THE SOUTHERN CONVENTION.

ITS CLOSING PROCEEDINGS.

The Explorations of the Amazon and the Pacific Railroad, &c., &c., &c.

The Exploration of the Amazon.

REMARKS OF LIEUT. HERNDON BEFORE THE SOUTHERN COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION:—

It is true that I have spoken to masses of men before, but it has been only to sailors, and that through a deck trumpet, and with a voice of authority; but the case is far different now. I am venturing to address my superiors—men eminent among their fellows, selected to represent them in this august meeting, and many of them celebrated as orators, as scholars, and as statesmen. If, under these circumstances, I should fail to express clearly the poor thoughts that I propose to offer to the consideration of this convention, I trust that I shall be excused when it is remembered that I have never spoken in such a presence before. A resolution of this body, adopted last year at its session at Memphis, reads thus:—

Resolved, That this convention highly approves the steps which have been taken by the United States government to obtain the fullest information in respect to the countries bounding the Orinoco, Amazon, and La Platte rivers, with a view to opening up the trade of that vast region to American enterprise; and the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the States represented in this convention are respectfully requested to use all proper means, by the establishment of mail steamers from the port of New Orleans to suitable points on the South American continent, (or in such other mode as may be deemed most expedient,) to secure to the people of the United States the advantages of trade and intercourse with the regions referred to.

The information resulting from the steps which this convention has thus approved has been, indeed, obtained; but I particularly am concerned to say that it is not of that full character which is desired by the commercial interests of this country, nor commensurate with the power and ability which this government may have to make it full. I do not mean to say that the organization of my exploring party was imperfect, or to admit that I failed to use my best abilities for the attainment of the end proposed. But that end could be, under the circumstances, but a simple reconnoissance—a preliminary examination for the purpose of ascertaining the how and the where to look for full and perfect information. It could not fairly have been expected that, unprepared as I was for such service, without the means of transporting the astronomical and other philosophical instruments necessary for a full investigation of natural phenomema—confined to a canoe, and limited in my means of locomotion and transportation over so vast an expanse of country to the action of paddles in the hands of Indians, that I could make a report commensurate with the importance of the subject, or such a one as this great government ought to offer to the commercial interests of the people. My report is then, and could be, as I before said, but a reconnoissance. How the duty assigned to me (looking at it in this light), has been performed, I must leave to others to say; but I myself am constrained to say that I see clearly my imperfections and short-comings; and am sometimes almost driven to weep with vexation when I consider that I forgot this, or neglected that—when I think that the time and the opportunity may have irrevocably passed away—and that I may never be able to track back, and recover that which has been lost. I have no doubt that all who hear me recognise the feeling of which I speak; indeed there is nothing so common among us as the proverb of crying over spilt milk. I saw a fine exemplification of it (or rather of its reverse), not long ago. My friend, Lieutenant McRae of the navy, crossed the continent from Santiago, in Chili, to Buenos Ayres, under the orders of his chief Lieutenant Gilliss, for the purpose of making some observations on the route. Some accident, I think the fall of his mule, injured both himself and his chronometer, which interfered with his observations at one or two of his points, so that he did not in some instances get satisfactory results. When he got home, and compared his chronometer, he discovered his errors. He could not endure the reflection that he had lost anything, so he obtained permission from the Secretary of the Navy, and retraced his painful steps at his own expense. I mention this because I love to honor resolution, and that indomitable energy that will not fail. It is however easy, when sitting at our fireside at ease and free from care, and casting back the thoughts to by-gone times and scenes, to say within one's self with mournful regret, "Why did I do this, and why did I neglect that?" forgetting at the moment the enfeebled health, the shattered nerves, the sinking heart, the perverted judgment and the whole wretched physical and mental condition to which he had been reduced by long continued privation and exposure. Few persons, except those who have proved it, are aware of the effect that these two causes sometimes produce upon men who are exposed to them. Walter Scott describes Mungo Park as a man of darkened mind and brooding melancholy. Ledyard declares that he has known both hunger and nakedness to the utmost extremity of human suffering; that he has known what it is to have food given him as charity to a madman, and has, at times, been obliged to shelter himself under that character to avoid a greater calamity. Castelnau, who has been described to me as a man of powerful frame and great courage, was so reduced in his descent of the Ucayali, as on the occasion of not finding a town that he sought and where he expected succor, as to sit down and weep. My ancestral kinsman, Merriweather Lewis, our great Northwestern explorer, destroyed himself. Captain Stokes, of the British navy, wearied and worn with anxiety and care in battling with the tempests of Cape Horn, during his survey of the Straits of Magellan, destroyed himself; Lieut. Main, my predecessor on the Amazon, destroyed himself. I do not mean to say that hardship and exposure were the immediate causes of these rash acts; but I think it more than probable that they left their mark upon the minds and bodies of these unfortunate men—that they helped to deprive them of the sound mind in the sound body, and left them too much reduced and enfeebled to battle longer with the storms of life. I, myself, little as I have suffered, can aver with truth that there were times when suffering from sickness of body and mind—tossing in restless ecstacy the livelong night on the hard deck of my canoe, tormented with thick-coming fancies, and particularly with the thought that I had undertaken more than I was able to perform, and that I had placed myself in a position where, to use the words of the wretched Othello, I should be—

"A fixed figure for the time of scorn
To point his slow unmoving finger at."

I say that at these times, I have (forgetting the canon against self-slaughter, and all save my misery,) grasped the handle of the pistol beneath my pillow with the feeling that there I had a friend, or have looked with complacency upon the rest that might be found beneath the dark and sullen waters of the mighty river. But with renewed health comes renewed hope and energy. There were times when I have thought that I never desired to see the face of the Amazon again; but now comes to my mind the darling maxim of old Faithful—(you all know him—Jacob's father—I don't mean Abraham, though he was father of the faithful, and Jacob's grandfather)—"Better luck next time." And I am ready now to adopt the doggerel of the Duke of Argyle as regards the Bob of Dumblane—

"If it was na weel bobbit, weel bobbit, weel bobbit,
If it was na weel bobbit, weel bob it again."

