THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

BY M'CLANAHAN, TROUSDALE & DILL. MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 18, 1858. VOLUME IX.---NUMBER 26.

The Memphis Appeal.

PUBLISHED DAILY, TRI-WEEKLY AND WEEKLY, BY FEO. R. M'CLANAHAN, LEONIDAS TROUSDALE, BENJAMIN P. DILL,

UNDER THE STYLE AND FIRM OF

M'CLANAHAN, TROUSDALE & DILL,

TO WHOM ALL LETTERS ON BUSINESS, OR OTHERWISE, SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Daily, in advance, per annum.....$10 00
Tri-Weekly, " " " 5 00
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B B.

COFFEE....Sales, 12¾@13¼; Lagunra none in market; Java, 18@20c. ⅌ p.

OGAR....Sar, 5@6c.; refined, in Bbls, 6¾c.; retail, 7@8c.

CORN MEAL....80@85c. ⅌ bushel.

CRACKERS....Water, $4; Butter, $4 c... ts, $5 ⅌ bbl; Sugar, $3 25; Soda, $3 50 ⅌ box.

CANDLES....Star, 20@25c. ⅌ lb.

CHICKENS....$3@$4 50 ⅌ dozen.

FEATHERS....Goose, 40@50c. ⅌ lb.

CORDAGE....Manilla, $15 00; Cotton, 23@25 cents.

RESIN....10@12½c. ⅌ dozen.

FISH....Mackerel, No. 3 kits, $2 25; No. 2 do, $2 50; No. 1 do, $3 75@$4. Half bbls., No. 1, none in the market; No. 2, $7 50@$8; No. 3, $6 50@$7; Whole bbls. No. 3, $12@$12 50; No. 2, $14@$14 50.

FLOUR....Superfine, $4 88; Extra, $5; T. Harrison, $7@$8 ⅌ bbl.

GLASS....(Per box of 60 ft.) French Window, 8x10, $3 25@$3 50; 10x12, $3 50@$3 75; Pittsburgh, 8x10, $3 62½@$3 75; 10x12, $3 75@$3 50;

GUNPOWDER....Kentucky Rifle, $6 25@$7 ⅌ keg; Mining, $4 75@$5 50.

HAY....$20 ⅌ ton. Retail, $1 25.

HIDES....Dry Flint, 8@8½c. ⅌ lb; Dry Salted, 10@11c.; Green Salted 8 cents.

HOPS....On foot $6@8 ⅌ crop, $8.

IRON....Tennessee, (Cumberland bar) $4c. ⅌ lb.; Pennsylvania, (Pittsburgh bar) 4@4½c.; Castings, (full low ware) 4@5c.; Machine Castings, 6@8c.

LIME....Common, $1 10@$1 50 ⅌ bbl; St. Genevieve, $3 00.

LARD....In kegs, 12½c. ⅌ lb; in barrels, 8½@9c.

LEATHER....Sales at wholesale for Spring, 28 to 30c.; Harness, 25 to 28c.; Oak Sole, No. 1, 27c.; Hemlock Sole, 25 to 26c.; ⅌ lb.—Brides, $30 to $40 ⅌ dozen; Upper Leather, $27 to $40 ⅌ side.

LUMBER....Poplar, $12 to $15; Cypress, $15; Yellow Pine, rough, $16; Pine Flooring, $30; Clear White Pine, $30; 1st Common Pine, $25; 2nd do, $15.

LIQUORS....Old Bourbon Whisky, $1 50 ⅌ gallon; Old Rye, $1@$2; Old Reserve, $1@$1 50; Imitation, 40c.; Irish, $2; Dom'c Whisky, 20@25c.; Brandy, 30@40c.; Pale's, 25c.; Peach Brandy, $1 75@$2; Apple Brandy, $1 75@$2.

LEAD....Bar, 7¾@8c. ⅌ lb.

MOLASSES....Bbls, 35c.; half bbls., 40c.

NUTS....Pecans 15c. ⅌ lb; Almonds, Soft Shells, 20@25c.; Hard Shells, 12 to 15c.

NAILS....$3 50@4 25 ⅌ keg.

ONIONS....$1 25@$1 50 ⅌ bushel.

Professional Cards.

