

COTTON:

Its History, Production, Protection, and Manufacture, and the interest of its Producers.

We ask the attention of our readers, those of them especially who reside in the planting States, to the article which follows. It will be found to present views new, we think, to many of them, and of great importance to their true interest, and to a just conception of a great question of public policy.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN: On the 8th instant, by your courtesy, a statistical table on the subject of raw cotton appeared in your columns. In connexion with that table I would, through the same medium, ask the attention of cotton planters to some facts in the history of that great staple, and show them that the present value thereof is in fact, in a great measure, owing to those protective duties against which they so loudly complain.

That cotton culture in this country had its origin in the fostering care of a protective tariff, during the administration of Washington, is well known. Although Georgia did export very small quantities soon after the peace of 1783, yet as late as 1799 there were only 138,328 lbs. of cotton of all kinds exported from the United States.

From the time that our Government first protected arm over the plant and the manufacture, the rapid increase of its production is unparalleled in the history of agriculture and commerce. In the brief space of half a century it has grown to be the mightiest staple of the globe—a young giant, which had its conception in the wisdom of our Revolutionary patriots and statesmen, and its matrix in the virgin soil of the South and West—still carrying proudly onward in its growth, weaving the web of destiny for nations in its course, linking together the most distant points on our sphere, and promising yet to be the grand controller of the commercial world.

This passing strange that many of our countrymen, whose all is staked on the continuance of this prodigy in agriculture, should, with the light of history before them, still exhaust our language in abusive epithets directed against the beneficent system which first nurtured the cotton plant, and even now sustains it. Is it ignorance, or pride of opinion, or a love of the appearance of consistency? To be consistent is not to follow the path in life which we or our fathers before us have trodden, but to conform our actions to the dictates of right reason.

When light breaks in upon the human mind, and reason shows that the end sought can never be attained by the way pursued, wherein does true consistency lie—in marching directly to the object in view, or in still following the path of error despite of better knowledge? The objection urged against the tariff is, that trade is reciprocal, and that consequently every cent of duty levied by us upon the foreign fabric of cotton imported into this country recoils upon the cotton grower, who is compelled either to sell his cotton for so much less as the duty takes from the profit of the manufacturer, or to withdraw from the foreign market so much of the cotton as would be consumed in that portion of the foreign fabric which is substituted by the manufacturer with which the duty levied enables us to furnish ourselves at home.

The argument sounds well, and at first blush convincing; but we may readily find the reason why practical results falsify so well sounding a theory. As, in most cases of reasoning a priori, all the facts relevant to the issue are not brought before the mind. Those who urge this objection do not seem to have inquired into two very important matters of fact, viz. how far the people of England are under the necessity of manufacturing cotton; and how far, by reduction of duties in any way bearing on the manufacture, England is capable of reducing the cost of the fabric.

These objects had, even as many as fifteen or eighteen years ago, falsely assumed that the cost of fabricating in England was reduced to its lowest rates. We will inquire into this branch of the subject more fully presently. Nor do these same objectors seem to have looked into another question of fact equally important, and that is, whether our duties upon the imported fabric have ever affected the amount of American cotton consumed abroad. But suppose, for the sake of argument, that the protective duty takes from the cotton grower so much of the foreign market for his raw cotton as it affords home market for the domestic manufacturer, it is palpable that it would, at the same time, give him a home market for fully the same amount of raw cotton, as it would be impossible for us to fabricate without the raw material. Besides, this home market must be, to the extent of it, a much better one than the foreign, if the great profits of our factories are not the sheer fabrications of Southern politicians. You will pardon me for saying that these politicians must have a great deal of raw material to work upon at home, or they would never send so gross a fabric from their political factories.

