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E. P. WALTON, JR., EDITOR.

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ANTI-TEXAS CONVENTION IN FANEUIL HALL, BOSTON.

This Convention, consisting of delegates from one hundred and twenty-one cities and towns of Massachusetts, met on the 29th ult. and continued its session through that and the succeeding day—Hon. John M. Williams presiding. The call was addressed to all parties, and was in some measure, responded to by all—several locofocos being present, notwithstanding the denunciation of the leading locofoco presses in the State. There were present also many zealous abolitionists, though the great body of the convention consisted of Whigs. Some of the abolitionists urged extreme measures such as a proposition by Mr. Garrison to declare the Union dissolved in case annexation is consummated, and then to meet in Convention and form a new government. The convention, however, would countenance no bad faith to the Constitution or the Union; in the language of the Hon. Linus Child, of Worcester, "they did not come to speak of the dissolution of the Union, and the rupture of the ties that bind us to the Constitution, but to invoke the Constitution to save us from this great scheme of infamy." Again: "He said that any measure of annexation was not binding—that Texas was not annexed, and that the Union stands. The Constitution was whole, the act of Congress was invalid. We go for the *repeal* of any act which annexes Texas, should it pass both Houses. If a single joint resolution could annex Texas, a joint resolution could put it out." Slavery of course mingled much in the deliberations of the Convention: all condemned it, and the prevailing sense seemed to be that all should unite against it on the basis of the Constitution and the Union as it is. The Convention resulted in the unanimous adoption of the following address:

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is a fundamental maxim of all our American Constitutions, that the people are the only rightful source of political power; that government is a delegated and limited trust; that all authority not conferred is reserved; and that, in fact, there are grave questions, lying deeper than the organized forms of government, and over which, government in none of its branches, has just control.

When, in the course of events, a question of this kind arises, it is fit to be examined, and must be examined, by the people themselves, and considered and decided by an enlightened and conscientious exercise of the public judgment, and a full and determined expression of the public will.

It is, perhaps, matter of necessity, that those to whom power is confided, under a free constitution, must be left in ordinary cases, to be judges, themselves, of the limits imposed on their own authority, subject to such checks and balances as the framers of government may have provided. But in times of great excitement, of political and party heat, in times when men's passions strengthen dangerously the natural tendency of all power to enlarge its limits by construction and inference, by plausible arguments and bad precedents, in such times it behooves the great constituent body to put forth its own power of investigation and decision, and to judge for itself, whether its agents are about to transcend their authority, and abuse their trust.

Such, an inquiry, in the judgment of this Convention, is presented to the people of the United States, by the project broached last year, and now zealously and hotly pursued, of annexing Texas to the United States.

This question transcends all the bounds of ordinary political topics. It is not a question how the United States shall be governed, but what shall hereafter constitute the United States; it is not a question as to what system of policy shall prevail in the country, but what the country itself shall be. It is a question which touches the identity of the Republic. The inquiry is, whether we shall remain as we have been since 1789, or whether we shall now join another people to us, and mix, not only our interests, hopes and prospects, but our very being, with another, and a foreign State.

This fearful proposition must awaken, and we are glad to know, does awaken, a deep and intense feeling throughout a great part of the country. It touches reflecting minds to the very quick, because it appears to them to strike at foundations, to endanger first principles, and to menace, in a manner well calculated to excite alarm and terror, the stability of our political institutions.

A question of this magnitude is too broad to stand on any platform of party politics; it is too deep for any, or all, of the political creeds and dogmas of the day; it presents itself, or should present itself, not to political organization, not to existing parties, not to particular interests, or local considerations, but to the PEOPLE of the United States, the WHOLE PEOPLE of the United States, as a subject of the greatest and most lasting importance, and calling, earnestly and imperatively, for immediate consideration, and resolute action.

We are assembled here, where the voice of freemen is wont to be uttered, to signify our opposition to this project. And as the project itself is as bold as it is alarming, scarcely seeking to disguise the want of constitutional power to sustain it, and setting forth its great and leading objects, with so unblushing a countenance, and such hardihood of avowal, as to create astonishment, not only in the United States, but all over the world; so, while we protest against it, in the most solemn manner, we shall state the great grounds of our protest, respectfully and dispassionately, but freely and fearlessly, and as if filled, as we are filled, with the most profound conviction that we are resisting a measure, the mischief of which cannot be measured in its magnitude, nor calculated in its duration.

We regard the scheme of annexing Texas to the United States, as being:

1. A plain violation of the Constitution.

2. As calculated and designed, by the open declaration of its friends, to uphold the interests of Slavery, extend its influence, and secure its permanent duration.

I. There is no constitutional power in any branch of the Government, or all the branches of the Government, to annex a foreign State to this Union.