THEODORE C. CONE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Memphis, Tenn. Office on the corner of Gayoso's Building, between Union and Gayoso streets. nov3-1y

THOS. W. PRESTON.....C. ROWELL.
PRESTON & ROWELL,
Attorneys at Law,
MEMPHIS, TENN.
OFFICE—In Peal's Row. mar14-1m

JOHN HALLUM,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, and General Collector for West Tennessee. Office on Jefferson street, Port Office Building. apr6

J. L. SHAMBERGER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Memphis. Prompt attention will be given to the Collection of Claims. mar6 3m

DR. CREIGHTON'S
OFFICE HOUSE
For attending Diseases of the
EYE AND LUNGS!
ARE from 9 to 11 A. M. and 2 to 4 P. M. The balance of his time will be devoted to hygeneic practice.
N. B.—Persons wishing Dr. Creighton's services must consult this arrangement. feb15-tf

WILLIAM K. POSTON.....PHENAS T. SCRUGGS.
POSTON & SCRUGGS,
Attorneys at Law,
MEMPHIS, TENN.
OFFICE—No. 39 Court Square, South Side.
WILL give their joint attention to professional business in the several Courts of the city of Memphis, the Western Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, and the U. S. Mississippi. feb24-3m

J. W. MARTIN,
Attorney at Law,
DES ARC, PRAIRIE CO., ARKANSAS;
GENERAL COLLECTING AND LAND AGENT,
FOR THE COUNTIES
BORDERING ON WHITE RIVER.
REFERENCES—I. P. Kittland, Banker, Memphis, Tenn.; J. W. Scrutcher & Son, Brownsville, Tenn.; A. Stewart & Bros., Des Arc, Ark.; Fitth & Allen, Des Arc, Ark. mar2 4m*

DR. W. E. ROGERS,
OFFERS his professional services to the citizens of Memphis. Office, 3rd door of Court Square. Residence at A. O. Harris'. jan19-6m

G. PAYNE.....J. H. UNTHANK.
PAYNE & UNTHANK,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
OFFICE—No. 38 SOUTH SIDE OF COURT SQUARE,
MEMPHIS, TENN.
jan23

DR. T. F. PEYTON,
OFFICE on the corner of Jefferson and Second streets, (in Turnage's Building). jan23-1y

CHAS. G. PEDIT.....L. V. DIXON.
SCOTT & DIXON,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW AND SOLICITORS IN CHANCERY, Memphis, will practice their profession in all the Courts held in the city of Memphis, and the Supreme and Federal Courts at Jackson. Prompt attention will be paid to all claims for collection entrusted to them. Office first door to the left, up stairs, in the Walker Block Main street. jan6-tf

JAMES MOORE,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Memphis, Tenn. References—Messrs. Word & Johns, Phillips & White, Allen, Young & Co., McClanahan, Trousdale & Dill, Milton & Putnam, Mine Owen, Esq., R. M. Avery, Esq., Memphis. Office, up stairs, at the corner of Main and Madison streets, next door to the Gayoso Savings Institution. oct7-tf

NOTICE.
DR. J. M. SLEDGE has returned from New York after an absence of nine months, and has effected some astonishing cures in that city. He has taken an office at No. 37 Monroe street, between Main and Second streets, and will resume the practice of Medicine, where he has for sale his celebrated Compounds. All calls attended to, day or night. As he intends to remain permanently in Memphis, and from the great success he has had in the treatment of the various diseases, he thinks he should claim a liberal patronage from the citizens of Memphis. jan5-dly

GEO. DIXON.....GEO. HELM.
DIXON & HELM,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Memphis, Tennessee. Office, South side of Court Square, 2 doors East of the River Bank. jan12-dlr

JNO. D. TROTTER,
ATTORNEY AT LAW, Austin, Tunica county, Miss., will attend to the payment of taxes, redemption of land, either forfeited or sold for taxes, and will promptly attend to the examination of land titles in the counties of Tunica Coahoma, Bolivar and Washington. jan15-dawim

DR. R. L. LASKY,
Physician, Surgeon and Accoucher,
Washington Street, between Main and Second,
MEMPHIS, TENN.
Office hours from 7 to 9 o'clock, A. M., and from 2 to 4 o'clock, P. M. mar7-tf

THANKFUL for the kind patronage heretofore extended to me, I take pleasure to inform my customers and the public generally, that I do not any longer intend to leave this city, as has been reported, and that I am ever ready to attend to all cases of internal and external diseases, and that I am prepared to undertake the most difficult operations and accouchements, and that I do not use calomel or any preparation of mercury in diseases whatever.