History proves that England, the great cotton manufacturer, has never taken one pound the less of our cotton on account of any increased protection of our own manufactures, nor one pound the more because of any reduction of duties on our part. She has gone on from year to year rapidly increasing the quantity of her consumption of our staple, irrespective of our duties. She seems to have acted under a stern necessity, which impels her, under all circumstances, to manufacture this product of our soil, and beg for admittance at our ports with the fabrics of her loom at any price. These statements are not loosely made. I write from the record, and, to substantiate my position, refer to the table respecting raw cotton to be taken chiefly from National Intelligencer of September 8th, taken from McCulloch himself, the great champion of free trade.

If it is asked why it is that the expansion of the manufacture of this article has continued, notwithstanding the continual reduction of the price of the fabric? Perhaps we will find the true answer partly in the rapid development of this country itself, whose inexhaustible powers of production act, by means of the cotton trade, as a stimulus on the labor-saving population of England, which, in its still increasing demands for our raw material, reacts with Volvic energy upon the productive spirit of our people. Production, manufacture, and consumption of the fabric, have kept pace together. As an outlet for the swelling manufacture, reducing prices kept up a continually expanding consumption, and thus is explained the difficult problem why production, in the midst of its almost miraculous expansion, but slowly abated its extravagant profits. As the improvements in machinery, together with the reducing prices of the raw material, enabled the manufacturer to continue his reduction of price for the fabric, so likewise the improvement in the culture and the machinery for preparing the raw material for market enabled the planter to top from his prices, and preserve his gains but little impaired, which still continued, and to this day remain greater than those of any other branch of agriculture, with perhaps the exception of the culture of sugar.

But I wish to show you, by a plain historic detail, that this splendidly acting and reacting system between the manufacturer in England and the producer in America would long since have ceased its wondrous action but for the protective arm of the American Congress.

In 1774 England repealed the statute which made it penal to manufacture any article wholly of cotton; and from that time till 1806 levied a duty of 3d. sterling upon every square yard manufactured in the realm. In 1806 this excessive duty was raised to 3d. per square yard. Besides this excessive duty, an impost duty of 9s. 4d. sterling per cwt. was paid upon raw cotton under the English tariff of 1787, which was raised to 9s. 7½d. under their tariff of 1819.

The truly wise men of this country, such as WASHINGTON, ADAMS, JEFFERSON, MADISON, and, after them, JOHN C. CALHOUN, LOWMEDE, CLAY, and a host of others, saw at once how beneficial it would be to the consumer of the fabric, as also to the producer of the raw material, if we could but

manufacture this cotton at home, and thus save from eight to ten dollars per cwt. on the cotton in the coarse fabrics. Hence the protection of the earlier Administrations: and hence, among other reasons, the lively support which Lowmde and Calhoun gave to the tariff of 1816; and hence the frequent urging of this subject upon the consideration of Congress by Madison, and after him by Monroe. Our manufacturers had taken some hold during the restrictive system of Jefferson, and afterwards during the war; but, after peace was restored, the flooding importations from England seemed likely to overwhelm them in their infancy, until, by the tariffs of 1824 and 1828, adequate protection was given them. Now, mark the effect. JACKSON, in his first message, I believe it was, adverts to the tariff of 1828, and accounts for the singular failure in the predictions of its opponents respecting the prices of protected articles by the extraordinary impetus given to manufactures thereby, increasing them so much as actually to reduce the price, notwithstanding the duty. (That mode of accounting for low prices under high duties was sound and true and republican in JACKSON'S message, and in the mouths of Whigs now it is false and absurd—aristocratic, federal, British, or any thing else a demagogue chooses to call it.)