The successful termination of the Revolutionary war left the old thirteen States free and independent, although united in a common confederacy.—Some of these States possessed large tracts of territory, lying within the limits of their respective charters from the crown of England, not as yet cultivated or settled. Before the adoption of the present constitution, it is well known these States had made extensive grants of this territory to the United States, with the main original purpose of disposing of the same for the payment of the debt of the Revolution.

The cession of Virginia, to whom much the largest portion of this territory belonged, being all the land within her original charter, was made in 1784; and it was the express condition of that grant, that the ceded territory should be laid out and formed into States, each to be of suitable extent, not less than a hundred nor more than a hundred and fifty miles square.

At the adoption of the present constitution these territories belonged to the United States, and the Government of the United States was bound to make provision for their admission into the Union, as States, so soon as they should become properly settled and peopled for that purpose. For the government of this territory the memorable ordinance of July, 1787, was passed, and constituted the public law of the country, until the present constitution was adopted. It became then a part of the duty of the framers of that instrument to make provision suitable to the subject. The Constitution declares, therefore, "that Congress shall have power to dispose of, and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory of the United States." This gave the authority of governing the territory, as territory, while it remained such. And in the same article it is provided as follows:

Art. 4, Sec. 3. "New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union; but no new State shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other State, nor any State be formed by the junction of two or more States, or parts of States, without the consent of the legislatures of the States concerned, as well as of the Congress."

It is quite impossible to read this clear and exact provision, without seeing that Congress had in view two forms in which new States might be created and admitted into the Union. 1st, They might be created out of the Territory which the United States possessed, and in regard to which the original stipulation was, that it should be formed into States in due time, and those States admitted into the Union. 2d, New States might be formed by the division of an existing State, or by the junction of two or more States or parts of States; but in this case the consent of the Legislatures of the States concerned was made necessary, as well as that of Congress.

It is plain and manifest that in all this there is not the slightest view towards any future acquisition of territory.

The constitution was made for the country, as it then existed—that country then embraced both States and Territories, and it would be a perfectly hopeless task to seek to find, in the whole instrument, any manifest avowal, or any lurking intention to bring any thing into this Union, not already belonging to it, either as a State or a Territory.—The Constitution was no more meant to embrace Texas, than to embrace Cuba, or Jamaica, or Ireland. And it would well become those who are now making such efforts to torture the Constitution, till it shall seem to confer authority never intended by it, to acquaint themselves somewhat better with the political history of the period of its adoption.

The old confederation took effect in July, 1778, the third year of our independence. During the war the thirteen States had manifested a desire that their cause should be strengthened by the junction of Canada. There was, as all know, a very able and powerful address from the old Congress to the inhabitants of that province, and the door was still kept open for Canada to come into the Union. By the eleventh article of the Confederation it was expressly stipulated that "Canada, acceding to this confederation, and joining in the measures of the United States, shall be admitted into, and entitled to, all the advantages of this Union." Then follow these words—"but no other Colony shall be admitted into the same, unless such admission be agreed to by nine States." Nine out of thirteen, then, being two thirds of all the original States, were required to assent, before a new State could be brought in. Thus stood the great principle of our Union, when the present Constitution was framed, in 1787. At that time, but subsequent to the date of the articles of confederation, the United States, as we have seen, had acquired the vast territory northward of the Ohio, and stipulated that it should be formed into States.

The old provision in the eleventh article of the confederation was omitted in the new Constitution, and a provision made, applicable, and only applicable, to States already in the Union, and territories already possessed by the United States.

We see, then, that under the confederation, new States might come in by the consent of two thirds, and not otherwise. We see by the present Constitution, provision is made for the admission of new States, formed out of the existing territory, or out of other existing States, and not otherwise. Is it not most manifest, that if the framers of the Constitution had looked to the admission of new States, to be formed out of territories afterwards to be acquired, it would, at least, have guarded such a purpose, and such a power, by such a limitation, at least, as should be equivalent to that on the same subject, contained in the confederation?

The advocates of the annexation of Texas are driven to the necessity of contending, that new States may be admitted, formed of territory out of the original limits of the United States, although the Constitution has carefully and sedulously omitted and rejected the eleventh article of the confederation, and has made a provision of its own, the end and design of which cannot be misunderstood or disregarded without violence to plain terms and clear language, as well as ignorance of, or contempt for, all the contemporaneous history of the country.