Secret diseases are cured in my own method, in such manner as not to interfere with the business of the patient, and that I do not use any mercury in the treatment of the same.

For the following Rheumatism, A-thritis, Neuralgia, Nervous Headache and Toothache, Paralysis, Dyspepsia, Torpidity on the Liver, Spinal Curvature and Weakness, Hemorrhoids, Piles, Tumor Abscess White Swell ing, Deafness, as well as all diseases of the Eye and Ear, Amaurosis, Chlorosis, Sterility, Spermatorrhea, &c., or any disease that requires an entire regulation of the fluid and nervous system, I use the Magneto-Electric treatment, which is universally known for its efficacious ability.

After a practice of ten years as Staff Physician and Surgeon of several hospitals, in Philadelphia, and eight years practice in the United States, my reputation as a Physician, Surgeon and Accoucher is sufficiently established to need no further comment.

dec22-dawly DR. R. L. LASKY.

B. C. FLOURNOY.....F. PARRELLY.
FLOURNOY & PARRELLY,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Memphis, Tenn. Office, Second street, Blythe Building, Northeast corner of Court Square. jul2-dly

W. G. WEATHERFORD,
COUNSELOR AT LAW, and Real Estate Agent, Napoleon, Ark.
Refer to J. Wright, Esq., and Col. A. G. Pargin, Memphis; Judge R. L. Caruthers, Supreme Court; E. H. Rastman, Esq., Nashville; Major G. A. Henry, Clarksville, Tenn., and Gen. T. E. Flournoy, Dedra co., Ark. mar24-dawly

Dissolution.
THE partnership in the practice of the Law, heretofore existing between Sullivan, Treadwell & Vollintine, is this day dissolved. July 1, 1857.

CARD.
W. L. TREADWELL.....N. VOLLINTINE.
TREADWELL & VOLLINTINE,
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, Memphis, Tenn. Office, No. 18, Jefferson street, up stairs, second door on the east of Commercial Hotel. jn3-dawly

R. B. BROWN.....W. FRAZER,
Hernando. Memphis.
BROWN & FRAZER,
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW. Offices No. 256 Main street, over Bennett's Music Store, Memphis, Tenn., and Hernando, Desoto county, Miss. Will attend promptly to all professional business and business entrusted to them in West Tennessee and North Mississippi.
REFERENCES—Smith, Patton & Co., Philadelphia; Cronin, Harnthall & Sears, Walter, Stennich, N. Y.; W. B. Mason, Jones, Brown & Co., W. J. Webb & Co., Memphis. apr15-dawly

F. A. KUEFFNER, M. D.,
HOMŒOPATHIC PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON, will wish to inform the citizens of Memphis and its vicinity, that he has located himself at the southeast corner of Main and Second streets.
Office hours are 9 o'clock in the morning, between 12 and 1 at noon, and between 4 and 7 in the evening.
REFERENCES—Hon. Jno. Shacklett; Gov. Brown, of Miss.; Edson Mitchell, Esq., of Charleston, S. C.; Drs. Hering & Lippe, of Philadelphia, and Dr. Caspari, of Louisville. dec15-dly

NOTICE.
DR. SAUNDERS' office at J. M. Sledge & Co.'s Drug Store, near the Post Office. mar24-tf

DAILY APPEAL.

SUNDAY MORNING,.....APRIL 18, 1858.

WHY NOT READ THE BIBLE?

For the Memphis Appeal!

Though a great sinner, as you know, and heretofore a practical if not worse infidel, I have devoted much of the leisure of the past winter to the reading and study of the Sacred Scriptures. I had long ago, in early youth, read the Bible, but then it was a sort of a *task*, which was somewhat irksome, and I did not read understandingly. This time, however, it has been a pleasure, a labor of love; and I found the most of it far more absorbingly interesting than any of the thousand and one poems, novels, histories, travels, &c., which I have been reading during the last fifteen or twenty years of my life. Indeed, there are many parts of the Scriptures, including most of the Old Testament and nearly all of the New, which for grandeur of sentiment, elegance of expression, beauty of diction, surpass any thing to be found in the secular literature of the world. How else could it be with writings which are of Divine inspiration?