I would, therefore, respectfully ask the consideration of this convention as to the propriety of adopting a resolution going a little further than its resolution of last year, and asking the government of the United States to enter into negotiations with that of Brazil, with a view of sending two small government steam vessels to make a proper and full exploration and survey of the valley of the Amazon. I am aware that the government of Brazil is anxious upon this subject, and somewhat fretful. It has been annoyed at the rumors going the rounds of our newspapers of armed expeditions being fitted out in our ports for the purpose of forcing a trade with the people who dwell upon the banks of the river; and it is taking measures accordingly for the defeat of any such schemes. My last letters from Para informed me that a brig of war was stationed off each mouth of the Amazon, and that the naval force at Para was to be considerably augmented. I think that our citizens are not personally unpopular in Brazil. On the contrary, as far as my observation goes, we stand as high in the estimation of the Brazilians as any other people, if not higher; but I am sorry to say that the government of Brazil has an unwise and a somewhat unmanly fear of what some writers in that country call our aggressive and encroaching spirit. These writers go so far as to call us pirates, and say that we intend never to cease our aggressions until we shall have rooted out the Gothic race from the continent of America, and planted the Anglo-Saxon in its stead. This is nonsense; yet arguments like these have been used for the purpose of awakening the alarm and hatred of the Spanish-American republics that own the head waters and some of the tributaries of the Amazon, in order to induce them to enter into treaty stipulations with Brazil, by which we, as well as all other foreign nations, might be kept out of that river. These arguments, too, would have succeeded, but that we fortunately had at the place of negotiation the most experienced and well-trained diplomat of our country, (to say nothing of his great mental abilities,) the Hon. John Randolph Clay, Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru. Putting himself in communication with the representatives of all the Spanish-American States of the Amazon, and arguing with great reason and consummate tact and ability, he beat the Brazilian Envoy at all points; and although this latter succeeded in making a treaty with Peru, by which he hoped, so far as Peru and Brazil were concerned, to shut us out for at least five years, yet Clay soon showed that this treaty, instead of shutting us out, actually let us in, for he himself had just concluded a treaty with the Peruvian government by which Peru had bound herself to give to us whatever she should hereafter give to Brazil or any other nation. Thus, giving Brazil the right of navigating her interior waters for a consideration, she was bound to give to us the same right for the same consideration, or one of equal value. Accordingly, Don Manuel Tirado, who succeeded Herrera, (the maker of the treaty with Brazil,) in the Bureau of Foreign Affairs of Peru, induced his government to declare several ports on the Peruvian waters of the Amazon free and open to the commerce of the world, and the second article of the decree that opens these ports declares that "the subjects and citizens of other nations which have treaties with Peru by virtue of which they may enjoy the rights of those of the most favored nation, or to whom those same rights as regards commerce and navigation, in conformity with said treaties may be communicable, which, in case of obtaining entrance into the waters of the Amazon, enjoy upon the Peruvian shores the rights conceded to the vessels and subjects of Brazil by the foregoing article." That the foregoing article gives to Brazil the right of navigating the waters of the Amazon that belong to Peru, in accordance with the treaty. I thought that Clay had completely and finally triumphed but recent advices from that country show a most sudden and unexpected change in the state of affairs, and indicate that the influence of Cavalcanti (the Brazilian) is in the ascendant. The wise, liberal and enlightened Tirado has lost his place, and retires with the douceur of Minister to this country. Paz Soldan, who seems swayed by Brazilian influence, has succeeded him in the Foreign Affairs; and I now fear that Peru is about to cover herself with the dark mantle of exclusiveness, and thus wilfully shut out the light, the knowledge and consequent improvement that would accrue to her from free intercourse with us and other maritime and commercial nations. But, supposing that Peru should repeal her Tirado decree, Brazil is nearly as far off as ever from the attainment of her object, for Bolivia has declared her ports open. Ecuador has followed, and it is believed that New Granada will do likewise. And so long as there is one port on a single tributary of the Amazon open to us I think that the memorial of this convention addressed by Lieutenant Maury to the present Congress of the United States shows conclusively that Brazil cannot legally bar us from access to that port. Therefore, unless she can secure all, she secures nothing. But I am very far from proposing to approach the Brazilian government with arguments like these. I have only adduced them to show the actual state of affairs, and the temper and disposition of the parties. Arguments good and true in themselves when pressed in a peculiar manner, become so offensive that they are rejected either from pride or from passion, and it would ill become us as the more powerful party to advance and maintain offensive arguments. We can get what we want by a different course. Let us state clearly what we want, and we shall then soon see that an enlightened government like that of Brazil, (however much it may have yielded, at the first blush to its fears of the encroaching spirit of these terrible Anglo Saxons,) being approached in a proper manner, will see its interests, and will accord readily, cheerfully, and with its whole heart, the boon we ask of it. We desire the opening of the Amazon to the trade of all nations. We care not for any exclusive privileges there; for neither France, nor England, nor Portugal (our only rivals) can at all compete with us. On account of our geographical position as regards the Amazon, on account of the trade winds and ocean currents, and on account of our more perfect knowledge in the construction and management of the river steamboat we should fear no competitor in the advantages to be derived from such a step. We then, of all foreign people, are most interested in the developement of the resources of that great country. We want its cinnamon, (for the tree is there, and doubtless, by cultivation its bark may be made equal to that of Ceylon.) We want its sarsaparilla, its vanilla, its cinchona, its cocoa, its copaiba, its coffee, its copal, its caoutchouc, its cochineal, its ipecacuana, its indigo, its annatto, its sugar, its coffee, its pepper, its other gums, dyes and drugs, whose name is legion, its gold, its silver, its diamonds, its emeralds, its rubies, and its rich and beautiful cabinet woods; and although we may not wants its cotton or its rice, yet we would little like to see the trade in these articles go into the hands of others. We want also a market there for the products of our looms, our anvils, and our machine shops; and, of course, this trade would advance our maritime interests, and add largely to the number of our ships and seamen. But great as are the advantages that we should derive from the opening of the navigation of the Amazon, they are nothing as compared to those that would accrue to Brazil from such a step. I think that few persons in this country are aware of the character of the Brazilian people. We underrate their ability and their power. In my judgment there is no people on the continent of America that can compare with them save our own. They are passionately attached to their sovereign, and their form of government. That government, though empire in name, is republican in principle. It accords the greatest amount of personal and political liberty, and there is nothing in its character or institutions which bars merit and ability from taking its proper station, or occupying any position in the direction of its affairs, save one. Its laws are just and humane, and justly and humanely administered; and as far as I know there is no prejudice or antagonism between foreign settlers and the natives of the country. The consequence of all this is that foreign settlers soon become Brazilians. They are contented with its government, they enjoy its delightful climate, they live happily under its laws, and all their efforts are directed to the maintenance of things as they are. Under these circumstances what has Brazil to fear, and what may she not hope from foreign settlement. I would have her to trample under her feet those silly bugbears of encroachment, of fillibusterism, of annexation. She is abundantly strong to maintain her nationality against any settlers on the banks of the Amazon, had they even the disposition to assail her form of government; and does she not know that if it be really the destiny of our institutions and our people to spread over the continent, that this must be done progressively, and that the opening of the Amazon cannot retard or advance our march for a single day? Does she not know that before we can approach Brazil, we have all of Mexico to swallow yet, all of Central America, all of New Granada, Venezuela, Ecuador, for I take it for granted that when we do march we shall sweep from sea to sea; and shall we not find a lion in the path between us and Brazil? Do not England, and France, and Holland own the Guianas, and one had as well attempt to snatch the prey from the fangs of the tiger, as to hope to wrest an inch of territory from people and governments like these. I do not wish to be understood as speaking seriously in this matter, or as advocating any such measures. God forbid; but I only say should the thing occur. Brazil then has nothing to fear. Let us see what she has to hope from foreign settlement. The industry, the activity, the enterprise of our people, urged by their love of gain, and backed by their skill and knowledge directed to the developement of the resources of that country, will produce results that will startle the world. The country will be explored, mines discovered, the lands brought under a regular system of cultivation, so as to produce all that they are capable of producing, sail vessels and steamers will cover the waters of the great river, and great cities will spring up on its banks, the marts of the country's rich, varied and enormous productions. The mind cannot compass or realize the vast wealth and power that would accrue to Brazil from such a state of things. I can only say, that in my judgment a century will not have elapsed ere the crown of its Emperor will sparkle with a brilliancy before which that of Sardanapalus or Sesostris, or any other Eastern king or potentate must pale its fires. I now offer my resolution for the consideration of the convention, pledging myself that should it succeed, and I should be so fortunate as to be appointed to the command of the steamers destined for that exploration, that I will leave nothing unknown concerning that country, that it is important should be known by the commercial interests of this. I thank the convention for its patient hearing; and, with those bright eyes upon me, I cannot close without saying that it is to the kind and gentle ministrations of such as they, charms my broken and enfeebled spirits, during my long and tedious wayfaring, that, in all probability, I am enabled to address them, and return their sex thanks this day.

