefits, and when these require his removal, they are not to be sacrificed to private interests. He that is removed has the same means of living that are enjoyed by the millions who never held office."

General Washington was the first who set the example of sending a market cart, with vegetables, fruits, and other products, to the cities of the District of Columbia. There are those now living in Alexandria who speak with much pleasure and pride, of having seen the *Pater Patriæ* himself at the Alexandria market; and of having often purchased vegetables in that market, from the Mount Vernon estate. At a later period, Mrs. Monroe used to supply the Washington market with very fine fresh butter from the President's farm in Loudon. So says a correspondent of the Journal of Commerce.

ILLINOIS CANAL.—It is expected that this work will now be prosecuted with great energy and despatch. Sixty miles of the line, from Juliet to the Southern terminus at Peru on the Illinois river, will be completed and in operation within six months; and it is expected that the whole line, from the Illinois river to Lake Michigan, will be navigable within one year from November next. The success of the negotiation for the completion of the Canal, in connection with the sale of the public property of the State and the winding up of the Banks, will reduce the State debt since December, 1842, about eight millions of dollars.

POPULATION OF MEXICO.—In Mexico there are 7,-000,000 of Indians and Creoles, ignorant and slothful; and a hundred thousand persons of Spanish descent, wealthy and of military profession. The estimate of the Mexican government of the population of their country, (for it does not appear to have ever had the energy to obtain an actual census,) was in 1842, as follows:—Indians, 4,500,000, Mestizos, 1,-505,500; Europeans and white Creoles, 1,000,000.

An Ohio paper states the number (7) of branches required to start the Ohio State Bank has been completed, and that the board of contract met June 4th. This is the nucleus of one of the most absurd bank bubbles ever started.

A Canada paper says that an order from His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of the forces, reduces by one inch, the present standard for the height of recruits enlisted for the British Infantry.

THE OAK—CURIOUS EXPERIMENT.—Take an acorn in the fall of the year, tie a string round it in such a way that when suspended, the blunt end of the acorn, where the cup was, is upward. Hang it thus prepared in the inside of a bottle, or hyacinth glass, containing a little water, taking care that the acorn does not reach the water within an inch; wrap the bottle all over in flannel, so as to keep it dark and warm, and put it in a warm place. In three or four weeks the acorn will have swollen, its coat will have burst, and a little white point will make its appearance at the end opposite the water. The point is the root; the acorn is now changing its nature and becoming an oak; still, however, it must be stationed in the dark; still it must be kept clear of the water, and so it must continue till the young root is at least half an inch long.

Then the water may be allowed to rise higher; but it is only when from the neck or the root, a little point begins to turn upward, that it is safe to allow the water to touch it. At this time, the acorn has ceased to be an acorn, and has really become a young oak; for the little point directing itself upward is the beginning of that trunk which a century later may form the timber of a frigate. As soon as the young stem begins to shoot, the oak will require a dose of light, a little every day; and it also yearns for more food, so that its root, which in reality is its mouth, must be allowed to touch the water and drink it.

After these events have come to pass, our little nursling breathes, and must have air; digests, and must have light; sucks greedily, and must have fresh water given to its root, which, however, should never be permitted to be wholly covered; just that point where the stem begins should always be kept out of the water. The pet having been brought to this its first state of existence, must be kept at the window. At first it will be a stout thread, whitish, and covered with tiny scales, then the scales will expand a little, and then the end will become greener.

Next will appear some little leaves; hair will begin to grow, veins will branch; the old scales will fall off, and by slow degrees the leaves will arrange themselves upon the stem, each unfolding from the bosom of the other. And thus, out of a little starch and gum—for the acorn was not much more—manifold parts will be curiously produced by the wondrous creative powers of nature.—*Gardener's Chronicle.*

INDIAN LESSONS OF WISDOM.—A bird catcher netted a sparrow, and as he held it, the bird opened his beak and said, 'Pray let me go; what good can my imprisonment do? If you sell me no one will give you two pieces for me—but if you will promise to let me go, I will give you three lessons of wisdom, by which you may make a fortune both for yourself and for the kutcha buticha,' (family.) 'There, these are my lessons; never regret what is irretrievably gone; never believe that which seems improbable; and never expose your disappointments to the world.' Grateful for so much sound advice, the bird catcher opened his hand, and the happy little sparrow flew on to the spray of a neighboring tree, where having plumed her feathers with an air of triumph, 'Foolish man,' quoth she, 'I have a pearl in my crop weighing a tola; hadst thou killed me, how great would have been thy treasure!' Hearing this, the man broke out into loud lamentattons on his loss, and when his disappointment had a little vented itself the little bird exclaimed, 'Alas! alas!—what are my lessons worth, when at the first temptation thou hast forgotten all? Did I not tell thee never to believe what was improbable? And how should I, whose whole body does not weigh half a tola, carry a pearl of double my own weight in my crop? Did I not tell thee to conceal disappointments, and here thou hast torn thy hair and bawled so loud in thine anger that the neighbors gathered around us. Alas! alas! can experience only make a man wise?'—*Asiatic Journal.*