Now let us mark the effect of this same "bill of abominations" upon England, and we will soon see what a lever we hold upon her, on this subject. The great competition with Lisbon which that "bill" raised in our domestic manufactures so reduced the price that the English manufacturers, in 1829 and 1830, were compelled to commence a system of retrenchment, and throw out of employment a large number of laborers, and such distress and consequent disquiet resulted from this course, that if Parliament had not interfered so as to remove the cause of distress the English Government itself would in all probability have been overturned. The manufacturers insisted on the striking off the excessive duty of 3d. per square yard, or they could not compete with the American factories, and the necessity of the case compelled England in 1831 to take off the excessive duty entirely. Thus it is that the much-abused tariff of 1828 brought about a permanent reduction in the cost of the fabric in England amounting to more than the present price per square yard of the coarse fabrics—which reduction has done more to extend the consumption of cottons and to hold up the price of the raw material than any one thing in the course of its history. Shortly after this master result of our policy, which seems to have eluded the observation of our politicians, and in which millions of revenue raised by England from our staple were released, our own disputes at home effected what England so anxiously desired. The tariff of 1832 made almost every hemp article free of duty, and otherwise affected the duties on manufactures; and in 1833 the compromise act established wholly a new system of duties, which the same author (McCulloch) hailed as the harbinger of prosperity to England. Indeed he exultingly declared that those modifications of the tariff had given a death-blow to our manufactures. But, fortunately for the country, the destructive period of that act was just before the close of its ten years' continuance, and we were not bound by the solemnity of its pledge long to bleed under the cruel stab. In 1842 the wound was stanchd, but the whole body of the nation was in the very last stages of sinking. Yet see how like a charm, with the returning smile of a fostering Government, life and activity returns, and every industrial interest springs to its feet again. But the grumbling cotton planter, like the elder brother in the parable of the prodigal son, stands afar and refuses to join in the universal joy upon his brother's return. It seems to be the fate of Southern politicians to be embarrassed with signal failure in all their predictions. They complained that this tariff of 1842 would only cause England to lay countervailing duties, and to shut her ports in a measure against our produce; but, unfortunately for their reputation as prophets and wise men, the first thing we hear from England on the subject is that she has taken off the last penny of duty upon cotton, in order to sustain and encourage the manufacture there likewise. Here then is the remarkable spectacle of two of the most powerful nations on the globe, rivaling each other in encouraging the manufacture of a staple, the producers of which profess to regard that encouragement (by the nation which is foremost to act and compels its rival to do likewise) the greatest curse which legislation can bring down upon them.

What, then, have been the effects of our protective system on this staple in America? 1. By protective tariffs it was first planted here. 2. By protective tariffs a home market has been built up for this staple of greater importance than the English market was twenty years ago; for, when the tariff of 1824 was passed, the whole amount of cotton manufactured in England was only 131,000,000 lbs., and the whole exported from the United States was only 142,250,000 lbs., while last year 489,000 bales were consumed by our manufactures, which, at an average of 173 lbs. per bale, amounts to upwards of 182,000,000 pounds.

3. By our protective duties, first the English excise duty on the manufacture and afterwards her impost duty on the raw cotton have been removed. As a corollary from this proposition, a permanent reduction in the price of the fabric has been effected by the same cause, so that the cotton grower and the consumer of the fabric have been equally benefited.

While these results in the operation of that system were effected, the manufacture of this staple in England has progressed with the increase of the crop in the United States without respect to the duties laid upon her fabrics.

In this view of the subject, (and I believe every word of this argument is sound and based upon established facts,) I ask you candidly to say, is not the cotton planter more indebted to protective duties than any other man, not excepting the manufacturer himself?

I have attempted to present this subject in a new light, by advertising to one important fact which has escaped the attention of our people. If I have succeeded in demonstrating the true effect of our protective duties upon British legislation, I have brought to view a matter which demands the attentive consideration of statesmen. How far I have elucidated this subject you must judge.

OLD VIRGINIA.