I firmly believe that if the hundreds and thousands of infidels and deists, who unfortunately are to be found in every part of the country, would devote a portion of their time to the reading of the Bible, their unbelief would be gradually and surely dissipated; and if I can do any thing in this communication to induce even one unbeliever to commence the reading and study of the Great Creator's Book, I shall esteem myself more truly fortunate than if I had taken a city, or made a final-rate crop of cotton. If the ruler of this great country, the President of the United States, no matter who he might be, were to write, or cause to be written, a book, no larger than the Bible, do you not know that every man and woman in the whole Union would be at once almost eaten up with the desire to read it, or know what was in it? How much more then ought we to desire to read and know what is contained in that glorious Book, which the Great Ruler of the Universe has caused to be written—much of it in his own holy language—a Book involving not only our temporal, but our eternal happiness, and containing on its priceless pages the mighty issues of life and death for all eternity, and for every human being, from Adam to the "last syllable of recorded time?"

To my mind the great and most unanswerable argument in favor of the authenticity—the divine inspiration—of the Holy Scriptures, is to be found in *the fulfillment of the prophecies*. That prophecies, which were made thousands of years ago, have been fulfilled in times past, we have the concurrent testimony of all history and tradition, which no man dare dispute; and that others are in process of fulfillment, we have the testimony of our own eyes. About those prophecies of the Bible, which we are able clearly to understand, *there can be no mistake*—MANY OF THEM HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED, AND OTHERS ARE BEING FULFILLED ALL AROUND US EVERY DAY. Another evidence, terrible to the infidel as the handwriting on the wall, is, that the moral code inculcated by the Bible is TRUTH itself—It is TRUTH and LIFE incarnated—beautiful, irreproachable, sublime. It is truth, and life and happiness—if *and if only*—to every man, woman and child, whatever their condition or color, throughout all nations, tongues, kindreds and peoples.

But to return to the Bible as a *readable* book, and to address myself to those who love the sublime and the beautiful in all things, and especially in what they read. What is th re in the wide world so grand or so sublime as the Mosaic account of the Creation? What so interesting as the tale of the Garden of Eden, the translation of Enoch, the history of the Flood? What so noble or so beautiful as the life and faith of Abraham, the perseverance of Jacob, and the striking story of Joseph and his brethren? What so significant, what so fascinating, in its terrible grandeur, what so full of all the elements of glory and grandeur, as the history of the Exodus of the children of Israel, under the lead of Moses and Aaron; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night; the parting of the waters of the Red Sea, and the whelming of Pharoah's host in the angry waves; the tribulations in the wilderness; the smitten rock and the manna, "angels' food?" the golden calf; the brazen serpent; the thunderings of Sinai; the communication of the law; the covenant of Horeb; the institution of the Tabernacles; and that strange, stiff-necked, but prototypical unbelief of the "chosen people" in the "very God," who, with a mighty hand and stretched out arm, had led them up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage?

What so grand in human state papers as the Decalogue and the mode of its promulgation; what so sublime in the poesy of men as the songs of Moses, and David, and Solomon? And, then, what so sweet as the story of Ruth—one of the foremothers of our Savior himself? What more lovely in its lofty, rythmical devotion, than that passage where the beautiful daughter of Moab says to Naomi—"Entreat me not to leave thee, nor to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest I will go; and where thou lodgest I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: When thou dies t will I die, and there will I be buried." What so touching as the story of the afflictions, the resignation, and final triumph of Job—that perfect and upright man, who, in the very agony of his trials, fifteen hundred years before Christ, exclaimed: "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the Earth, and though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God!" No more exalted poem exists in any of the languages of Earth than the Book of Job; and the latter chapters, or cantos, containing, as they do, the utterances of Jehovah himself, are grand and musical above all praise, above all comparison. Who that has read has not been stirred by that sublime proclamation beginning:—"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man, for I will demand of thee and answer thou me!"

What so right royal as the history of King David, the Divine Psalmist? what so splendid as the reign of Solomon, the wisest of the wise? Look at the Book of Psalms! We had better give up all the works of all the poets, than to lose a single psalm of David. What so musical—so full of the golden essence of poesy—as one of these inspired songs—say the XCVth Psalm, for instance:

"O come let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our Salvation.

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.

"For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all Gods.

"In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also.

"The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord, our maker.

"For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand."