A Tennessean—a full six footer—presented himself to the sergeant at the recruiting quarters, Old Levee street, yesterday, and offered his services to Uncle Sam for the next four years. The sergeant, rejoiced to meet with such excellent material for a dragoon, slapped him approvingly on the shoulder, slipped half a dollar into his fist as an earnest of future favors, and complimented him on the prospects of glory that were opening to him and to all "enterprising young men" who joined the service, both in Mexico and Oregon. "It speaks trumpet-tongued," he added, "for the patriotism of all such young men as you are, to see them come in at a time like the present, when we are threatened with war from two opposite quarters, and enroll themselves in the standing army of the country."

"Hold on, stranger," said the Tennessean, "did you say *standin'* army?"

"Certainly I did," said the sergeant; "and what more honorable service is there?"

"Honorable h—ll!" said the Tennesseean—"Do you think I came all the way from Cocke county to jine your stay-at-home, *standin'* army?—No: tell me where I can find a *marchin'* army—an army marchin' to the 'Halls of the Montezumas,' as old Sam used to say—or a *fightin'* army, and I'm *thar*—certain. D—n your standin' armies—they are no account—and I'll jine none on 'em. Good bye, stranger!" and saying this, the Tennesseean sloped.

NUTRITIVE PROPERTIES OF SUGAR.—The nutritive properties of sugar are much underrated in this country. As an aliment, Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, maintains that sugar produces the greatest quantity of nourishment in a given quantity of matter of any substance in nature. Horses and cattle, when fed wholly on it in St. Domingo for some months, when the exportation of sugar and importation of grain were prevented for want of ships, during the crop time in the West Indies, all appear fat and flourishing. The cattle fed on the cane tops become sleek and in a fine condition. The negroes drink freely of the juice, and become fat and healthy. Sir George Staunton observes, that many of the slaves and idle persons in China hide themselves among the canes and live entirely on them for a time. In that kingdom the emperor compels his body-guard to eat a certain quantity of sugar every day that they may become fat and look portly. Sugar and rice constitute the common food of the people, and every kind of domestic animal is fed on sugar. Plague, malignant fevers, and disorders in the breast are unknown in the countries where sugar is abundantly eaten as food.

PROPAGATION OF SOUND.—In No. 88. of the Quarterly Review, the following statement is made:

"When the ground is hard and dry, or rests upon a continuous stratum of rock, sound is propagated to a great distance; and hence it is the practice in many countries, to ascertain the approach of horsemen by applying their ear to the ground. The sound of cannon has been heard at a great distance. Guns discharged at Carlsrona were heard as far as Denmark, a distance of at least one hundred and twenty miles. In sailing from Asia Minor to Egypt, Dr. Clark heard the sound of a sea-fight at a distance of one hundred and thirty miles. Dr. Hearn heard guns fired at Stockholm, at a distance of one hundred and eighty British miles; and the cannonade of a naval engagement between the Dutch and English, in 1672, was heard across England as far as Shrewsbury, and even in Wales, a distance of about two hundred miles."

LANGUAGE AND CLIMATE.—In all hot countries men use, in speaking, a multitude of vowels, which are all pronounced by the greater or less apertures of the mouth, in breathing and in speaking, and use very few consonants, all of which are produced by more or less complete interruption of the breath, and contact, or even closure of parts among the organs of speech. If we examine the language of Lapland or Greenland, or the Artic American Esquimaux, we shall find that there are enormous numbers of consonants and that most of these consonants are guttural, as they do not like to open their mouth to the cold air sufficiently to pronounce the labial, dental, or lingual consonant, much less the vowels, and least of all, the more open of the vowels. This is an universal law.

OREGON ARMY!—A lady in Concord, N. J., was delivered of three fine healthy boys on Monday last. They are all doing well. We often hear of two girls and a boy at one birth, and sometimes of two boys and a girl, but three boys carry off the palm. It is good for married people to live in *Concord*—if they would only think so.

A YOUTHFUL WIFE.—The New York Tribune says "we were told yesterday of a young lady, from the interior of this State, who had just been married to her second husband; she is now 13½ years old, and married her first husband when she was 11."

The various kinds of Bank notes in Ohio are known by the names of "red-dog," of "sick-monkey" and of "blue-pup," while specie there is termed "rhino."