They are obliged to contend, also, that this constitutional authority, raised by feeble and forced construction, by unfounded inference and remote analogy, extends not only to the admission of territories or colonies of other independent nations, but to these individual nations themselves; in other words, that a Government formed for the protection and benefit of the United States, each one of which States is enumerated and set down by name in the constitution of the United States, may not only add to the number of these States, but may also bring in a foreign power, with all its own peculiar interests, connections, debts and liabilities, not only without the consent of two thirds of the States, or a majority of the States, or indeed without the assent of any one State already in the Union, acting in the capacity and manner in which the people of that State came into it.

It is idle to say that the assent of the people of a State, in a great and fundamental question like this, is to be proved by, or inferred from, any vote of its representatives in Congress. No member of Congress is sent there for that purpose, or clothed with any such authority. It is, indeed, extremely doubtful, if the question be not clear the other way, whether any State Government, organized for the common purposes of a State Government, could give the assent of such a State to the coming in of a new partner to the Union. When the people of Massachusetts gave their consent to form a political union with Virginia, New York and Pennsylvania, under the present constitution, that assent was given, not by the Legislature, but by a Convention of Delegates chosen directly by the people, for that single and express object, and no other; and with authority, therefore, to bind the people in a manner to which no other representative body was competent.

But it would seem to the members of this Convention, that if any thing can be more clear than the want of all constitutional authority to annex Texas to the United States, it is that the form in which such annexation is now attempted to be brought about, is an undisguised and open violation of express constitutional provisions.

A Treaty for the annexation of Texas to the United States, was negotiated last year, between the President of the United States and the Texan government, and laid before the Senate for its constitutional ratification, at the last session of Congress. It was sent, like any other Treaty, and required, of course, the concurrence of the same proportion of Senators as other Treaties require, to wit, two thirds of all present.

A confidence, very ill founded, as events have shown, had been already expressed and signified to Texas, that the concurrence of that number of Senators was certain. After many weeks of debate, the treaty was rejected by a vote of thirty-five to sixteen—it thus appearing that not only had two thirds of the Senators not voted for it, but that two thirds had voted against it. Here was supposed to be an end of the treaty; but no sooner was Congress assembled, at its present session, than a joint resolution was introduced, declaring that this treaty, the ratification of which had thus been decisively refused by the Senate, the only body which could constitutionally give it ratification, should, nevertheless, become the Supreme law of the land. This resolution is now pending, modified in its form, but providing substantially for the same object; it has already passed the House of Representatives, and should it pass both Houses, then an attempt will have been made, and will have succeeded, so far as the forms of law are concerned, to ratify a treaty by mere majorities of both Houses, instead of the constitutional authority of the Senate.

We know not on what occasion bad objects have been more emphatically pursued by bad means, or in which the recklessness of the original purpose has been followed up by grosser disregard of all constitutional and just restraint. If this precedent prevail, the Treaty making power, as established by the Constitution, is at an end. It will be no longer for the Senate, the great conservative and most permanent body of the government, to act deliberately and gravely on Treaties with foreign States, to judge of them in the light of its own wisdom, and under the responsibility of its own high character, and to grant its ratification, if the constitutional number of Senators present concur.—The ratification of Treaties will become the business of party majorities, temporary majorities it may be, bare majorities, of the two houses, acting under the influences, and liable to all the errors, which may occasionally affect the proceedings of such numerous assemblies.

Both the negotiation and the ratification of Treaties are, in their nature, parts of the Executive power of Government. Wherever the Executive power is vested, there the treaty-making power ordinarily goes with it, and as a part of it. There may, indeed be limitations, introduced for greater security; and in this case it is not important whether we consider the Senate of the United States as partaking, in these respects, of the Executive power, or as being clothed by the provisions of the Constitution, with a special authority in regard to treaties. That authority is established and does exist. It exists, in concurrence with the power of the President; and if the ratification of a Treaty may be made by majorities of the two Houses, the negotiation of a treaty might as well be undertaken by the same authority.

The House of Representatives has a Legislative power, and none other; and whatever may be the form of a resolution or a law for the annexation of Texas, still, as such resolution or law must imply the assent of Texas, the thing to be accomplished is plainly a compact between independent Governments. It is, in its nature, therefore, a convention, or agreement between two Nations is a treaty, and must be sanctioned in the way provided for all treaties.

The entering into treaties with foreign Nations is a matter of the very highest importance, often attended with danger, and always requiring grave deliberation. Yet the common good does require that Governments should enter into such treaties, for commercial and other just and proper purposes. But while the power is granted, special limits and securities are also established. Senators are elected by States, and an equal number from each State; to decide upon treaties is one of their express constitutional powers and duties. No treaty with a foreign power can be ratified, unless two thirds of the Senators concur; in effect, unless two thirds of the States concur.

Here is then a constitutional guaranty, not only that all treaties touching the general good of the country shall be deliberately considered, but that nothing which may affect the rights, interests and authority of the States, shall be done under the treaty making power, without the consent of two thirds of the States themselves.