Last Day's Proceedings.

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.

CHARLESTON, April 15, 1854.

Measures Proposed—Railroads—Protection of Slave Property, &c., &c.

The convention adjourned at four o'clock to-day, after a session of six days. It was called to order at nine o'clock this morning by the President, Senator Dawson, of Georgia, and proceeded at once to the consideration of the resolutions on the Pacific Railroad, presented by Mr. Pike, of Arkansas. After a lengthened debate, in which at least two dozen of the delgates participated, they were adopted almost unanimously, as follows:—

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Resolved, That it is vitally important to the progress and prosperity of the United States to have one or more railroads connecting the States on the Atlantic with those on the Pacific Ocean.

Resolved, That the Southern route ought to commence at suitable points on the Mississippi river, between New Orleans and St. Louis, thus connecting itself with the various similar improvements made and contemplated in the Atlantic States, and concentrating at some point in Texas, on or near the thirty second parallel of north latitude, thence to the Rio Grande, on the western border of Texas, by the route designated by that State at the last session of her Legislature, chartering the Mississippi, El Paso and Pacific Railroad, and thence to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf of California.

Resolved, That, in the deliberate judgment of this convention, the Gadsden treaty with the government of Mexico, as published in the newspapers, ought to be ratified by the Senate of the United States, so far, at any rate, as to secure the best route for the proposed Southern railroad from the western limits of Texas to the Pacific Ocean.

Resolved, That in order to make provision for the construction of said road, this convention respectfully recommend that a Southern organization be effected, if practicable, of the States of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and of the different cities and the railroad companies and corporations in those States, for the purpose of building a Southern railroad to the Pacific Ocean or Gulf of California, by the route and from one or more of the points indicated in the second of these resolutions, negotiating for the right of way, if necessary, with the government of Mexico.

Resolved, That to effect this organization, this convention respectfully advises the incorporation, by the Legislature of the State of Virginia, of a Southern Pacific Railroad Company, with a capital sufficient to build such road from the point or points and by the route indicated in the second resolution—of which corporation the several Southern States above mentioned, the several cities therein, and the several railroad companies therein, shall be invited to be corporation, together with such other companies and individuals as may choose to subscribe for stock, including, if they desire it, the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Creek nations of Indians, west of the Mississippi. That said States be invited to take stock in such corporation to the amount of not less than two millions of dollars each, to be raised and secured in such manner as the Legislature of each such State shall direct. That each of said cities and railroad companies be invited to subscribe for stock to such amount as its means will admit. That the existence of said corporation be recognized by each of said States, and such powers be vested in, and such franchises and capacities granted to it by the Legislature of each such State as may be necessary to effect the object of the organization, and that its directory in each such State be equally represented.

Resolved, That this convention respectfully recommends that, if necessary, special sessions of the Legislatures of such States be called for the purpose of taking into consideration this plan; and that a committee of one member from each State represented in this convention be appointed to draft a charter of incorporation for such company, and lay the same before the Governors of the said several States, and the national or general councils of the Cherokee, Creek and Choctaw nations, requesting each of said Governors to convene the Legislature of his State, in order to consider the same, and take such other steps in regard to such road as may be necessary and proper, if, in his opinion, it should be expedient todo so; and especially praying the Governor of Virginia to lay said draft of charter before the Legislature of that State, with his views in regard thereto; and requesting said councils of the Cherokees, Choctaws and Creeks, to act therein, to recognise such company, grant rights of way through their national lands for any branch or branches of said road that may pass through the same, and enact such other laws as shall secure to the South, so far as may be in their power, the exclusive benefits and advantages of the commerce of the Pacific and of the wealthy provinces of Mexico intended to be traversed by said road.

Resolved, That this convention recommend that power be given to said corporation, by its charter, to negotiate with Mexico for and purchase, if necessary, a right of way through her territory to the Pacific ocean, or to some point on the Gulf of California; to stipulate with that government, that in the event the same is granted, no higher rates or charges shall ever be imposed or exacted for passage or transportation over said road on citizens of Mexico, than on those of the United States; and to agree that the company will maintain military posts along said road, will in all time submit to the jurisdiction and laws of Mexico, and claim no political rights nor attempt to colonize the country.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this convention, the Southern States, corporations and people are entirely able to build said road, and that no time should be lost in doing so; that it is as easy to commence it now as ten or twenty years hence, and it can as easily be completed in ten years as in a century; and that it is the duty of every Southern man, to himself, his children, and his country, to engage earnestly in this great and indispensable measure of security, as well as of wealth, and of political and commercial power to the South.

MR. DUNCAN, of Georgia, presented the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the State of California be recommended to unite in this organization.

GRANTS OF LAND FOR RAILROADS.

The following resolutions were, after a brief discussion, adopted:—

It having been demonstrated, beyond all controversy, that the construction of railroads, through the public lands of the United States, so increases the value of the land, that in cases where alternate sections have been granted, as a condition for the construction of such roads, the remaining lands of the government have been readily brought into market, at prices which have realized to the treasury a sum larger than was asked for the whole land without the construction of such roads—thus fulfilling the trust committed to Congress, by the realization of the common fund in the public lands for the benefit of all the States; at the same time that it relieves the States, in which the lands are located, from the serious evil of a government proprietorship, which is held without limit of time beyond their control for taxation, or other aid, for the support of the State government. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senators and Representatives in Congress from the States which have sent delegates to this convention, be respectfully, but, at the same time, earnestly requested to use their best and most diligent efforts, to procure the passage of all bills now pending, or that may be hereafter introduced, granting alternate sections of public lands within the limits heretofore presented in similar cases, in aid of the construction of railroads, for which charters have been obtained from the proper authorities, intended to connect the navigable waters of any State or States with the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, or the Gulf of Mexico, or to form links in great chains of roads, designed to connect such waters, or the Gulf with either Ocean, and especially such as are best calculated to afford the most direct, cheapest and speedy connection between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, with such point or points west of the Mississippi river, whence a railroad will be most likely extended hereafter, to the Pacific shore.

Resolved, That railroads connecting with Southern, Atlantic and Gulf ports, and radiating from them to any part of the south and southwestern interior should be promoted by any means in our power, whether by individuals, by city corporations, or by State credits properly grounded; being, in our opinion, the most safe, economical and speedy means of developing the agricultural and mineral resources of the States, and supplying the certain basis of profitable export and import trade.