THE PROGRESS OF DISCOVERY.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: In the Intelligencer of 17th instant, appeared an article headed AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS, containing matter deserving more attention than it is probable it will excite. It is long since I first made the observation that the catarsis of time have attracted greatly more attention than the stream. The Rise and Progress of the United States of North America and of Australian Colonization, immense as are their importance respectively, are but parts of a revolution which, in extent and influence on the human race, renders all previous changes partial and comparatively trivial. This revolution had its origin long anterior to the discovery of America by Europeans; which latter event in fact was an effect of a cause in activity centuries previous to what has been emphatically called "MODERN DISCOVERY." Let me observe, en passant, that the commencement of modern discovery has been very much misplaced locally and post-dated in time. To pursue the chain retrospectively would lead us far beyond the limits of an article in a public paper; suffice it therefore to observe, that as far anterior as history, sacred and profane, throw light on the subject, the Western nations of the Eastern continent regarded the fountains of wealth to be in Eastern Asia. The great revolutions which in the lapse of ages changed the relations of mankind, alternately strengthened and weakened this Oriental vision, but never reduced it to entire obscurity. More or less, human policy has been influenced and action turned towards the rising sun from the earliest to the latest date.

A very common idea prevails, and is fostered by our books generally, that CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, by an inspiration of genius, conceived the existence of America and made its discovery eventually. Some recent writers have, however, shown conclusively that this really great man died in ignorance of the fact that he had really discovered a different continent from Asia. Columbus and the men who preceded, those who acted with him, and those who immediately followed, were influenced by one common wish—"to reach India by sea." But why such a wish, which had been breathed and produced action two or three thousand years before, should have assumed so animating and general force in the more modern times, is amongst the most curious

subjects of inquiry on which the human mind can be employed. But, without otherwise treating the matter here, I may quote the words of an able French authority, the geography of Laramaudiere, Bailly, and Haot:

"It is probable that geography would have long languished and have been circumscribed to our Europe had it not been for the great revolutions of Asia, which, bringing forward powerful nations until then unknown, and placing them in conflict with the men of Europe, and inducing the latter to penetrate to the eastern part of Asia, European attention was particularly directed to the conquests of the Mongols, who advanced into the heart of Europe by Poland, Hungary, and Silesia."

The most eminent European travellers, from A. D. 1170 to the age of Columbus and who penetrated Asia by land, were Benjamin of Tudela, Carpini, Rubricus, Acellio, Marco Polo, Sir John Mandeville, Hainbo, King of Armenia, Oederic de Portenau, Clavijo, and Pegolotto. There were many others who, with various objects, followed the same course. Many of these travellers were merchants, such as the Poli family, as well as authors. An active and very lucrative caravan commerce was opened and giving stimulus to European activity, led the most western nations of Europe, the Portuguese in particular, to inquire into the practicability of reaching the great regions of wealth by water. But in A. D. 1411, when the first great Portuguese armament sailed from Lisbon, what was the then condition of universal geography? The armament under the King of Portugal, John I, and his two sons, Peter Duke of Coimbra, and Henry Duke of Viseo, was not intended, true, as one of discovery, but of war with the Moors of Africa; but the genius of Prince Henry gave it a more salutary direction, by commencing those discoveries which developed the lands and seas of the earth, and made this maritime expedition the most important in consequences of any which was ever undertaken.

Immense, indeed, were then the unknown regions which were to be discovered. Cape Nun, as its name imports, a promontory of Africa, in latitude 28° 22' N., distant about 600 miles, following the general inflection of the coast, from the Straits of Gibraltar, was the ne plus ultra; all beyond was unknown. The African coasts, eastern and western, and islands, as well as the southern termination of that continent, and for the greater part of its vast interior, were to be disclosed. America and Australia not even supposed to exist. South-eastern Asia, with the immense Archipelago of Austral Asia, Japan, and Oceania, with a mere shadowy appearance. A very vague and imperfect knowledge of China, Indostan, and adjacent regions.