The Song of Solomon, taken in its figurative sense, as typical of the mutual love of Christ and his church, is one of the finest, one of the sweetest, one of the most ravishing lyrics that ever fell on mortal ears:

"Behold, thou art fair, my love; behold, thou art fair; thou hast dove's eyes within thy locks."

"Thy neck is like the tower of David, builded for an armory, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men."

"I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

"As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters."

"As the apple-tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste."

"*He brought me to the banqueting house, and* HIS BANNER OVER ME WAS LOVE."

"My beloved spake and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

"Arise, my love, and come away."

"Awake, O, north wind; and come thou South; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come unto his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits."

"I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine; he feedeth among the lilies."

"Thou art beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please."

"Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?"

"Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm; for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame."

"Many waters cannot quench love; neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would be utterly contemned."

"Make haste, my beloved, and be thou like to a roe, or to a young hart, upon the mountains of spices."

Hear, O youth, standing on the threshold of fair-seeming life, this beautiful exhortation: It is Solomon, after he had sounded all the depths and shoals of honor, of pleasure and of glory, that speaks:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:

"While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened; nor the clouds return after the rain:

"In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened;

"And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low:

"Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his long home and the mourners go about the streets:

"Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern:

"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the Spirit shall return to unto God who gave it."

I have already spun out this contribution to too great a length. I shall probably resume the subject for your next Sunday's paper, closing for the present with the simple injunction, "Search the Scriptures!" It is too true that with a great many the only alternative left is to search the scriptures, or *die the death that is eternal*. ITHURIEL.

BIOGRAPHY OF COL. BENTON.

From the New American Cyclopedia, Vol. III. To be published about June 1, 1858.

THOMAS HART BENTON, an American statesman and Senator for the State of Missouri, was born near Hillsborough, Orange county, N. C., March 14, 1782. His father died when he was eight years old; his early education was imperfect; he was for some time at a grammar school, and afterward at Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina, but finished no course of study there, as his mother removed to Tennessee to settle on a tract of land belonging to his father's estate. Thomas studied law and soon rose to eminence in that profession. He was now elected to the Legislature, serving only a single term, during which he procured the passage of a law reforming the judicial system, and of another giving to slaves the benefit of a jury trial, the same as white men. One of his earliest friends and patrons was Andrew Jackson, at that time a Judge of the Supreme Court, and subsequently Major-General of the State militia. Benton became his aid-de-camp, and during the war also raised a regiment of volunteers. It was from that service he derived the title of Colonel, which has clung to him through life. Notwithstanding the close intimacy between Jackson and himself, which was of the most cordial and unreserved character, a rude and sudden rupture took place in which severe pistol and dagger wounds were given, and produced a rencounter that estranged them for many years. After the volunteers were disbanded, Mr. Madison appointed Col. Benton, in 1813, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the army, but on his way to serve in Canada, in 1814, he heard the news of the peace and resigned. He now removed to Missouri, and took up his abode in the city of St. Louis in 1815. There he devoted himself anew to his profession. Soon, however, engaging in the politics of the day, he was led to the establishment of a newspaper entitled *The Missouri Argus*. In this journal he was involved in many disputes and controversies. Duels were usual at that time, and he had his share of them with their unhappy consequences. In one of them, which was forced upon him, he killed his opponent, Mr. Lucas, an event he deeply regretted, and all he private papers relating to which he has destroyed. His journal took a strong and vigorous stand in favor of the admission of Missouri, notwithstanding her slavery institution, and when the angry controversy was terminated he was rewarded for his labors by being chosen one of the first Senators from the new State. It is from this period, 1820, that his political history and the great influence he has exerted on public affairs may be said to date. A man in the early prime of life, possessed of a commanding intellect, of large and liberal culture, an assiduous student, industrious, temperate, resolute, and endowed with a memory whose tenacity was marvelous, he soon placed himself in the front rank of those who shaped the councils of the nation. As a representative of the West with the manifold interests of a frontier population of 150,000 souls, Col. Benton forthwith devoted himself to securing a reform in the land system of the General Government. A pioneer himself in early life, he sympathized with the demands of that class, and his influence with the administration of government taught him how fallacious and suicidal was the policy of attempting to derive a revenue from such a source. The general distress which prevailed throughout the country in 1820, and which bore with special hardship upon the land purchasers of the West, attracted attention to this subject, and afforded cause for the initiative which was taken by Congress in liberalizing the system. A measure of relief devised by Mr. Crawford, Secretary of the Treasury, changing all future sales to the cash basis, reducing the price to $1 25 per acre, and allowing a discount equal to the difference to former purchasers, afforded material relief.