Resolved, That this convention views with unqualified approbation the great railroad works in progress, and penetrating the valley of the Mississippi, connecting important points in the valley of the Mississippi and its tributaries with the seaports of the South Atlantic and Gulf States, and also connecting the Atlantic with the Gulf of Mexico.

Resolved, That the speedy completion of this system of railroads is essential to the full developement of the agricultural, mineral and manufacturing resources of the South, and to the control and direction to her own seaports of the great commerce, in her productions, that is now carried on through other channels; while, at the same time, it is eminently calculated to draw closer together the bonds of union among us, and to perpetuate our social and other institutions.

Resolved, That this convention recommend, in the most emphatic manner, that the several States in which such works are in progress, to afford all the pecuniary aid essential to the speedy completion of the same, and the accomplishment of the great and patriotic ends for which they were designed.

UNIFORM CURRENCY BETWEEN COMMERCIAL NATIONS.

The following resolutions presented by the Business Committee, were adopted:—

Resolved, That a uniformity in the values of the coins of different commercial nations is deemed by this convention to be an object of much importance and highly desirable.

That the report of Dr. Gibbon, of the mint in North Carolina, on that subject, herewith reported, be printed for circulation and more general information; and that he be appointed a committee on the part of this convention to communicate the said report, with these resolutions, to the proper authorities at Washington, and to request them to take such measures as they may deem best to effect the object.

That the Chamber of Commerce of Charleston, and other cities of the United States, be invited to aid the measure by their support.

PROTECTION OF SLAVE PROPERTY.

The following resolution, presented by S. F. Leake, on behalf of the Virginia delegation, was adopted:—

Resolved, That this convention recommend to each of the Southern States having a seaport, to adopt the most efficient measures for the protection of the slave property of each State against abduction by sea, or otherwise.

THE SOUTHERN MAIL SERVICE.

Mr. HEART, of South Carolina, presented the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That in view of the present deficient and imperfect condition of the mail service in the Southern States, both with regard to their communications with other portions of the Union, and with foreign countries, a committee of one from each State represented in this convention be raised to ascertain the extent of the evil, and to suggest the proper remedy.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.

The following were also adopted:—

In view of the great commercial as well as scientific importance of a complete knowledge of the geological features of the Southern country, and in consideration of the very imperfect character of the surveys heretofore made, be it

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this convention, it is proper to urge upon the respective State Legislatures the necessity of their undertaking complete geological surveys of each of the Southern States.

Resolved, That this convention cordially recommend to the consideration of the people of the States represented in this convention, agricultural exhibitions, and institute fairs, as one of the prominent means of developing the industrial resources of those States.

ADJOURNMENT.

A motion was made and adopted that when the convention adjourn it adjourn to meet in New Orleans on the second Monday in January next. The convention then adjourned, after passing a vote of thanks to the different lines of railroads and steamboats for the facilities which they furnished to the members on their way to Charleston. A vote of thanks was also given to the members of the press, and the following resolution adopted:—

Resolved, That the warmest and most cordial thanks of each member of this convention are due, and are hereby tendered in the most earnest manner, to the citizens of Charleston generally, and to the various committees of Charleston connected with this convention especially, for their unbounded and untiring kindness, most munificent and elegant hospitality, and their unremitting attention to the comfort, pleasure, and enjoyment of the delegates.

Thus ended the third great Southern and Western Commercial Convention.

Our Charleston Correspondence.

CHARLESTON, April 17, 1854.

The Charleston Convention—What it Did—The Pacific Railroad—The Exploration of the Amazon—American Mediation in the Russo-Turkish Difficulty—What the South Think of the President and His Administration—Hospitalities of the People—Festivities, &c.

The convention has adjourned, as I have already informed you, after a session of six days, and the city of Charleston has resumed its former quiet appearance. Like all such bodies, it was characterized more by displays of oratory than by its practical results, although many look forward with the most sanguine anticipations to the speedy realization of some of the schemes which received its consideration. Among these the most prominent were the establishment of a line of steamers between Charleston or some other Southern port and Europe, and the construction of the Pacific Railroad by a Southern route. A large portion of the time of the convention was consumed in the discussion of the last subject; and as there was a great diversity of opinion with regard to the line of route, at least a dozen resolutions were presented, each proposing a different one. Those, however, offered by the delegate from Arkansas, Mr. Pike, were recommended by the Business Committee, and almost unanimously adopted. They were to the following effect:—

That it is idle to expect of Congress substantial aid to a railroad to the Pacific south of the free States. That proof of the feasibility of a Southern route will array the North against it. That to await the action of Congress is to permit the appropriation of our common lands to the construction of a road for the aggrandizement of the North. That this is evident, by the dissent of Northern Senators to the Gadsden treaty, by their determination to prevent the extension of slavery, and to oppose interoceanic Southern communications. That we cannot humble ourselves by asking assistance from the North. That to avoid this, the several slave States combine with railroad companies and corporations to construct a road commencing in a slave State, and to run by the El Paso to some point on the Pacific—negotiating for the right of way with a foreign government. That a committee of one member from each State here represented do draft a charter, and lay the same before the Governors of the several States and the General Councils of the Indian tribes, and request them to take such steps as may be necessary—this corporation to have the power to negotiate with Mexico for the right of way, and to enter into all stipulations necessary to protect the citizens and government of Mexico, and to purchase from Indian tribes the right of way and the prohibition of rival enterprises. That we are able to build the road, and ought to build it now.

In addition to the foregoing, a resolution was passed recommending the ratification of the Gadsden treaty, which, it was contended by many of the delegates, secured the best route for the proposed Southern Pacific railroad.

I perceive by a report in one of the Charleston papers that Mr. Gadsden, in his explanation in the convention, is represented as having stated that the South was excluded from the right of way secured to her by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo by the action of the commission of Mr. Bartlett, acting under instructions from Mr. Seward. From my position near the speaker, I think he could not have mentioned Mr. Seward's name without my hearing it, and my impression is that he did not.

Of all other projects, a railroad to the Pacific appears to be the most popular in the South, where it is believed that every exertion is made by Northern representatives and Senators in Congress for the purpose of defeating the Gadsden treaty, and thus ensuring to the North the speedy construction of a road to the Pacific with their own capital and such aid as they may succeed in obtaining from the general government. To effect this great purpose the convention recommended the Legislature of Virginia to incorporate a Southern Pacific railroad company, with sufficient capital—the corporation to be composed of the several Southern States, cities, railroad companies, and the Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek Nations west of the Mississippi. All these States are requested to take stock to the amount of not less than two millions of dollars each, to be raised and secured in such manner as the Legislature of each State shall direct.

As this enterprise depends to a great extent on the ratification of the Gadsden treaty, the defeat of that treaty must lead to the adoption of a new route, and may effect a considerable change in the plan laid down by the convention. That the road will eventually be built there is no reason to doubt, nor are there any strong grounds for believing that it would prevent the construction of a Northern Pacific road; for, with our rapidly increasing commerce with the East, and the remarkable and unprecedented prosperity and growth of California, there will be sufficient work for both roads, when they are in operation. It is, therefore, only a matter of time. Both must be constructed to meet the demands of commerce.