Eminent individuals, in every department, are frequently elected by common consent to represent their age. Mankind are prone to group events, and substitute simple action for development. This course has in a very extreme degree distorted the history of modern discovery. So far from being the few and far between efforts of individuals, it has been, in a remarkable manner, slow development; and now, near the middle of the nineteenth century, or 435 years after the first Portuguese expedition, there is very much to be done before the geography of the earth can be regarded as approaching perfection. These expressions are not made to undervalue the merit of those noble and enterprising men whose lives were spent in the enlargement of the fields of human action, and whose names stand as landmarks in the history of science. Their fame in mind instances was their only recompense, and that withheld until death sealed the compact between them and the world. My object is to awaken more attention to the relative nature of modern progress. The remarkable regularity in the ratios of increase of the population of the United States, during the respective decennial periods from 1790 to 1840, inclusive, demonstrates the fact that in equal times a steadiness prevails approaching mathematical precision. It is only, however, when effects arise to great magnitude that general attention is attracted, and consequently the natural course of things regarded as momentary phenomena.

As this paper I close with another observation. It is very natural for the Anglo-Saxon family of nations to assume to themselves great merit in having perhaps really most influence, but the great modern development is just due to the Caucasian race. The German or Teutonic stock have, ever since the fall of the Roman Empire, taken van among European nations and their colonies, and secured a steadiness which regulates and systematizes activity. But such influence has by no means been confined to the Romano-Gothic or Celtic nations; it has also had a meliorating preponderance on the Sarmatian and Slavonic branches, and, under the title of Russian Empire, no change effected in either America or Australia have exceeded it in moral, intellectual, and social melioration. If the Teutonic spirit pervaded the European mass, it found suitable material in the other branches of the Caucasian race.

WILLIAM DARBY.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1846.

TO THE EDITORS.

HOUSTON COUNTY, (GEORGIA), SEPTEMBER 16.

Messrs. EDITORS: Your readers have been interested by the novel prediction noticed in the subjoined article; and it may not be amiss to remind them of the chances of failure involved in such a calculation. The community are too ready to take for granted whatever scientific statements they read. And whatever corrects this disposition is so far pro bono publico.

J. A. JENNINGS.

In the Intelligencer of September 5th, I notice an article headed "Magnificent Prophecy," which is going the rounds of the papers. Startling prophecies in matters of science have so often been made and fulfilled at late years that we hardly dare call any thing absurd. Without denying Leverrier's conclusions, I seek leave to suggest some objections, which stand in the way of implicit belief.

If the new planet is analogous to the rest of the Solar System, how can it keep near enough to Uranus to disturb him for a long course of years? Their different rates of motion would soon separate them, so that they would cease to exert a perceptible influence upon each other. And then Uranus might move in his course as solely as any of his brother planets.

But another: How does M. Leverrier know, in any given perturbation of Uranus, whether it is a simple or compound motion, without first knowing its cause?

For instance, a body A moves towards G in the diagonal of a parallelogram. This motion might be caused by the attraction of a body at G, the opposite angle of the parallelogram, or of two bodies at B and C, at other two angles, or of two other bodies at D and E, the middle of the sides adjacent to G. Bodies might also be placed in an infinite variety of positions, so that the resultant motion of the body at A, caused by their attraction, would be in the direction A G, having no data but the motion of A towards G, how can I know whether this motion is caused by a body at G, or by other bodies at D and E, or others at B and C, or others still in different positions?

The force of gravitation varies inversely as the square of the distance. Therefore, if a body at G, a fixed distance, would cause a certain amount of motion in A, a smaller body at a less distance, or a larger one at a greater distance, might cause the same motion. With no data but the motion of A, how then can I know either the distance or size of G? I know the effect, but I cannot reason from it to the cause, when such an infinite variety of causes might have produced the same effect.

This, I think, will be found the position of M. Leverrier. He may assign an adequate cause for the perturbations of Uranus, but he might as well, and demonstrate their adequacy. But still the question remains, "What is the real cause?" and he can give no certain answer till the telescope shall furnish one.