And it appears to this Convention that if we can conceive of any bargain, compact or agreement with a foreign State, under the authority of the General Government, in which the States, as States, have a peculiar, most important and permanent interest, it is a compact or agreement by which another government or Nation is to come into the Union, and become one of themselves.

Whoever seeks, therefore, to confer the power of ratifying treaties on any other body but the Senate of the United States, acting under its constitutional limitations as to numbers, appears to strike a deadly blow at one of those most considerable provisions, which regard the States as States, and give them as States, an equal share in the administration of the government.

But we desire not to be misunderstood. According to our convictions, there is no power in any branch of the government, or all its branches, to annex foreign territory to this Union. We have made the foregoing remarks, only to show that if any fair construction could show such a power to exist any where, or to be exercised in any form, yet the manner of its exercise now proposed is destitute of all decent semblances of constitutional propriety.

Great reliance is placed by the advocates of annexation on the precedents of Louisiana and Florida. It is not to be denied that those precedents do create embarrassment on the present occasion, because precedents are often allowed to have influence, without full consideration of all the circumstances, which may make them rather exceptions to a general rule, than a regular emanation from it.

Louisiana was acquired under very particular circumstances, totally distinct from those which pertain to the present case, or can well exist in any other case; circumstances affecting, and liable to affect, as well the peace of the country, as the useful enjoyment of its acknowledged territory. Every one saw the importance of the control of the mouth of the Mississippi; every one saw that while a foreign government held Louisiana, we commanded no outlet to the sea, from all the vast and fertile regions of the West. With Spain we had had difficulties, menacing war. It was obvious that our western region, filling up with such wonderful rapidity, by enterprising citizens, whose necessities for a passage to the ocean were increasing with their own population and their own products, would never refrain from insisting, at whatever hazard, on the free use of the greatest river in the world, along whose banks and among whose tributaries it was situated, from its sources to its mouth.

The acquisition of Louisiana was a measure of Mr. Jefferson's administration. He himself appears not to have had the slightest idea that it would ever be admitted into the Union, without an alteration of the Constitution. Such alteration of the Constitution was certainly contemplated and even recommended by him; but the posture of things at the moment, and the general acquiescence of the country in the attainment of what it had seemed so necessary to attain, led to the ratification of the treaty, and to the subsequent admission of Louisiana into the Union, as a State, without any alteration of the Constitution.

Florida was also acquired by treaty. The objects of the acquisition were similar to those which had prevailed in regard to Louisiana, with this further inducement: that the whole value of the territory should be paid to citizens of the United States, who had just claims against the Spanish Government for seizures and spoliations of property.

These cases, in the judgment of this Convention, do not justify the attempt now made to annex Texas. We are not aware that they have ever been defended upon such grounds as are assumed in the case of Texas. They stand on reasons peculiar to themselves; and if, in regard to either of them, these peculiar reasons, or the urgency of the case, or the general acquiescence of the country, either occasioned or overlooked a departure from constitutional principles or provisions, neither of them certainly can be allowed to have the authority of a general precedent. As cases decided and acted upon, let them stand; but if they are to be regarded as justifying authorities for other annexations, for which no necessity exists—annexations, not of territories but of whole nations, then it is obvious that no man can foresee what may be the country of which he is a citizen, or under what forms of government he may hope hereafter to live.

(*Remainder next week.*)

NATURALIZATION LAWS.

The bill reported to the Senate on this subject by Mr. Berrien, provides:

1. That the collectors of revenue shall keep a register of every alien arriving, stating his name, age, and stature, and give a certificate to each alien.

2. That at any time not less than three years from arrival, the alien may present this certificate to the Clerk of any U. S. Court, and have his intention of becoming a citizen recorded.

3. That in two years after such intention is recorded, on the proof of the registry and intention, and of good character and attachment to the U. S. Constitution, the alien may be admitted to citizenship, on certain conditions.

4. That no decree of naturalization shall be issued within —— months of any election, state or national.

5. That decrees fraudulently obtained may be set aside, and all persons implicated punished for a high misdemeanor.

These are the principal provisions of the bill, as applied to aliens hereafter coming to this country. It is certainly a great improvement upon the existing laws, and seems liable to no objection, unless it be that it is not sufficiently rigid.

Snow! Snow! Snow! On Tuesday and Wednesday this section of the country was visited by an old fashioned snow storm, depositing 18 inches or more of new snow.

THE VOTE ON THE ANNEXATION QUESTION.

