

# The Salt River Journal.

A. H. BUCKNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

"POWER IS EVER STEALING FROM THE MANY TO THE FEW."

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## IMPORTANT TEXIAN NEWS!

LA BACA RIVER, TEXAS,  
Nov. 12, 1840.

To the Editor of the Salt River Journal:

DEAR SIR:—The reasons which prompt me to address you are briefly these: When the Comanche Indians with a few Mexicans and some Cherokees—in all, about four hundred, made a sudden and unexpected descent upon this portion of Texas in August last, the newspapers of Texas and the United States, were filled with the most glaring falsehoods in regard to their number, depredations, and the final engagement which took place on Plumb Creek on the 12th of August. Knowing the impossibility of truthful news reaching you, therefore, I have concluded to embrace this the earliest occasion to give an account of a very important, decisive and chivalrous battle;—the news of which, has just reached me.

Col. John H. Moore, with 99 Texians and 18 Lissan Indians, (spies) left Austin on the 1st of October, and travelled up the Colorado River about 200 miles above that place. On the morning of the 23d October, the Lissan spies discovered the village of about 300 Comanches, who were encamped on the Colorado in a half-moon-curve of the stream, where the bank on the opposite shore was very high and difficult of ascent. Immediately below the cone the stream was fordable. Thus it required but little generalship to surround the enemy and leave them no alternative but to fight or take water. At the time of the discovery Col. Moore was distant perhaps 20 or 30 miles, and when the spy returned, he concluded to wait till night and then to march up to within a few hundred yards and await the dawn of day; at which time a simultaneous attack should be made upon all parts of the village. This he succeeded in doing in splendid style.

He had ample time before day light to discover the precise situation of the enemy; and as soon as it was sufficiently light a charge was ordered and brilliantly carried into execution. The enemy were awakened from their slumbers by the awful crack of the Texian rifles, when a fine engagement ensued. The Comanches endeavored to reach the ford, but finding it blocked, they took to the river in the cone. The Texians would charge and fire; then retreat a short distance, re-load and again rally to the conflict. Many of the Indians were drowned in the river, and all of those who reached the opposite shore were killed while ascending the bluff bank and tumbled down like stones into the water and were carried off. The Indians did not fight as bravely as is their wont, though a few of them fell bleeding at every pore. Two escaped on horse-back, and they are all who were seen to escape and it is believed that none others did. It is impossible to say how many were killed as all those that were drowned and shot in the water and on the bluff were washed away.

But 129 were left dead on the field, and 30 were taken prisoners besides two captive boys that were reclaimed. All of their horses were taken, amounting to 450, besides every loose article belonging to the village. The Texians collected all of their skins, blankets, bows and arrows, &c &c., and burned them, and the village to ashes. The loss of Col. Moore was two men slightly wounded.

The volunteers, for such they were with their caballada of horses reached Austin on the 8th instant, all safe and well.

Thus, it will be seen that the Texians have gained another glorious victory over their hideous and savage foe without the loss of a SINGLE MAN! These facts are related to me by Captain Clark L. Owen, of this neigh-

borhood, who was in the battle, and in whose statements implicit reliance may be placed.

While upon this subject, I will give a brief synopsis of the extent of damages done by the Comanches while they were down in August.

The whole number of persons killed including black, white and Mexicans was 24. The number of horses taken 1,500. The exact amount of property destroyed at Linnville is unknown, but it probably did not exceed \$5,000. At the battle of Cosa Blanco, near Bartlett, 12 Indians were killed and one Texian, and at the decisive battle of Plumb Creek sixty were left on the ground, perhaps 30 mortally wounded,—besides the recapture of 700 horses and all the Linnville property. I had the honor to be in this battle and can speak with confidence. The battle ground was 15 miles in length, and many wounded Indians crawled into the brush and have since been found. I have no doubt but 90 or 100 were slain.

Major Howard is now in the mountains with 150 Texians, and we are anxiously listening to hear the result of his campaign, which I trust will be auspicious to our country.

Congress met on the 2d instant, but I have no news from it. This is not looked upon as very important except the re-election of all judicial officers in the republic.

You will please present this hastily written sheet to the people of my native district with the best wishes of one who has many esteemed friends among them.

With due regard, sir,

I am your humble serv't.,

JOHN H. BROWN.

## BIRTH DAY OF WASHINGTON.

BY GEORGE A. FRENCH.

Why swell a nation hearts as one,

With memories of the past?

Why ring-out you deep thunder gun

Upon the rushing blast?

Why hold the beautiful the brave

The jubilee of earth?

It is, it is the day that gave

Our patriot hero birth.

We offer here a sacrifice

Of hearts to him who came

To guard young Freedom's paradise

With sword of living flame!