But this was not all that was needed. First, a pre-emptive right to all actual settlers; secondly, a periodic reduction according to the time sections had been in market, so as to make the prices correspond with the quality; and thirdly, the donation of homesteads to impoverished but industrious persons who would cultivate the soil for a given period of years, and thereby develope the resources of the country—be some of these principles, the needed reform. Col. Benton apprehended the full scope of these changes, and determined to persist in urging them until they should be accomplished. The years 2824, 1826, 1828, accordingly found him doing battle for such amelioration of the entire system. A bill embracing these features was moved by him and renewed annually until it at last took hold upon the public mind. At first his speeches attracted more attention throughout the country than in Congress, for there his efforts were counteracted by schemes for dividing the public lands or the proceeds of their sales among the States. His firmness and position in the Senate as a supporter of the administration of Jackson, gave him great weight with that party, and he was thus enabled so far to impress his views upon the President that they were embodied in one of his messages, and from that date the ultimate triumph of land reform became only a question of time. In his own State of Missouri, there were large quantities of saline and mineral lands, which it had been the object of the General Government to withdraw from sale and farm out. This injurious monopoly was also aimed at in his measures, and he succeeded in effecting a change which threw all open to occupancy.

Intimately blended with the same subject, and moved by the same considerations, were the efforts which he began during the first term of his Senatorial service, to effect a repeal of the impolitic upon all emigrants of life. These duties bore with great hardship upon the population of the Valley of the Mississippi. It was a tribute levied upon them in part to sustain Government in the prosecution of interests in some cases this was most unequal as well as oppressive, and we may cite the salt tax as one that at that time met with more hostility than any other. During the session of 1829-30, Col. Benton delivered one of his elaborate argument against this burden upon a prime necessary, and afterwards followed it up in such a manner as to effect its repeal. In directing adventure to explorations in the far West, in fixing the attention of the Government upon the early occupancy of the mouth of the Columbia, in encouraging overland transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Col. Benton was also prominent. He had previously devoted himself to these subjects and attended largely upon them in 1826, and no sooner had he taken his seat in the Senate than he made direct efforts to engage Congress and the public in the great enterprise. From the researches of Clark and Rogers, from the suggestions of Jefferson, from reports of trappers and voyageurs, and from the course of the continental streams, he first elaborated the project of overland connection; and as science expanded, and knowledge of the interior country increased, he more definitely his views took form in the proposals which are now so largely occupying public attention for a great central railway. The route urged by him as preferable to all others is through the passes of the Rocky Mountains discovered by Fremont, known as the Coochetope, and debouching upon California through gaps in the Sierra Nevada. For many years he was the leading advocate and support in the Senate of the whole scheme of Western exploration.

It will thus be seen that Col. Benton became, almost at the outset of his career, the exponent of Western interests, and though largely participating in all the great measures and political struggles that separated parties, he never neglected what was due to his own immediate constituency. The success which has already attended land reform, the establishment of preemption, the graduation of price, the donations to works of public improvement, all trace their origin to his continuous labors. In connection to these leading objects, he likewise did much to open up and protect the trade with New Mexico, to encourage the establishment of military stations on the Missouri and throughout the interior, to cultivate amicable relations with Indian tribes, and to favor the commerce of our inland seas that now bear such a wealth of freights. The marking out of post-roads, and securing appropriations for their maintenance, was especially a work of his own undertaking, and its benefit has been deeply felt in every branch of Western trade. Upon the wider theatre of national politics the career of Col. Benton was equally remarkable. In the currency disputes which attended the expiration of the charter of the Bank of the United States, the recharter afterward, and the final veto message of Jackson, Col. Benton addressed himself to a consideration of the whole question of finance, circulating medium and exchange, and brought forward his propositions for a gold and silver currency as the true remedy for existing embarrassments, and the only rightful medium for Government disbursements and receipts. Upon this subject he made many of the most elaborate speeches of his life—speeches that betray great research, close study of finance, and a full knowledge of the evils that so often attend expanded paper issues.