The following analysis of the vote in the House, on passing the joint resolutions to annex Texas, shows that the measure was carried by *the white locofoco slaves of the free states*; 53 of them voted aye—had they voted as they ought, Annexation would have been defeated by 84 majority:

	Ayes.		Noes.	
	Dem.	Whig.	Dem.	Whig.
Maine,	1	0	4	2
New Hampshire,	2	0	2	0
Vermont,	0	0	1	3
Massachusetts,	1	0	1	8
Rhode Island,	0	0	0	2
Connecticut,	3	0	1	0
New-York,	9	0	14	10
New Jersey,	3	0	1	1
Pennsylvania,	10	0	0	13
Delaware,	0	0	0	1
Maryland,	0	0	0	5
Virginia,	11	1	0	3
North Carolina,	4	0	0	4
South Carolina,	7	0	0	0
Georgia,	6	2	0	0
Alabama,	6	1	0	0
Mississippi,	4	0	0	0
Louisiana,	4	0	0	0
Ohio,	9	0	2	10
Indiana,	8	0	0	2
Illinois,	6	0	0	1
Kentucky,	5	0	0	5
Tennessee,	6	1	0	0
Missouri,	5	0	0	0
Michigan,	1	0	2	0
Arkansas,	1	0	0	0
	112	8	28	70

It thus appears that of the Democratic votes in favor of the resolution, there were 53 from free, and 59 from Slave States. The 8 Whig votes in favor were all from slave States. Of the votes in the negative, the 28 Democrats are all from Free States; and of the Whigs, 52 are from Free, and 18 from Slave States.

Law of Population in the United States. It seems that 3 per cent. is so nearly the annual increment of population, as to be safely adopted as the law of increase. This is shown by a table published in the National Intelligencer by Wm. Dailey.—What *will* the population be 60 years hence? Let us look at the figures. We give a statement below, from which one can estimate pretty accurately. The first column shows the actual population by the census, and the second shows what the population would be by an annual increase of 3 per cent. on the population in 1790. They agree so nearly, as far as the comparison can be made with the census, as to show that the estimated future increase at the rate of 3 per cent. will in all probability be not far from the actual result:

Years.	*Pop. by census.*	*By increment of 3 per c.*
1790	3,929,827	
1800	5,305,925	5,281,468
1810	9,638,131	9,535,182
1830	12,856,407	12,811,118
1840	17,063,353	17,217,706
1850		23,138,004
1860		31,095,535
1870		40,617,768
1880		54,586,795
1890		73,382,185
1900		97,595,512
1901		101,533,377

Is this increase not fast enough? Why annex Texas, and then California, and then Mexico, and then—— no matter what? Is it at all likely that so immense a population, with conflicting interests and various races of men, can harmoniously exist under a common republican government? We doubt it.

RAIL ROADS.

Quick Work. On the 14th of May last an association was formed to procure a Rail Road from Northampton, Mass. to Greenfield—the route was surveyed and marked off ready for the laborers—on the 25th ult. a charter was procured from the legislature, and now the Directors of the association report that the stock will all be taken within a few weeks, and "if no untoward circumstances shall occur, the shrill whistle of the engine and the rattling of cars will be heard in our villages along the line of the road, before the next thanksgiving shall be kept by the people."

BOSTON, CONCORD & MONTREAL RAILROAD.

On the 18th ult., a meeting was holden at Orford N. H. at which several of the citizens of Orange (Vt.) and Grafton (N. H.) counties were present—The object of the meeting was to take some steps to get up a survey of a Connecticut river route, branching off from the Lebanon route (already surveyed) in the back part of Hanover, and running up to North Haverhill, thence, as projected by the Eastern routers, on to Stanstead. It is evident that this route is as practicable as the Oliverian route, chartered by the late act of the New Hampshire Legislature, and has many decided advantages over that route. It takes in more of the Connecticut river valley, passes through a more fertile territory, and loses nothing of any consequence in distance.

More than this: it is thought the Lebanon route, running to Montpelier and thence to Burlington, will succeed. If so, what egregious folly to run two parallel tracks through the State of New Hampshire, not departing twenty miles from each other at the most distant points! The meeting at Orford considered that it would be a great saving to the two companies if the routes could be united, as proposed, and with this view appointed a delegation to attend a meeting of the Lebanon route folks, holden on Tuesday last.

That the Connecticut river route has important advantages over the projected upper route, is indisputable. It is more practicable, and will be the more profitable route: besides, it will be a saving of some sixty or more miles of railroad. More than all this, New Hampshire does not like to have her farms all run through with railroads! Should we not be satisfied with running one through her centre, when from that one we may bifurcate off to the two grand termini?—*Bradford Protector.*

Grand Project. The Washington Correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, speaking of a petition to Congress from Mr. Whitney, an eminent merchant of New York, for a Rail Road from Lake Michigan to Oregon, says:

The Road would commence at Lake Michigan and terminate at the mouth of the Columbia River, a distance of over 2,000 miles, running through a gorge in the Rocky Mountains. The cost is estimated at $50,000,000, which, it is calculated, a strip of land sixty miles wide along the line would pay. The distance from New York to Amoy, in China, by this road, would only be 9,000 miles—the distance by ocean being now 17,000. The distance would then be traveled in one-fifth of the time it now takes. If practicable, it would have a vast influence on commerce.