"It is in the depths of his cabinet, and without opening his window, in combining figures and formulae, M. Leverrier has not only discovered the planet in question, but has calculated the orbit and measured the size of it." Indeed a greater light has risen! A problem which Newton and Laplace found it hard enough to solve, with the aid of long-continued and accurate observations on a planet itself in question, this man settles from the ambiguous staggering of a next planetary neighbor. Credit Judas!

But it is to appear next January, when it "will be seen to pass" at a certain moment. Why not tell us where it is now?

Unless it moves much faster than its neighbor Uranus, it will not change its place more than two degrees before that time. M. Leverrier's prediction may be fulfilled. But I would sooner stake a reputation for foresight in declaring that he will be found a humbug, than that he will discover new planets without looking for them.

J. A. JENNINGS.

QUADRATURE OF THE CIRCLE.

A history of the innumerable instances in which the "squaring of the circle" has been discovered would be a valuable manual. This most simple and most important geometrical question has exercised the ingenuity of geometers in every age since geometry became a science. The mother of trigonometry, the child has been less mysterious than the parent, but, the most acute mathematicians suggest, perhaps the true reason why the circle has refused to be squared is, that the operation is impossible—a difficulty which I am not much inclined to attempt the removal of. A short walk along the long-trodden path of science may be more agreeable and instructive than the task of either climbing to the skies or descending to the centre of the earth.

The earliest record we possess of an attempt to give the proportions between the diameter and circumference of the circle was by Archimedes, as 7 to 22. The great author, perhaps more correctly recorder, of this proportion, was killed ante C. 212, at the siege of Syracuse. Nearly eighteen hundred years passed over Europe, after the age of Archimedes, before a nearer approach was made to the real relations of the circle.

Francis Vieta, a Frenchman, who lived between 1540 and 1603, was with Metius the first in modern Europe, who in the advance towards the quadrature of the circle, surpassed in accuracy the ratio of Archimedes. These latter gave 113 to 355, and made a real progress in science. The numbers being formed by a repetition of the three first odd ciphers, is readily impressed on the memory.

But let me here notice a circumstance of great interest in the history of the investigations on the circle, and which has been strangely overlooked. In the very age of Metius and Vieta, were published in India, the *Asin Abherry*, or *ISTRICTS OF THE EMPEROR AKBER*, in which the proportions of the diameter and circumference of the circle are given at 1250 to 3927. The subjoined table shows the comparison of the three ratios: 1st, that of Archimedes; 2d, Metius and Vieta; and 3d, that of India; all reduced to decimal expressions respectively:

7 : 22 = 1 to 3.1428565+
113 : 355 = 1 to 3.14159261
1250 : 3927 = 1 to 3.14151

Any person acquainted with common arithmetic can test these proportions, and whoever makes the experiment will find that 7 : 22 reaches a recurring decimal in the fourth figure; therefore evidently approximate forever, and yet never reaching the goal.

The second, or that of Vieta, as recorded in Brande's Dictionary, under the article "Circle," was carried by its author to "10 places in decimals, and Van Cuelan to 36. Mr. Abraham Sharp computed the ratio to 73 places of figures; and, finally, De Lagry, in the *Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences of Paris*, extended it to 128—an example of patient industry without a use."

"Supposing the diameter 1," adds Brande, "the first 36 figures by which the circumference is expressed (or the ratio found by Van Cuelan) are: 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288."

Though not arrived in Germany by European nations, the Indian proportion comes out in the fifth decimal figure without a remainder, and thus far differs only .00008 from that of Vieta—a fraction, for all useful purposes, utterly valueless. The Indian ratio, I must repeat, having the great superiority of coming out without a remainder at the fifth decimal.