Among the subjects of minor importance which engaged the attention of the convention, was Lieut. Maury's project of the opening of the Amazon to the commerce of the world. As it presented no immediate prospects of success or profit, it was not received with much favor. The more shrewd and calculating appeared to regard it as fanciful and romantic, and met all the allurements which it offered to the imagination, by the sage conclusion that it would be better to attend to things nearer home before going into a wild and uncultivated though fertile country, in search of a commerce but yet in its infancy, and the pursuit of which would be attended with great risk to both life and property. Why should we expend money, said they in fruitless explorations of a river which is not even in our own country, while the Mississippi offers even greater inducements to enterprise and the resources of the country along its fertile banks are as yet comparatively undeveloped? Why should we lavish thousands of dollars in this way while our southern commerce is crippled by the obstructions in our harbors? Let us attend to our interests at home before engaging in expeditions which can be attended with no immediate practical benefits; let us endeavor to keep pace with, if we cannot hope to surpass, the North in her gigantic strides; let us hold out inducements to emigration among us; let us like her establish lines of steamers between us and Europe; let us organize a liberal system of education; let us manufacture our own products, and let us bring our waste lands under cultivation.

The resolutions of Lieut. Maury, recommending another expedition up the Amazon, were, however, adopted, but they met with a great deal of opposition on the ground that, as the government of Brazil had signified its intention not to allow any vessel to pass the mouth of the Amazon for such a purpose, although the countries along its banks earnestly desired commercial intercourse with the United States, such an expedition must necessarily be fillibustering in its character.

Another proposition was offered, to the effect that as all the attempts of the crowned heads of Europe have failed in effecting a reconciliation between Turkey and Russia, the government of the United States be requested to offer its services as a mediator. This mission was to be entrusted to the hands of General Winfield Scott, for three reasons:—First, because he had a great amount of brains; second, because, like all other great men, he knew it; and third, because he was a very tall man, and might, in point of size, be considered a match for Nicholas. General Scott, however, although a host in himself, was not considered by the mover sufficient, and he therefore proposed that the peace delegation should consist of three. The second member of this grand triumvirate was General Butler, the convention being left to select the third. After a brief debate the resolution was summarily disposed of, by throwing it under the table, or some similar and equally effectual process. While on this subject, I may as well state that the feelings of a great many, both inside and outside of the convention, are inclined to the Russian side of the contest now going on in the Old World. They regard it as an effort of the Czar to extend his commerce, which he can only effect by taking possession of Constantinople, while they look upon Turkey as a worn out and effete power, whose form of civilization belongs to a remote age, and whose institutions, both social and political, to a great extent, retard the progress of the East. Others are perfectly indifferent with regard to the issue; but all are of the firm opinion that it is a difficulty in which the United States should take neither side unless her rights as a neutral power are violated.

Although great endeavors were made to prevent the introduction of political questions, it was found impossible to exclude them, and a warm discussion took place on the improvement of rivers and harbors, a full report of which I have already furnished you. The acquisition, by conquest or purchase, of the Island of Cuba was proposed by Mr. Polk, of Tennessee, brother of the late President, as a kind of offset to this, but withdrawn after its defeat. But if the members abstained from bringing questions of a political character into the convention, they did not exhibit the same reserve outside of it. The conduct and policy of the administration were freely canvassed, and its open approval and patronage of free soilers and abolitionists denounced in no measured terms. Of this condemnation, the Secretary of State came in for his share; the high feeling of Southern honor shrank from the meanness of a man who could so far forget his position and the dignity which belonged to a statesman, as to interfere in local politics and the distribution of spoils among petty office seekers. The feelings, however, towards him is not of recent date, for they have always entertained the same estimate of his character, which they have regarded as that of a pettifogging politician, for whom no means that will effect his purpose are too contemptible. Age they feel has not improved him in this respect, but has rendered him somewhat imbecile and utterly incapable of performing the functions of his high office. From the estimate in which Mr. Marcy is held in the South, it may be supposed the President is in very bad odor here. They had at the outset of his career formed the most sanguine expectations that his policy would be truly national and that the interests of no section of the country would be ignored for the benefit of a particular political sect; but they beheld with surprise and indignation the selection of a man for the head of the Cabinet, whose predilections were known to be inimical to the South, and whose antecedents had identified him with the Van Burenites. They saw that they had been deceived, and have since ceased to regard the conduct of the President with that feeling of confidence which they once entertained for him. In these opinions there appeared to be little difference between any of the delegates, and I did not see one who was willing to defend the administration. Of course, I do not mean to say that there were not some who were ready to endorse many of its acts, but I did not see or hear them.

During the whole week of the convention, the city held a general jubilee, and the hospitality of the people appeared to know no bounds. A grand dinner and ball were given to the delegates, and a splendid excursion got up on the waters of their picturesque bay; there were exhibitions of fireworks, private parties without number, and a hundred different kinds of amusements. Mr. Yeadon, of the Charleston *Courier*, gave a princely entertainment to the members of the press, at which the President of the Convention and several delegates were present. Here, in his hospitable and elegant mansion, his numerous guests spent one of the most pleasant evenings they enjoyed in the city of Charleston. It would, in fact, be impossible to recount the attentions and courtesies which they received from the people, for each seemed to vie with the other in dispensing their unlimited hospitality. The expenses of the occasion (if such hospitality can be estimated by dollars and cents,) amounted to over twenty thousand dollars, independent of what was expended by individuals. If the Convention has not succeeded in the great object for which it was organized, who will say that such meetings are not attended with beneficial effects, in view of the friendly feelings which they cement between the different States, and the social intercourse and interchange of sentiments that take place between their citizens? By all, the Charleston Convention will long be remembered among the most pleasing reminiscences of the past, and by none more than your correspondent, who takes this opportunity of returning his sincere acknowledgments for the many kindnesses which he received during his brief but agreeable visit to the city. J. M.

Another New York Speculation in London—Manufacture of Doctors.

We find the following in the London *News* of the 8th of April:—

Yesterday, at an inquest held by Mr. Baker, on a child who had died under the treatment of a Mr. Johnson, a herbalist, the following conversation took place between the Coroner and Mr. Johnson—

CORONER—I see from the certificate that has been produced that you have a diploma. Where did you get it from?

WITNESS—From the United States of America.

CORONER—I perceive that U. S. is attached to the certificate. Were you ever in America?

WITNESS—No, I was never there.

CORONER—How did you become qualified to act?

WITNESS—There are many others who obtain diplomas in the same way.

CORONER—How; I cannot understand. If you were never in America, how did you obtain your diploma?

WITNESS—From an agent in this country on the part of the College of Surgeons in America.

CORONER—I see the initials M. R. C. S., what does that mean?

WITNESS—Member of the Reformed College of Surgeons. It is at New York.

CORONER—What is the name of the agent?

WITNESS—Dr. Elliott.

CORONER—Do you consider yourself competent to visit patients, and do you take fees?

WITNESS—Yes; and I consider myself empowered, by the diploma I received from the Reformed College at New York, to visit patients.

JUROR—Did you undergo an examination by Dr. Elliott?

WITNESS—Yes; but he had known me previously; I have been practising in London during the last twelve months; I was previously practising in Glasgow; I was in London when I received the diploma.

CORONER—Do you follow the system recommended by Dr. Coffin?