Lake Champlain. We find the following among the commercial items of the N. Y. Tribune:

A line of British steamers will be put upon Lake Champlain. The Americans have now a monopoly of the freight on that lake. A large trade is carried on with the States, by this route to New York, and the duties received from imports at St. Johns, last year, go over $100,000.

VIRGINIA. R. T. Daniel, (Whig) has been elected Councillor of State by the following vote in joint ballot:

	Senate.	House.	Total.
Daniel, (Whig)	11	68	79
Rutherford, (loco)	17	60	77
		Maj. in joint ballot	2

The Treaty with China has been ratified by the Senate, and a late arrival brings the news of its ratification by the Emperor of China. This treaty secures to this country all the advantages of trade, privileges, &c. now accorded to Great Britain, or which shall hereafter be accorded to other nations. Americans are allowed to trade at all the five ports opened to Great Britain, to build churches and hospitals, employ teachers, purchase books, &c. It is a very important treaty, every way, and was unanimously ratified by the Senate.

For the Watchman and Journal.

WASHINGTON COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Having the pleasure of attending the semi-annual examination of this school last week, I cannot forego a slight expression of the lively gratification, which the highly successful character of the exercises afforded me. It was in reality, what it purported to be, an examination in the proper sense of the term. Many, if not most, of the so-called examinations in our high schools are in fact nothing but arrant impositions, scientifically played off upon the credulous public. *To practice upon the gullibility of the sovereign people, what forbids?* is a problem pretty commonly worked at by men of all callings, but by none is the required answer, zero, more readily given than by schoolmasters generally. The laws of the institution, under their charge, perhaps require the periodical recurrence of a public examination. Escape or evasion is out of the question. The ordeal, repulsive as it may be, must be met. Past remissness and unfaithfulness must be exposed. Teacher and scholars are sorely dismayed. What shall be done? In the trying exigency, the Genius of Humbuggery is successfully invoked; and at the suggestion of this kind divinity—so deservedly popular now a-days—the scholars are systematically inducted, a week beforehand, into the plan and all the details of the coming examination, and a particular portion of each study, comprising a few pages, is marked out, by regular metes and bounds, as their especial field of labor. *Act well your part*, there all the honor lies, becomes the universal motto; and the idlest and dullest are unable to withstand the temptation of gaining honor, at so cheap a rate. Every one conns and rehearses, rehearses and cons; till, all things got in readiness that can contribute to the desired effect, the eventful day arrives, the scene opens, the teacher manages the wires admirably, the scholars answer every question to the end of the chapter with surprising promptness and accuracy, the curtain drops, and the whole school, the most ignorant blockhead not excepted, is enveloped in a blaze of glory. I have often seen all this; nay, I know something of it experimentally, for when a schoolboy I was frequently called upon myself to figure as one of the *dramatis personæ* in farces of this description; and as I have observed the ardent glow of satisfaction irradiating the countenances of the unsuspicious audience, and the serene self-complacency softly beaming from every feature and lineament of the teacher's visage, I have thought that Hedibras was not far from right, when he declared that

> Doubtless the pleasure is as great
> Of being cheated as to cheat.

But I am sure that no such clap-trap management was resorted to upon the occasion, which suggested this hasty paragraph. The whole examination was conducted with the most perfect fairness, and the most rigid scrutiny. The pupils were examined upon all parts of their studies indiscriminately, and the sum total of their knowledge, in every branch they had attended to in the course of the term, was unreservedly exposed to the public view. The result was such as to reflect the highest credit both upon the instructor, and the instructed. It was not however the mere amount of knowledge displayed, that struck me so favorably; since that is a matter of minor consideration. It was the mental discipline evinced, the manifest invigoration of the intellectual faculties by habits of thought, and self-reliance, that afforded me particular pleasure. The folly of loading the memory with an undigested farrago of dead facts, which too many consider the sole end and object of education, and the comparative worthlessness of artificial rules without a proper understanding of the principles which they involve, seemed to be properly appreciated by the teacher, and to have been faithfully and successfully inculcated upon the minds of his scholars; and the result was plainly discernible, upon the day of examination, in the healthy vigorous intellectual growth of all, almost without exception.