To him who, on war's whirlwind loud,

Rode like an angel form,

And set his glory on the cloud,

A halo of the stern.

A hundred years, with all their train

Of shadows, have gone by,

And yet his glorious name remains,

A sound that cannot die!

'Tis graven on the hill the vale,

And on the mountain tall,

And speaks in every sounding gale

And roaring water fall!

No marble on his resting spot

Its sculptured column rears.

But his is still a noble lot,

A grateful nation's tears.

Old Time, that bids the rattle bow,

Makes green each laurel leaf

That blossoms upon the sainted brow

Of our immortal chief.

His deeds were ours, but thro' the world

That mighty name will be,

Where Glory's banner is unfurled,

The watchword of the Free!

And as they bend their eagle eyes

On Victory's burning sun,

Their shouts will echo to the skies,

"Our God and Washington!"

## PUBLIC MEETING.

CELEBRATION OF THE 22d FEBRUARY.

At a respectable meeting of the citizens of Pike county, held at Louisiana on the 8th of January, 1841, to adopt preliminary arrangements for the celebration of the one hundred and ninth anniversary of the birth day of GENERAL WASHINGTON, Mr. R. D. Brewington was appointed chairman, and Mr. James M. Martin Secretary. Upon assuming the chair, Mr. Brewington returned his thanks for the compliment paid him, and in a brief manner explained the object of the meeting, when the following resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved, That we believe it due to the memory of General Washington, that the anniversary of his BIRTH DAY should be celebrated by every lover of popular government; and that we respectfully invite the opponents of chartered monopolies and exclusive privileges to unite with us, at the town of Louisiana, at 11 o'clock of the 22d February, 1841, in celebrating the day in an appropriate manner, and in the adoption of such other measures as may be considered best calculated to perpetuate the blessings of civil liberty and equal privileges.

2. Resolved, That for the purpose of carrying out the object of the foregoing resolution, Mr. R. M. V. Kercheval and Col. R.

Boon, be, and are hereby requested to prepare and deliver orations upon that day.

3. Resolved, That A. H. Buckner, James English, Wm. Reading, J. D. McElwee, R. H. Allison, N. B. Edwards, T. W. Brown, Jas. Templeton, J. Foules Jr., Alex. Allison, W. M. Walker, R. D. Brewington, F. J. Callis, Wm. C. Haddin, T. Taylor, S. P. Robinson, A. J. Boyd, W. Merrivether, Adam Mase, D. C. M. Farnon, H. Emerson, Matthew Givens, Dr. M. Webster, and James M. Givens, be appointed a committee of arrangements to meet and superintend the celebration of the BIRTH DAY, and to invite the attendance of our friends.

4. Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, and transmitted to the Editor of the "Salt River Journal" for publication. Whereupon, the meeting adjourned *ad hoc*.

R. D. BREWINGTON, Chair'n.  
JAMES M. MARTIN, Sec'y.

## THE SLANDERER.

Think'st thou there are no serpents in the world

But those which slide along the grassy sod,

And sting the luckless foot that passes them?

There are those who, in the path of social life,

Do bask their spotted skins in fortune's sun,

And sting the soul—aye, till its healthful frame

Is changed to secret, fostering, sore disease,

So deadly is the wound.

## THE TREASURY REPORT.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury which will be found below, is a very well written document, and gives a clear and satisfactory view of the affairs of his department. We are confident it will be read with interest and satisfaction by our readers, exhibiting, as it does, our financial affairs in a situation so much more prosperous than partisan editors would have the people believe. With these editors, the report finds no favor—its style is bad, and the facts it contains are badly arranged—but a perusal of the report will convince all candid minds, that the violent, intemperate, and in the department of truth so generally given, in the thousand false statements, in regard to the embarrasments of the treasury, which formed so large a portion of their electioneering capital in the recent contest.

The statement of the imports and exports of the year speaks well for the prosperity of the country. The exports during the year 1840, are computed at \$13,571,250; an amount which exceeds the previous year by more than ten millions. Indeed it is the largest amount ever sent from the country, notwithstanding the prices of some of the great staples of the country have been much reduced.

The imports during the same time have been \$104,005,891, a diminution since 1839 of fifty seven millions. The unexpected falling off in the amount of imports has of course diminished the revenue to a corresponding extent, but the great excess of the exports over the imports, more than twenty-seven million dollars, is a great way towards paying the debt which years of rash speculation accumulated against this country in Europe and has also, of course, to a great extent paid the interest on the American stocks held by foreign capitalists. In the year 1836, the imports exceeded the exports \$61,316,995. The reflections of Mr Woodbury on this point are worthy of particular attention.