WITNESS—Pretty nearly; but it is derived from another source.

JUROR—On what authority did you act in Glasgow as a medical practitioner?

WITNESS—On no authority at all.

JUROR—I suppose you paid some fees for your diploma?

The witness declined to answer the question.

Several of the jury wished an answer, when, as the witness still objected,

The Coroner observed that the jury might be of opinion the witness got the diploma for a mere trifle.

JUROR—Yes, that is the case, as qualified practitioners in this country are obliged to go through a long course of education, and are at a considerable expense before they obtain a diploma.

The Coroner remarked that a short time ago an agent of Dr. Coffin was prosecuted by the Apothecaries' Company for practising as an unqualified man. That trial cost the company near £40, so that their resources would be exhausted if they proceeded against all unqualified persons. There ought to be a summary conviction of such persons before a police magistrate. A medical bill was now in Parliament, which he hoped would meet the case, as a great deal of mischief was done by ignorant and unqualified persons practising medically.

Verdict—Visitation of God.

The Prison Association of New York.

INCORPORATED MAY 9, 1846.

The objects of the association are:—

1. The amelioration of the condition of prisoners, whether detained for trial, or fully committed, or as witnesses.
2. The improvement of prison discipline and the government of prisons, whether for cities, counties or States.
3. The support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge, by affording them the means of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts to reform.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

DEAR SIR:—Doubtless you are familiar with the fact that, for several years past, this association has been actively engaged in continuous exertions for the prevention of crime, the reformation of the criminal, and the diminution of evil.

In multiplied instances the labors of that distinguished philanthropist, the late Isaac T. Hopper, his coadjutors and successors, have been rendered eminently useful. Many a poor, thoughtless wanderer, who had strayed far away into forbidden paths, has by their counsel, sympathy and friendly interposition, been reclaimed and restored, and now cease to do evil and learn to do well.

Encouraged by their past successes, they now seek to render this instrumentality still more efficient. It needs only to be more extensively known to be duly appreciated, and its claims more appropriately sustained. Although a chartered institution, it is alone supported by voluntary contributions and donations.

This communication is made, and through the press submitted, to the public, that the charitably disposed may sympathise with the object this association seeks to accomplish, and kindly forward their names as donors and subscribers to its funds.

Many of those now confined in prison, as well as those recently discharged, are in great need of clothes, hats, shoes, shirts, &c., &c. Any superfluous or cast off garments forwarded to the office, would be thankfully acknowledged by those needy ones, and a careful selection of the most destitute, yet hopeful cases, will be observed in their disposal.

I am, Mr. Editor, yours respectfully,
ABM. BEAL, Agent.
Office 15 Centre street, next Chambers,
New York, April 17, 1854.

Our Boston Correspondence.

BOSTON, April 15, 1854.

The Weather—A Snow Storm—Railroad Bridges—Rise in Railroad Fares—Authorship of the Letter of and Concerning the Hulsemann Letter—Mad Dogs—New Work by Thoreau—Legislative Proceedings—The Convent Indemnity—Status of Mr. Webster—Constitutional Changes—Discovery Concerning the Potatoe Rot.

Waking up at five o'clock this morning I had the satisfaction of seeing that there was a very respectable snow storm on hand, a not very common occurrence so late in the year, even in this most unstable and capricious of climates. It has been cold enough here to snow almost every day for nearly a month, so the white-robed visiter is by no means so strange a personage as she might have been. There has been some ill-timed singing on the part of some highly imaginative birds, who labored under the singular delusion that the spring had arrived; and occasionally the careful and laborious inquirer could find a patch of green looking earth in one of the "rural districts;" but beyond those things there has been as yet small evidence of the absence of winter. They have been sweeping up the Common this week, and one effect of the present storm will be to bring the grass forward in all places where it is permitted to grow. At this time, 10 A. M., the storm is very severe, with indications of the snow turning to rain. Passengers by the railway trains say that the snow is very deep and very hard in the country, in some places as deep as six inches.

Railroad bridges are now the rage in Boston. The Boston and Lowell Railroad Company is constructing one from East Cambridge to Causeway street, and which is more than half completed, and soon will wholly be so. The company will then give up their present Boston station and take their passengers much further into the city. This bridge will be an uncommonly strong structure, and will not differ in that respect from the new bridge built by the Eastern Railroad, just completed, and some account of which I gave in my last. There is a new bridge building for the New York Central Railroad, from South Boston to the foot of Summer street, and which is going ahead very fast. Planking has been commenced on it, and the whole will be finished with the least possible delay.

Considerable grumbling has been caused by the raising of the rates of railroad fares, which took place on the 10th. It does not apply to season ticket passengers, whose turn will come about the month of June. The transportation rates have also been raised, and are no better received. The first effect of these proceedings must be adverse to the interest of the companies. What the ultimate effect will be cannot be said. Some already prophecy a return to the old rates at an early day.

It has been stated in some of the papers here that Mr. Robinson, of Lowell, and formerly editor of the Lowell *American*, wrote the letter that appeared in the New York *Evening Post* concerning the Hulsemann letter. I have the best authority for saying that Mr. Robinson never wrote a line of the letter, and that he never heard of it until it was making so much noise here. Neither was it written by Mr. Hildreth, the historian, nor by Mr. Bird, to both of whom it has been attributed. It was written by Mr. Thayer, of the *Post*, who was on here, and who, it must be confessed, has succeeded in kicking up a most delectable "fuss." Mr. Robinson is the regular Boston correspondent of the *Evening Post*, having succeeded Mr. Carter, who used to write over the signature of "Middlesex," which Mr. Robinson adopted. Another Boston correspondent of the *Post* is Edward Hamilton, whose signature is "Monticello." Mr. Hamilton is the gentleman whose speech in the Norfolk County Democratic Convention, last autumn, is said to have led to the publication of Cushing's ukase. The *Post* is greatly read here by the coalition branch of the democracy, and is, in fact, their organ, they having no paper in Boston, and none to speak of in the State, except in Lynn and Worcester; so that its Boston correspondence is an important portion of its columns.

Just now there is a great deal of insecurity prevailing in Boston on the subject of mad dogs. The poor quadrupeds are slaughtered without remorse on all sides, and so vast is the number of the fallen that the sausage trade has experienced a glut. It having, however, been said, by a good authority, that the poison used against the dogs might make the sausages into which they are converted poisonous to individuals, a good deal of alarm was the consequence, and the "article" has been shunned by all good housekeepers. Seriously, much of the fear that has prevailed about hydrophobia is the merest cowardice that ever existed, and is excusable only on the ground that the disease itself is so little known as not to allow men to think of it in a sane way. If dogs are well taken care of they will no more run mad than men, or in any larger proportion. Three-fourths of the cases that have occurred are the direct results of the tortures and persecutions to which the "guilty-of-being-suspected" animals are subjected; and the remainder follow from bad food and the unclean condition in which not a few specimens of an animal so good in itself is permitted to exist. Some of our scientific men do say that one cause of hydrophobia is the scarcity of what Mrs. Gore calls "the gentler sex of the cynocephaloris species."