I am persuaded, that whatever confidence shall be reposed in our institution under its present excellent management, will not be misplaced. It is idle, however to conceal that great indifference prevails, in the public mind of this community generally, concerning the fate of our Academy. This apathy is shameful to us, and I fear has done not a little to give currency to the ungrounded taunt, that we cannot appreciate anything that has not the clear ring of a silver dollar. Montpelier is daily advancing in wealth and importance, and honorable pride, if nothing else, should prompt us to support liberally our only literary institution, and not permit it to drag on a miserable feeble existence, for want of patronage. No town in the State can boast of superior advantages, and if we do not properly improve them, we do ourselves great injustice, and incur merited reproach.

OBSERVER.

The "Indians" are again at work in New York, in Cattaraugus and Otsego counties. The legislature has passed a law to punish these disturbers of the peace.

Cheap Postage. Who wishes the rates of postage reduced? Let him get up a petition to Congress *immediately*. The shortest form will be sufficient; for instance:

"The undersigned, citizens of Vermont, respectfully pray for a reduction of postage to the lowest practicable rates."

A Patriot King. The King of Prussia has been for some time thoroughly educating the people of his realm (taking care not to teach them any too much about the rights of self government, he wever.) We are glad to say that he has now advanced a step farther, and is about to give his country a Constitution. For this disposition to divest himself of absolute power, he receives the title of "Patriot King."

Wiskonsan. The legislature met on the 6th ult. when George H. Walker was elected speaker of the House, and Moses M. Strong President of the Senate—both Vermont boys, the former a native of Peacham, and the latter of Rutland.

Life in Washington. The Correspondent of the N. Y. Express says, under date of January 15th, "The last row 'came off' to night. McNulty, Clerk of the House and a Mr. Banks, visited, in doubtful company, the tavern of Mr. Owen, near Long Bridge. After a frolic there, one of the party, reported to be Banks, demurred at the bill presented. Altercation followed between Owen and Banks when the former fired a pistol, loaded with buck-shot, at the latter. Three shot were received, two in the face and one in the shoulder. The wounds were not mortal. Some of the parties, I believe, have been arrested."

FROM MEXICO.

By the arrival of the Sarah Ann at New-Orleans, dates were received from Mexico to the 9th ultimo. The following letter is published in the New Orleans Tropic:

TAMPICO, Jan. 14, 1845.

DEAR SIR—Dates from Mexico to the 9th inst. arrived here last evening by express. A desperate battle had been fought on the plains of Appan, between Santa Anna, on the one side, and Bravo and Parades on the other, which ended in the total rout of the former, who was captured in trying to make his escape! Five hundred men are reported to be killed, and Gen. Parades had been dispatched by Bravo in pursuit of the routed troops of Santa Anna. Bravo himself was on the march back to Mexico, with his august prisoner.

This is all I have time to write. Yours, P.

Doubtful.

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Jan. 27.

Senate. Mr. Dix of New York took the seat of Mr. Foster. The joint resolution from the House, for the annexation of Texas, was referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

Mr. Merrick supported the bill reducing the rates of postage to 5 and 10 cents, estimating these to be the lowest rates at which the department can sustain itself.

Mr. Berrien, from the Judiciary committee, reported a bill in amendment of the naturalization laws.

House. Most of the sitting was spent upon a bill to purchase 1500 copies of Greenhow's history of the N. W. coast of America, (Oregon,) for the use of the members, which was finally passed, 106 to 79. The Oregon bill was then taken up, when Mr. Adams desired that the subject might be postponed for a few days. He wanted time to examine the book just ordered to be printed, which was said to contain authentic and indisputable evidence of our title. He also wanted to know what progress had been made with the negotiation with the British Ambassador. He had no doubt about our title to the 49th degree of N. Lat., but he was not so fully satisfied as to the claim, as far as 54 deg. 40 minutes, which is the limit in this bill. He was anxious to have the Oregon title settled, & was in favor of terminating the joint occupancy of that Territory. He wished, however, that the subject should be postponed a short time, for the reasons suggested by him.

Messrs. A. V. Brown, Preston King, and C. J. Ingersoll, made some remarks, when the Committee rose and reported progress. The House then, at 4 o'clock, adjourned.

The President to-day sent back the Uniform Presidential Election bill, with his signature.

TUESDAY, Jan. 28.

Senate. Mr. Phelps presented a petition from the State of Vermont against the annexation of Texas; and one also, praying for the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia. The first was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs—the second was laid on the table.

House. Mr. Marsh, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to discontinue the spirit portion of the navy ration, and provide a compensation in lieu thereof; which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. C. J. Ingersoll, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, requesting the President of the United States to instruct our Minister to England to interfere in behalf of American prisoners in Van Dieman's Land.