In Europe, as well as in America, his expositions attracted great attention, and extended widely his reputation as a debater, a thinker, and a practical statesman. At this time his manner of oratory was deliberate and unimpassioned, his matter full to overflowing with facts, figures, logical deduction, and historical illustration, but almost wholly devoid of that exuberance of wit and raciness of humor which characterize his later discourses. The elaboration which he gave to these views paved the way for subsequent legislation upon the national finance, and did much to consolidate the sentiment of the Democratic party in favor of the sub-treasury system, which was eventually adopted. It was from the financial policy which he thus enunciated that he derived the sobriquet of "Old Bullion," which has never forsaken him, and which, also, he never forsook. Throughout the long and critical struggle between the administration of Jackson and the advocates of the recharter of the National Bank, he was the mainstay and support of the President in the Senate, and acting in strictest unity with his party, held high place in their affection and confidence. The records of his labors in that behalf will be found upon almost every page of the debates of Congress. As the mover of the "expunging resolutions," Col. Benton made himself especially obnoxious to his political opponents, but finally achieved success, and gained a great personal triumph. The motion was to strike from the journals of the Senate a resolution of censure upon Gen. Jackson, and the passion of partisans clothed the contest with an importance at the time far greater than will attach to it in the future; but as an exhibition of many traits of Col. Benton's character, persistency, keen sagacious insight, stubborn devotion to the fame of his party chief, unquailing courage, and confidence of success in the face of an adverse majority, no act of his life was more striking.

During the succeeding administration of Mr. Van Buren, much of Col. Benton's time was devoted to the defense of the new financial policy, then being inaugurated. Upon the questions relating to the Oregon boundary, the annexation of Texas, and various other important matters growing out of those four leading relations between the Presidential terms of Tyler and Taylor, Col. Benton took a leading and influential part. On the first of those he differed from the Democratic administration of Mr. Polk, which declared for the full line of 54 deg. 40 min., but the powerful effort of Col. Benton, in which he reviewed the whole controversy, and elucidated the claims of the United States with much force, was not to be withstood, and the administration and party were content to acquiesce in his views, and accept the line of 49 deg. as the northern boundary. During the Mexican war, also, his services, and intimate acquaintance with the Spanish provinces of the South, to whose history he had devoted much attention, proved most useful to the Government. It was upon his suggestion that the policy of "masterly inactivity," at first determined upon by the President, was finally abandoned, and a vigorous prosecution of the war urged in its stead. His counsels were much sought also in regard to mustering a plan of campaign and conquest for compelling a peace, and at one time it was proposed by President Polk to confer upon him the title of Lieutenant-General, with full command of the army, in order that he might carry out his conceptions in person.

The project, however, was never consummated. The bill creating the rank of Lieutenant-General passed the House, but was defeated in the Senate. The acquisition of Mexican territory brought on disputes in Congress touching the question of slavery, which, after threatening the peace of the country, were adjusted by the Compromise acts of 1850. Col. Benton opposed this compromise, offered by Mr. Clay, as being a vicious system of legislation, as fraudulent in regard to the Texas donation, and as defective and ill-judged in its clause in regard to the Fugitive Slave law. The acts, however, were carried, as he had foretold, passed separately. In the violent rupture which had taken place between Gen. Jackson and Mr. Calhoun, and which made its mark upon parties as well as persons, Col. Benton had sternly espoused the side of the former at the very outset. Shortly previous to that, the doctrine of nullification had first been broached at a dinner party in celebration of the birthday of Mr. Jefferson, receiving as its sanction the Democratic sentiments of Col. Benton were called. The result in 1849-'50 was the return of a Legislature largely Democratic, but composed of opposite wings, the Benton men being in the plurality. Many days were spent by the parties and without compromise; but a bargain was at length struck between Whigs and Antiss, and sixteen of those chosen by the people as Democrats, but unfriendly to Col. Benton, voted for Henry S. Geyer, a Whig, and Mr. Geyer was a Whig, but had committed himself to the Anti-Benton party in a letter prior to his election. When the party following his lead, they soon coalesced with the opposition Democrats, and in the canvass, by adroit management, they obtained control of the State Government. This was chiefly effected through the instrumentality of Mr. Sterling Price, who although elected Governor as a supporter of the views of Col. Benton, yet, after a pretended compromise of the two Democratic wings, was no sooner sworn into office than he changed over to the opposition, carrying several of the other State officers along with him.