Henry Thoreau has a new work in press, entitled "Walden, or Life in the Woods." From its title, I infer that it is an account of his experience in the eremite line of life. For some time Mr. Thoreau lived in a hut, based by the shores of Walden pond—a gem-like lakelet which lies in the town of old Concord. Whether he did not like the business, or that it did not pay, or that he grew tired of being what Moses Marble called a "bloody hermit," it is certain that he broke up his eremetical establishment one fine morning, or dark evening, and returned to the habits, practices and endurances of civilization and Christianity—doubtless a great sacrifice, but which we may trust will not be without its reward. The book will give to the world the results of his inquiries into the benefits of seclusion, without even one person to tell how sweet solitude is. It will be worth reading, Mr. Thoreau being one of the cleverest of Emerson's disciples, and with eccentricities that are of proof.

The convent indemnity question has at last been reached by our Legislature. On Wednesday Mr. Tilton, one of the Boston members, reported a bill from the committee on claims, for the appointment of three commissioners to ascertain the losses of all persons by the burning of the convent at Charlestown. The commissioners are to award to the various claimants their actual loss, and the Governor shall draw his warrant on the treasury for the sums awarded. The report and bill, together with a report made last year on the same subject, were ordered to be printed. This is about the most ticklish subject that can now be discussed among politicians. The time was when it was the easiest thing in the world for our Legislature to dispose of petitions in favor of paying the convent indemnity. They could be flung out, or kicked out, with perfect impunity. There were, comparatively speaking, but few Catholic voters in the State, and they were not so located as to be able to act to the injury of any party. But things have changed. The Catholic voters are now to be counted by thousands. They are to be found in all parts of the commonwealth, and in almost every line of life. There are more or less of them in every county, but they especially abound in the counties of Suffolk, Middlesex, Norfolk, Essex, Worcester and Bristol. They gave an astonishing proof of their power, and of their effectiveness as a religious and political organization, last November, when they voted in a mass against the new constitution, under the direction, as has been repeatedly said, of their priests, and with the understanding between those priests and the leading whigs, that the convent indemnity should be paid in return for assistance so valuable at the most critical period of the fortunes of the whig party of Massachusetts. I cannot say how correct this statement may be as to the details, but it was plain to all who had their eyes open on the day of election, that something had occurred to convert democratic Catholics to very good whigs. In some places they to a man abandoned the party with which they had been acting only six and thirty hours before. I have heard the number of votes thus gained to the whigs placed at ten thousand, which I think much too large, though six thousand is not over the number, judging from such examinations and comparisons as I made at the time, and which were then published in the HERALD. The time has now come for paying for all this good service, and the difficulty is in so meeting the bill as not to lose twelve thousand votes while buying six thousand. When the indemnity question first came up in the House, the whigs could do nothing with it. The proposition was refused, even the common courtesy of a reference, by an overwhelming majority. This never would do. The Boston leaders begged and implored their country friends not to commit them to the mercies of gentlemen who might think proper to make of them the objects of a political St. Bartholomew; and, finally, the subject was reconsidered, and the petitions referred to the committee on claims, with the intention of there having it disposed of, as the celebrated Richard III. is popularly supposed to have disposed of his nephews—by being smothered. Now, at the heel of the session, and almost three months after the question was first brought forward, we have a bill brought in which is far from being satisfactory to the Catholics, while it is highly unsatisfactory to all others. The former want something more direct than is contained in Mr. Tilton's bill, something that shall recognize their right to the indemnity, because the place assailed and destroyed was a Catholic institution. It is a principle for which they are contending, rather than for money, though the latter is no more disgraceful to them than it is to the political portion of mankind.

The House of Representatives have been very busy tearing the constitution to pieces this week. There have been debates and votes on the mode of reconstructing that body. The tinkers can't agree, and if they don't use quit such bad language as other tinkers, it is only because Mr. Speaker Lord keeps a pretty tight rein on them, pulling them up very suddenly sometimes. This is a branch of "reform" on which all reformers have hitherto been snagged, and the present race do not seem destined to have much better fortune than fell to their predecessors. There are three parties on the subject, by no means definable according to ordinary party lines. The one party is all for the district system in its most intense impurity. They also go for a small House, and would gladly have not above 120 members of that body, but out of respect for public sentiment, which as yet is hardly down to their mark, they are content to take double that number of Representatives—240. The vote last week was to put it up to 320. The second party are for a complicated mixed system of town and district representation, but the evidence is that the public are not much in favor of *ollas* in politics, and hence, whatever fortune may attend their ideas in the Legislature, the people would not adopt them. The third party is for the town system, with such modifications as shall keep the House from growing larger.

The bill appropriating ten thousand dollars for a statue to Daniel Webster was passed to a third reading in the Massachusetts Senate, on the 12th inst., without debate. This lack of discussion did not happen from the Senate being unanimous on the question, but because a gentleman who proposed to speak against the appropriation preferred doing so at the next stage of the bill.

The new liquor law was discussed at some length in the House yesterday. Almost twenty persons talked on it and at it. The main question was not taken. Report assigns the new law to the pen of an eminent member of the Middlesex county bar, who has done his best to make it capable of holding water. What is wanted is a law that shall hold rum, and that is what, according to some high legal authorities, the new bill will not do. The proposition to annex Charlestown to Boston has failed in the Senate.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. Wilson, of Barre, has presented a request to the Legislature to pay her the sum of $10,000, which was offered by that body some time since for the discovery of the cause of, and a remedy for, the potato rot. Such discovery she claims to have made. I wish she may get it. ALGOMA.

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, April 21, 1854.

Quietness at the Capital—Run upon the Treasury—No Legislative Address Issued—Candidates for Governor—Four Distinct Tickets—The Anti-Prohibitionists Co[illegible] Out, &c., &c.

The adjournment of the Legislature has rendered our city comparatively quiet and the hotels deserted. Many of them are taking the opportunity of being repaired, and among them Stanwix Hall, quite extensively. A stock company are erecting a superb hotel in Hudson street, near the river, on the site of the old Temperance House, the first in the country, which, when ready in the early part of winter, is to be opened and conducted upon the New York Lovejoy and French plan. The high price of building materials, and the advance in mechanical labor, have been the means of arresting a number of private structures which were in contemplation a month since.

The State Treasurer's office is filled, and will be for several days, in paying the thousand and one creditors whose demands were legalized in the Supply bill. Many thousands of dollars, to almost everybody, will be distributed, in sums varying from ten dollars to twenty thousand.

All the politicians left the capital in an unprecedented manner. From time immemorial, down to the present, it has been usual, and heretofore considered indispensable, for each party to issue a legislative address to their partisan friends previous to adjournment, relating the good political and public acts they accomplished, the wise laws enacted, the many excellent bills which failed for want of time or some other cause, and many other matters easily incorporated in a political address. But nothing of this sort has now occurred. Bray Dickinson allowed the woolly heads to depart without holding a caucus; the small number of silver grays could not raise a meeting; the hard democrats, though frequently solicited by the outsiders, absolutely refused, as they had nothing to present to the hundred thousand seceders from the national administration in this State; and the corporal's guard of softs and free soilers, who are to a man for "union," desired to say nothing to irritate their hunker-loving brethren. Thus, as everything else in politics has taken a new turn, this custom of issuing political addresses at the close of legislative sessions has been abandoned, probably never to be resumed. The only thing done, of a prospective character, was a meeting of the hard shell State committee, in selecting a time and place for their next State convention.