The receipts into the Treasury during the year from all sources, have been \$28,234,541. The current expenses of the government for the year have been \$22,483,349; (not thirty-nine millions) the treasury notes redeemed and the amount paid on the funded debt of the District of Columbia, added to this, make the amount paid out during the year, \$26,653,656, leaving in the Treasury a balance of more than a million and a half.

The estimated receipts into the Treasury for the next year, are \$24,723,474. The expenditures of the year for ordinary purposes, it is supposed, will amount to \$19,250,000. To these must be added four millions and a half for the redemption of Treasury notes, and the sum of \$149,200 on account of the funded debt of the cities of the District of Columbia, making an aggregate expenditure of \$23,692,200 for the year 1841.

This would leave in the Treasury, at the end of the year, \$824,373—a balance which Mr. Woodbury does not consider sufficient to meet every contingency that might possibly arise. He therefore suggests that Congress can, by making some reduction in the amount of appropriations, avoid the bad effects of a possible deficiency of means, or by making an increase in the duties, raise a sum sufficient to meet all the liabilities of the Treasury. It is evident that neither of these plans is approved by the Secretary, and he adds that, should Congress deem both inexpedient, he is prepared, if required, to furnish the details of a system which will meet the exigency, whenever it is called for by either House. "But he refrains from submit-

ting them without a special request, because some doubt exists, under circumstances which can be properly appreciated, as to the delicacy of his discussing a measure at this time, which the legislature may not consider necessary to act on till a new Congress assembles."

The Independent Treasury system has answered fully the expectations of the government—its operations are perfectly satisfactory, and no change is called for in its leading principles. In some minor details, alterations are proposed, which are expected to increase its efficiency. These alterations, which should be given to appoint a principal clerk in the city of New York with a proper compensation; that some provision should be made for performing the duties of receivers of public moneys in case of a vacancy by death or otherwise; that the punishments prescribed by the Independent Treasury law should be extended to all disbursing officers, and a few other changes.

Several miscellaneous topics connected with the finances are briefly noticed. Among others, the payment of an instalment of the National indemnity; the discontinuance of several land offices; and the re-organization of the land office, made to Congress for the discontinuance of certain offices connected with the collection of duties. They include some collectors and naval officers, and several surveyors amounting in all to eighteen, but whose offices cannot be abolished without new legislation.

The Secretary concludes with a review of the general character of the financial operations of the country during his connection with the Treasury, and it certainly speaks highly for Mr. Woodbury's talents and sagacity, that, during a time of unexampled excursions, which embraced two suspensions of payments on the part of the banks, and extraordinary and unexpected reductions of the revenue, every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly met, and the credit of the nation been maintained unimpaired, at home and abroad; and this, too, without the aid of a National bank, which we are so often told is indispensable in the most prosperous times. Mr. Woodbury has managed his department with extraordinary firmness and skill, and though the merit of his services may be a time obscured from the view of the people, by the gross calumnies which have been so unceasingly circulated against him, we are confident that they will eventually be appreciated and rewarded.

"The Yankee in 'the Old Shoe.'"—Burton's story, in the last number of his Magazine of "the Yankee in Hell," is capital. He describes Nebuchadnezzar as good at all fours, and particularly expert in the preparation of salad. "The introduction of the Yankee to his infernal majesty is peculiar.

"How d'ye do, folks," said the stranger, puffing away at a long cigar; "is the boss dead to him?"

His majesty looked sulphur and saltpetre at the remark. "Replie!" he exclaimed in a voice of thunder, that rumbled and reverberated in the depths of a pit without a bottom, who are you, that you dare intrude upon our sacred privacy?"

"Whew!" said the stranger, "don't fear your shirt! why what on earth is that way? Why do you jump about you're spired? there ain't such an almighty occasion for you to get your dander so awfully rized, just as if you was going to bust your fiber. Seem that your climate's rather of the warmest, it would only be doing the civil thing if you psaid, Mister, toe your mark, and take your letters."

"Worm! hence to your appointed place in the vivienne hell! there in the hottest flame."

"Ward, I guess not!" drawled out the man, with imperturbable calmness. "I've got my ticket, mister, from the regular agent, and I don't chose a berth so near the exit."

## MOST ATROCIOUS MURDERS.

A most shocking case of the deliberate murder of five persons, committed, it would seem, for the sole purpose of preventing the discovery of a contemplated robbery, is related in the Portsmouth (Vt.) Times of the 16th instant as follows:

From the Portsmouth Vt. Times Dec. 16d.