Any person acquainted with geometry can, by applying a brief portion of time in elegant amusement, render evident to the eye the most important properties of the circle, by taking any diameter at will, and project a circle. Then, within the circle, project one after another, from the most simple polygon, the equilateral triangle; then the square, pentagon, hexagon, &c. Such a process will demonstrate that, with the increased sides of the polygons, the aggregate area left between their sides and the circle will diminish, and reason will suggest, with all the force of mathematical evidence, that, for all practical uses, the circle may be regarded as an infinite polygon, and composed of an infinite series of isosceles triangles, their apex or acute angles uniting at the centre, and their sides equal to the radius of the circle. This being understood and admitted, it follows that, as the area of isosceles triangles, similar to all other triangles, is the product of the perpendicular multiplied by half the base, and hence the area of a circle must be the product of half the radius by the whole circumference, or equal to a parallelogram in length equal to the circumference, and breadth equal to the one-fourth of the diameter of a given circle.

From all these data, we find the circle dependant on one element, as either the diameter, circumference, or area given, and all the others are deducible. "Since the invention of the infinitesimal calculus, the discovery of series for the Rectification and Quadrature of the Circle is a matter of comparative facility."—Albert Euler, as quoted by Brande.

That person who decides what Newton, Halley, Albert Euler, La Grange, Laplace, Legendre, &c. receded from and gave up in despair, will secure a fame which Time itself will respect.

WILLIAM DARBY.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 22, 1846.

GENTLEMEN: As the potato rot has produced some excitement of late, I take the liberty to draw your attention and that of the public to the following substitutes for that pestilent, and also some facts and experiments in relation to the potato. In the year 1824 I returned from Chili in the United States ship Franklin, and brought with me a small green bulbous root, about the size of a small marble: this I planted at Meridian Hill, and, in two years, it produced a fine blue nose potato. These are indigenous to Chili, and from which the potato was originally produced. I have no doubt in my own mind that the potato has actually run out, and unless the plant indigenous to Chili is propagated this vegetable will disappear from the earth.

From all these data, we find the circle dependant on one element, as either the diameter, circumference, or area given, and all the others are deducible. "Since the invention of the infinitesimal calculus, the discovery of series for the Rectification and Quadrature of the Circle is a matter of comparative facility."—Albert Euler, as quoted by Brande.

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WILLIAM DARBY.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 22, 1846.

Extract of a Letter from an Officer of the Army, published in a New Orleans paper.

CAMARAO, AUGUST 26, 1846.

A word or two about the policy of the Government in prosecuting the war with Mexico. General Taylor has been instructed to carry on what is called "a war of reconciliation," that is, to make all the citizens of Mexico our friends, by paying them a high price for every thing, and not appropriating any of their property to our use without remunerating them; thus, as we proceed into the interior, occupying the towns on our way, it is thought that, by pursuing this reconciliation policy, we will gain the friendship of these people, and win them over to our cause, by telling them that we are not making war upon them, but upon the usurpers of power, their oppressors—or, in a word, upon the Government of Mexico only, for the injury it has done us! By pursuing this reconciliation policy, it is thought that we will greatly cripple and enfeeble the forces of Mexico, and in this way soon make them our force—and, in case of a retreat, that these people will favor and cover us! It remains to be seen how this war of reconciliation will work. For my part, what little I have seen of its operations, I am perfectly disgusted with it, and am totally opposed to it, as being unwise, impolitic, and imbecile.