Though there were no formal caucusses held there was still a great deal said, and the views of members pretty freely interchanged as to the various candidates for Governor. There was quite a strong party of woolleys who favored the nomination of Senator Josiah B. Williams, of Tompkins county. He is supposed to be the best advised of any Senator upon constitutional law, as he always carried the red book in his hand. He is wealthy, ambitious, and being of a careful, economical turn of mind, will never undertake to squander the funds of the State, except it may be upon the Cayuga marshes, or the Cayuga and Seneca canal. It was strongly suggested to run Seward; so, if elected, it would place him upon the forward list of whig presidential candidates in 1856. Canal Commissioner Fitzhugh is the candidate of the canal and forwarding interest, and should he pledge his support to the Albany bridge and certain other railroad interests, he will not be opposed by the railroad power. Edwin D. Morgan, of New York, has a host of warm friends, but he is not the kind of metal fit for fusion in the woolley crucible. The silver grays have no candidate for Governor nor any other officer, and the haughty and disrespectful treatment which they received from the Seward woolleys renders it certain that they will act independent of their dictators at the next election, as they partially did at the last. The soft shells and barnburners will unite upon Seymour. They are already boasting of the strength he has gathered by his prohibitory veto, and that the class of voters who thank him for refusing to sign the bill will sustain him at the polls. As he gathers all his public opinion from the softs exclusively, he will consent to another nomination, and be defeated by the identical individuals who "sacrificed Silas Wright." The hards, or hunkers, earliest in the field, are divided between John Vanderbilt and Greene C. Bronson as their candidate for Governor. One faction allege that the decapitation of Bronson by Marcy has created a sympathy for him which will be perfectly irresistible. The other portion declare Vanderbilt the strongest man in the State, on account of the patriotic and manly stand he took against Seymour and his administration to altering the constitution so as to allow the State to complete her canals. It is not yet decided whether the temperance men will run candidates separate and independent of the political parties. Many of the leaders are disposed to select candidates from Governor down to members of Assembly, purely upon the prohibitory platform; they declare that confidence can be no longer reposed in either of the political parties; that both whigs and democrats utter the most solemn pledges at the polls, which are regularly broken in the Legislature or the Executive chamber. As matters now stand, there is a probability of being four candidates in the field for Governor—one supported by whig partisans, a hard shell, a soft, abolition barnburner, and a Maine law candidate. The opponents of the prohibitory liquor law will secretly select from the party nominations of those presented; they will organise with a determination of electing a house of Assembly different from the last. As this class of citizens have never been aroused before, their united efforts will bring to bear a mighty influence among the voters—among those too of strict temperate habits, and whom the passage of any laws in relation to the sale and manufacture of liquor would not affect in the least—a class who view calmly and considerately whether society would be injured or benefitted by the perfect suppression of the traffic, as the Ultraists desire.

Our Puerto Cabello Correspondence.

PUERTO CABELLO, March 20, 1854.

Episodes in Venezuelan Political Life—Curious Scene in Congress.

On the 11th February extraordinary powers (*facultades extraordinarias*) were conferred upon President Monagas by the Venezuelan Congress.

On the 14th of the same month a project was presented, signed by fourteen members, proposing that a general amnesty should be granted, from which no person should be excluded. No sooner did this project become known, (and there was not wanting a degraded creature of the Monagas dynasty to hasten away from the house of Congress and give the information to Jose Gregorio Monagas, a son of the President, and in command of a regiment of five hundred men, quartered at the square of St. Paul's,) when this man, with several of his officers, proceeded to the House of Representatives. On arriving there he placed himself, together with his gang, on the stairs leading up to the Chamber of Representatives, and began to call out for the scoundrels who had dared to sign the project. These vociferations continued for some time, the Assembly began to break up and retire from the house; but of the fourteen members who had signed the project, but one descended the stairs, a gentleman from Cumana, named Silverio Gonzales—the others either hid themselves for the time, or else got away by an outlet through the church of San Francisco, which adjoins and is part of the building in which Congress meets.

On descending the stairs, Mr. Silverio Gonzales encountered the gang of the President's son, headed by that individual himself, who, addressing Mr. Gonzales in the most offensive and menacing language, demanded to know "if he was one of the scoundrels who had dared to sign a project for the return to the country of the tyrant Paez?" "Sir," replied Mr. Gonzales, "I am astonished to see you here, and I have no explanation to make to you of what my opinions may be." Jose Gregorio Monagas, Jr., retorted in most violent language, threatening to strike Mr. Gonzales; but this gentleman, taking no further notice of him, passed on and left the house.

Since this most outrageous proceeding nothing more has been said in furtherance of the project of amnesty, nor do I believe that it will be again brought before the house, for whatever may be the private opinions and feelings of the individuals now composing the Venezuelan Congress, it is notoriously known they are under constraint, and dare not for their lives do anything that may bring down upon them the wrath of the redoubtable son of the President.

A few days ago a project was presented to Congress for the emancipation of all the slaves in Venezuela. The project has caused great excitement throughout the whole country; not because the proprietors of slaves are opposed to it—for there appears to be no dissenting voice on this point—but because the measure has been made the means of a direct attack on the right of property, in violation of the express terms of the constitution, as the country is not in a state to remunerate the owners for the loss of their property, and the fund provided in the project of law will become the prey of the Monagas family and their friends, who will buy up the claims of the poor planters, by throwing obstacles in the way of payment, at something like ten per cent, and then pay themselves at par, by orders on the custom houses. This is the usual way of operating here by Monagas & Co., and several millions have been made in this way.

During the discussions on this subject, the House of Representatives has been regularly invaded by the mob, composed entirely of negroes, with all sorts of vociferations and menaces. On the 14th inst. the gallery of the House was crowded with negroes, whose shouts and fierce threats made it impossible for the speeches to be heard; and whenever any member attempted to say anything on the interests of the right of property, his voice was immediately drowned in the uproar of opposition from the gallery. Finally, an individual named Lino Marrero, a brother-in-law of President Monagas, rose and declared aloud, as if in concert with the mob, that all the members of the house were a set of thieves and robbers. This individual, who was greatly applauded by the mob, having been called to order, a member named Sotillo, son of Gen. Sotillo—the same who sent six human heads of their slaughtered foes as a present to General José Tadio Monagas, in 1849—rose and demanded the expulsion from the Chamber of Lino Marrero. This proposal having been submitted to a vote, there resulted twenty-two votes in favor of his expulsion and twenty-one against it; Marrero, consequently, could not be legally expelled.

There is no longer any doubt that the project of emancipation will become a law of the land. But the measures adopted for payment of their value to their owners are illusory, and are obviously designed to enrich only Monagas & Co.

The country is in a frightful State of anarchy. General discontent prevails throughout the land, and a new revolution seems inevitable. AN OLD RESIDENT.

A cargo of negroes that was lately captured, has been disposed of by the Cuban government, but the negroes have not been hired out as "emancipados," but as free apprentices, so that the apprentice system may be considered as having commenced in Cuba.