Mr. Burke submitted a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Expenditures of the Navy Department to inquire if J. C. Zabriskie of N. Jersey, had obtained a contract from the Navy Department since 1841, and whether any officer of the Government had any participation in the profits, and what order had been given by the Secretary of the Navy, and recommend such course of proceedings as the nature of the case may require; and that the Committee have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Parmenter said that it was true Mr. Zabriskie obtained a contract for the Navy Department; but that he transferred it to a House in New Bedford for a consideration of a thousand or twelve hundred dollars. The present Secretary, however, refused to receive from this house the live oak timber for which Mr. Zabriskie contracted, on the ground that the contract was entered into contrary to law—not having been advertised.

[Mr. Burke presented a letter from Eugene McDonnel, who says, on the authority of the late B. M. Voorhees, Chief Clerk of the bureau of construction and repairs, that some two years ago J. C. Zabriske of N. J. begged of John Tyler a certain contract, representing that he had made great sacrifices in John's services, when the President said he should have the contract, and ordered Voorhees to make out the papers. Voorhees obeyed, but before delivering them, a disagreement arose between Zabriske and the person to whom he was to sell this contract. This person had originally agreed to give Zabriske $11,000 for the contract, but now refused to give more than $8000. Zabriske hesitated, when Voorhees himself, (aware that the transaction was so illegal that Zabriske dare not complain,) handed the papers over to the sub-contractor and received the $8000. Voorhees subsequently offered Zabriske half of the spoils, and he finally accepted the offer. Zabriske was a great Tyler man—Voorhees is dead—Tyler's term is too near out for an impeachment. At least one other person is implicated in this affair.]

Under the operation of the previous question, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Adams submitted a resolution, calling upon the President of the United States, if not incompatible with the public interests, to communicate to the House copies of any instructions given by him to our Minister in England, in relation to Oregon, since March 4, 1841; also, a copy of any correspondence which may have taken place between this Government and Great Britain, or one Minister to the other, since that time.

The resolution was adopted—Yeas 166, Nays 4.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 29.

Senate. The postage bill occupied most of the day, and various amendments, reducing the rates still more, were rejected by large majorities.

Mr. Upham presented a series of resolutions, adopted by the Vermont Legislature, on a variety of subjects. The Legislature favor the Tariff of '42—the reduction of postage—the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands. On the subject of Texas annexation, they express the deep and pervading hostility of the State to the measure, which they regard as unconstitutional, and its irreconcilable opposition to slavery, which they say ought not to be extended over one inch more of territory, or prolonged by one moment's duration of time. On all these points they request the co-operation of their Congressional delegation to carry out their views.

House. The bill for the immediate occupation of Oregon was supported by Messrs. Duncan of Ohio, Belser of Alabama and Bowlin of Missouri. [There was a *bargain* in reference to this bill and the Texas resolutions, the South agreeing to vote for the Oregon bill on condition that the Western members should vote for annexation.]

The following is an abstract of the Oregon bill now before the House:

The bill proposes that, after its passage, all the country belonging to the United States lying west of the summit of the Rocky Mountains and bounded on the South by the forty-second, and on the North by the forty-fourth degree and forty minutes of North latitude, shall constitute and be organized into a temporary government, to be called the Oregon Territory. A governor and secretary to be appointed for five years, who shall reside west of the Rocky Mountains; courts to be erected, a general assembly to be organized—as soon as there shall be five thousand free white male inhabitants over the age of twenty-one years, they shall have authority to elect representatives from the counties, townships, and districts; one for every five hundred inhabitants—the term of the representative to be two years. The General Assembly to consist of a Legislative Council and a House of Representatives—the former to consist of five members, to be elected by the representatives. A delegate in Congress is allowed. The President of the U. S. is authorized and required to cause to be erected, at suitable places, a line of stockade forts and block-houses, not exceeding five in number, from some point on the Missouri river, on the most practicable route to the south pass in the Rocky Mountains, and to cause fortifications to be erected at or near the mouth of the Columbia river. Six hundred and forty acres of land to be granted to every white male inhabitant who shall cultivate the same for five years; to every married man, in addition, one hundred and sixty acres to his wife, and the like quantity to the father for each child under the age of eighteen years he may have, or which may be born within five years.

The following appropriation bills were then acted on, and laid aside to be reported: the Post Office bill—the Revolutionary Pension bill—the Fortification bill—the Indian bill.

The Committee then rose, and the foregoing bills were reported to the House. They were then severally read a third time and passed. The House then adjourned.

[These bills make the following appropriations: $4,421,000 for the post office department; $2,255,000 for pensions and arrearages of pensions under *all* the existing acts down to that for widows' pen-