This policy of pursuing a war of reconciliation is unparalleled and unprecedented in the history of warfare. What do you suppose the people of the United States would think, in case England was at war with us, if it were told us that England did not wish to make war with the people of the United States, but with the President and Congress only; and that they would pay us the highest price for every thing, in order to facilitate the war, and make us their friends? Would it not be insulting us? Is it not insulting to the Mexican people, then? To give you an idea how this war of reconciliation is working, I have only to tell you that the policy has turned the Mexicans into extortioners, and that the American volunteers and soldiers, with the little patience of pay which they receive from the Government for support, are here liable to the severest impositions whenever they are forced to buy from these wretches. For instance, they charge a bit for four eggs, and frequently a penny an apiece; washing, two dollars per dozen; and every thing else in proportion. And, strange to say, too, these treacherous devils, who, before the arrival of our army, never saw a cent once in a month, are now becoming rich at the expense of the poor soldiers. Our Government certainly cannot know the character of these people, or it would never pursue such a course in the prosecution of this war. The idea, for instance, of paying a "citizen" fifty cents for a melon, when three months ago he would gladly have accepted three cents, or a quartier, in order to obtain his friendship, is ridiculous; for if he should know that you had fifty cents more in your pocket, and that it could only be obtained by cutting your throat, and a good opportunity offered, he would do it to a certainty. General Taylor and the Government are mistaken if they think to gain the support of this people in this way. And in case of a forced retreat on our part, they would be the first to massacre us for the sake of plunder. The fact is, that robbing and smuggling are a part of their education; and they are no better than so many Arabs. Now, if it be the object of our Government to buy a peace, why, in the name of God, do not do so at once, and save further loss of life? For I do assure you it could be purchased at one-half the price which the war will cost us in pursuing this course of reconciliation. The Mexican soldiers never dress in uniform here, and we cannot distinguish them, of course, from citizens, which gives them a double advantage over us. They come into our camps, spy out all our operations, and keep the enemy continually apprised of all our movements. It is impossible to go on any expedition, or to undertake any secret service without their knowing all about it, and taking methods to defeat us. Thus was poor Capt. Thornton ambuscaded; and thus, too, have many other expeditions failed. Many have become so disgusted with this tardy course of a war of reconciliation that they are returning to their homes, and it will yet be the cause of many more serviceable men leaving the army. In Heaven's name, if we are at war, and intend carrying it on, let us act like warriors, and pursue the proper course on such occasions as is acknowledged by all nations—make the enemy support us, and find us in supplies. Let them feel that we are here to fight, and not to conciliate, unless it comes from them—not from us. Let them feel that we are their enemies to the knife; but that for all who choose to join our cause, we are willing to receive them; then we should know who are our enemies and who our friends; or, in other words, we would be able to tell a soldier from a citizen. But by continuing this conciliatory policy, we are but buying up our enemies to keep them from fighting against us, thus enriching the people, and of course the Government, and actually paying the people for permitting us to make war upon the Government of Mexico! If the United States continues the war at this rate, Mexico will certainly pay off her foreign debt with our own money; and it will be interesting to keep up the war, which is becoming so profitable for her. Why not then, I say, buy a peace at once—for as well buy a peace as a war—and save the flow of blood?

RIOT AMONG THE CALIFORNIANS.

NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 16.

The California encampment at Governor's Island last evening presented a most beautiful picture of anarchy and military insubordination, in consequence of an attempt having been made to compel the volunteers to embark without first—

As the potato rot has produced some excitement of late, I take the liberty to draw your attention and that of the public to the following substitutes for that pestilent, and also some facts and experiments in relation to the potato. In the year 1824 I returned from Chili in the United States ship Franklin, and brought with me a small green bulbous root, about the size of a small marble: this I planted at Meridian Hill, and, in two years, it produced a fine blue nose potato. These are indigenous to Chili, and from which the potato was originally produced. I have no doubt in my own mind that the potato has actually run out, and unless the plant indigenous to Chili is propagated this vegetable will disappear from the earth.

From all these data, we find the circle dependant on one element, as either the diameter, circumference, or area given, and all the others are deducible. "Since the invention of the infinitesimal calculus, the discovery of series for the Rectification and Quadrature of the Circle is a matter of comparative facility."—Albert Euler, as quoted by Brande.

That person who decides what Newton, Halley, Albert Euler, La Grange, Laplace, Legendre, &c. receded from and gave up in despair, will secure a fame which Time itself will respect.

WILLIAM DARBY.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 22, 1846.

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Later from Fort Bent—Progress of Emigrants.

The St. Louis Republican, of the 12th instant, mentions the arrival on the preceding day of the Little Missouri,