To vindicate his position, and to break up the ascendancy which the so-called nullification party was thus acquiring, Col. Benton, in 1852, made a more direct appeal to the people in the Congressional District in which he resided, announced himself a candidate for Congress, and was elected over all opposition. In the session that followed he at first gave a warm support to the administration of President Pierce, but that soon falling under the control of the adherents of Mr. Calhoun, Col. Benton withdrew his support, and the administration in turn making a war upon him displaced from office all his friends throughout Missouri. Soon the repeal of the Missouri Compromise was mooted, and became a party measure in the shape of the Kansas-Nebraska bill. Against this Col. Benton exerted himself with all his strength, delivering a memorable speech in the House that did much to excite the country against the act, but failed to defeat its passage. The next election coming on in 1854, Col. Benton was defeated in his own district by a combination of his old opponents with the new American party that had just arisen, and Mr. Kennett was returned in his stead. Retiring from active politics, he then determined to devote his leisure to writings and study more congenial to his age; but was prevailed upon by his friends to suffer his name to be used as a candidate for Governor of Missouri in the election of 1856.

Once more laying aside the pen, and starting forth to canvass the State, he was received everywhere with enthusiastic applause. Immense masses of people gathered to hear him, his old political friends rallied to his standard, and his course became a triumphant procession. But a third list of candidates was in the field representing the American party, although most of its members sympathized with Col. Benton, and those who did not voted for his adversary instead of the candidate of their own party. Mr. Trusten Polk (National Democrat) was thereby elected by a trifling plurality. The result of Col. Benton's canvass, however, was to restore, in a great measure, the conservative feeling of the State, and to prepare the way for a more liberal policy upon all domestic subjects. His friends up to the hour of election were sanguine of success. He himself was never so, but felt himself fully repaid for all his toil by the impress he had made upon public opinion, and the reaction he had effected against disunion politics. In the Presidential election of November, 1856, Col. Benton supported Mr. Buchanan in opposition to his own son-in-law, Col. Fremont. The reason assigned by him was a confidence that Mr. Buchanan, if elected, would restore the principles of the Jackson administration, and the apprehension that the success of Col. Fremont would engender sectional parties fatal to the permanence of the Union.

He soon after saw occasion to change both opinions, and although in retirement, he zealously opposed the administration of Buchanan, and inclined to unite with the opposition that presented itself in the Republican party. After his defeat in 1856, Col. Benton devoted his time again to literary pursuits. Even before that time he had begun his "Thirty Years' View" of the working of the Government. This was completed and published in New York in 1854. It is a retrospect of the period during which he held a seat in the Senate of the United States, and presents a connected narrative of the times from Adams to Pierce, developing much of the secret history of the men and politics of that epoch. No sooner was that off his hands that he engaged in the still more laborious task of condensing, revising and abridging the debates of Congress from the foundation of the Government to the present time. In this work, although at the advanced age of seventy-six, his daily labors were almost incredible, and such as few men in the prime of manly life could support. This was accompanied in great part by means of a robust constitution, temperate habits, regular exercise, and daily resort to the field and hill. His health was still as perfect, his mind as unimpaired, and his interest in passing events as absorbing as ever. He also wrote, in an interval of leisure, a review of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Dred Scott case, which has attracted great attention.

With a strong, industrious intellect, a dominating character, and quick appreciating of men, Col. Benton exercised a prominent influence upon national affairs. In Missouri his power was at one time boundless, and throughout the West he moulded public opinion to his will for many years. While adhering to strict party lines, he was able to effect almost everything he attempted, and often standing forth alone he drew his party with him, against the will of Presidents and Cabinets. In his last attempt of this kind, however, he failed, and was forced to relinquish office as a consequence; but this crowing struggle was a testimony to his independence and sense of duty that will contribute no less to his fame with posterity than the honors which he received through party allegiance. Col. Benton was married, after becoming Senator, to Elizabeth, daughter of Col. James McDowell, of Rockbridge county, Va. His surviving children are four daughters—Mrs. William Carey Jones, Mrs. Ann Benton Fremont, Mrs. Sarah Benton Jacob, and Madame Susan Benton Boileau, now at Calcutta, wife of the French-General. Mrs. Benton died in 1854, having been struck with paralysis in 1844, and from the time of that calamity her husband was never known to go to any place of festivity or amusement.

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