We learn that a series of most atrocious murders was perpetrated by consent in Southampton county, on Monday night. An aged Quaker of the name of Scott, residing not far from Jericho, his sister, also aged, a little girl about nine years old, wife of Pictou, a negro woman, and her child were successively butchered to further the design of robbery, entertained by their father. Six persons were on the premises at the time—and but one escaped. This was a young negro girl. She relates, we understand, that a man residing by the neighborhood visited the house a little after midnight and spent the evening by the fireside of Mr. Scott in conversation with the family. As he was about to quit, he asked Mr. S. to walk with him to the gate, as he had a word to say to her in private. To this the unfortunate man consented.

The girl saw no more of him. A violent struggle was next heard in the kitchen.—The murderer armed with a short heavy

dogwood pestle, had seized the negro woman, and was beating out her brains when the aged sister of Mr. Scott, attracted by the noise, appeared and begged him to desist.—Irrevocably bent on his design he instantly despatched the poor negro, and seizing the old lady felled her to the floor with a blow of the pestle. A negro boy about nine years old was then killed in the same manner.—He next proceeded in search of the little white girl and the young negroes. The latter made her escape unobserved. The other child was not so fortunate. She was caught in the room and murdered as summarily as the rest.

Seeking the negro girl, and resolved to leave no stone to his fearful secret, the murderer made a careful search in the rooms turning over the beds and scanning every corner narrowly. Convinced that one of the family had escaped, he seems to have gone off without consuming the robbery. The girl fled immediately to the nearest neighbors, and communicated what had occurred in her sight and hearing. They repaired to the premises forthwith, and found the melancholy confirmation of her story.—The murderer had fled, and the house was burning slowly. The fire was extinguished before it had defaced the bodies, or done much injury to the building. In the morning among the spectators of the night's bloody fruit, was the individual spoken of by the girl as the actor in the scene. He gave an instant contradiction to her story, and referred to the absence of blood from his clothing as proof of his innocence. He denied also, we learn, having been on the premises for a fortnight. Traces of blood however, it is said, were found among his whiskers, and he was detained until search was made at his house. This resulted, we learn, in the discovery of a suit of clothing excessively besmeared with blood. He was forthwith apprehended.

Mr. Scott was an old and esteemed resident of the country, and was reputed to be wealthy. The hope of securing his money led to a scheme of murder, as boldly conceived and deliberately executed as any furnished by the annals of crime. The escape of the girl alone prevented the full execution of the plan. If she had fallen, all explanation of the mystery would have been impossible. The house and bodies of the slain would have been consumed together, and the murderer would have possessed in security the poor reward of his atrocities, beyond the fear of detection.

The same mail also brings us the account of another murder, committed under the influence of jealousy.

## CONGRESS.

Thursday Dec. 24.—After the presentation of various memorials, and the disposal of several bills reported, Mr. Benton asked leave to introduce the bill of which he had given previous notice, to impose a tax on bank notes and other paper issued as circulation. He stated as the object of the bill: to revive the tax on circulation which existed in 1813, and to impose a tax on all bank notes over \$20 of the same amount as was then imposed, and on notes below \$20 a higher rate of duty—according to the revenue principle that requires a higher payment for that which is most profitable to the possessor, and most injurious to the country. This would compel men engaged in the banking business to contribute something to the support of the burdens of the country. Another purpose of this bill was to aim at the suppression of all notes under \$20. He would gladly suppress all under \$100. But the country was not yet ripe for such a measure;—perhaps not for suppressing notes under \$20. He would put a heavy tax on small notes, and he would steadily and regularly increase the tax, until it should reach twelve per cent.

Mr. Benton then anticipated and rebutted such objections as might be raised against the bill on the ground of being unconstitutional. Mr. Huntington objected to the propriety of originating a bill of revenue in the Senate. This objection led to an animated discussion. At length a motion was made by Mr. Pierce to lay the motion to receive on the table, and a long debate arose, chiefly on points of order; in which Messrs. Hubbard, Huntington, Webster, Calhoun, King, Pierce and Preston took part. Mr. Pierce's motion was finally defeated by the negative—yeas, 18 nays, 22.—Mr. Benton then said his object was attained and he would withdraw his motion for leave to introduce the bill. On this point another discussion arose which lasted for a considerable time. Messrs. Huntington, Calhoun, Webster and Preston, contesting the right of the Senator to withdraw his motion, and Messrs. Hubbard, Pierce, Sevier and others maintaining it. The Vice President decided that Mr. Benton had a right to withdraw his motion. Mr. Preston appealed from the decision of the Chair. This led to further discussion, which lasted till a late hour. At length Mr. Benton waived his right, and asked leave to withdraw his motion, which was granted, and the Senate adjourned to Monday.

In the House of Representatives the Speaker presented several Executive communica-