

From the Sangamon Journal.
United States and Mexico.

The New Orleans Jeffersonian of the 9th instant contains the correspondence between Mr. Slidell, our late Envoy to Mexico, and the late Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs. We avail ourselves of the synopsis of the correspondence, published in the New Orleans Delta.

It appears that on the 1st of March, Mr. Slidell addressed a communication to the Mexican Government, requiring a definitive answer as to its intention to recognize him as Minister or not, in which he says:

"On the 16th Dec., the undersigned was informed by Mr. Pego y Pego, that difficulties existed in relation to the tenor of his credentials, which made it necessary to consult the Council of Government thereon, and on the 20th of the same month he was advised by Mr. Pego y Pego, that the Mexican Government had decided not to recognize him in his capacity of envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary.

"To this communication of the Minister of Foreign Relations, the undersigned replied under dates of 20th and 24th Dec., refusing reasoning by which the refusal to recognize him was attempted to be sustained, vindicating the course pursued by his Government and declaring his intention to proceed to Jalapa, there to await instructions adapted to an emergency so entirely unlooked for.

"He has now received these instructions. The President of the United States entirely approves the course pursued by the undersigned, and the communications addressed by him to the Mexican government.

"Had the then existing government continued in power, as no alternative would have remained, the undersigned would have been directed to demand his passports.

"The President of the United States would have submitted the whole case to Congress, and called upon the nation to assert its just rights, and avenge its injured honor.

"The destinies of the Mexican republic, however, having since been committed to other hands, the President is unwilling to take a course which would inevitably result in war, without making another effort to avert so great a calamity.

"He wishes, by exhausting every honorable means of conciliation, to demonstrate to the civilized world, that if its peace shall be disturbed, the responsibility must fall upon Mexico alone.

"He is sincerely desirous to preserve that peace but the state of quasi hostility which now exists on the part of Mexico, is one which is incompatible with the dignity and interests of the United States, and it is for the Mexican government to decide, whether it shall give place to friendly negotiation or lead to an open rupture."

"To this request he received an answer, dated at Mexico on the 12th of March, peremptorily refusing to receive him, and declaring among other things that 'the Supreme Government had declared beforehand that they would look upon annexation as a *casus belli*, conformably to this distinction. Why settle one question, which, except in the line to be run from the Rio Grande, has, in fact, settled itself—and yet refuse to settle with us our other grievances, which will fester with time, and would promptly bring the two countries again into collision? Where is the wisdom of this course? Can we permit our citizens to be cut off from the indemnity to which they are entitled by a specific treaty? Can we permit their unsettled claims to remain unadjusted forever? Where is the wisdom of this species of negotiation? Why try to close up one breach, and leave others to remain open at the hazard of involving the two countries in future war?'"

"The whigs of N. Y., at a recent festival dinner in celebration of the birth day of Henry Clay, expressed their intention to make Mr. Clay the next whig candidate for the Presidency. Horace Greeley, was the only doubting spirit, as to the policy, and said that 'if to him were presented the alternative, defeat with Clay or success with some other good whig, he would feel obliged to take the other man.'"

KANKAKEE FEEDER.—The Kankakee feeder has been decided upon by the board of Commissioners. It will be taken out at Goose Island. A lock and dam of four feet lift at Prairie Creek will be necessary to render the river navigable to Wilmington.

THE NEW OREGON BILL.—Under discussion in Congress, grants 320 acres of land to every man and woman who settles in the territory and resides five years therein, and 120 acres for each child. The bill contains the other usual provisions for the establishment of a territorial government, and makes appropriations for building stockades, &c., on the route to Oregon.

CALIFORNIA.—The tide of emigration, says the St. Louis Reveille of the 5th inst., appears to be setting in stronger and stronger towards California—the valley of Sacramento. Oregon for this season, at least seems to have lost much of its attraction. The enthusiasm seems to pervade all classes, and to have reached remote sections of the country. A party from Pennsylvania, excellently equipped, passed through St. Louis on the 4th inst., for Independence. We hear of small companies having started from various parts of Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The emigration promises to be a very large one, and the cry is still they come.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—On Sunday last a Mr. Phillips, a young man, was found dead in North Park Precinct, ten miles from this place, shot with a rifle bullet in his forehead. He was lying at the foot of a tree, his hat still on his head, his rifle loaded across his lap, and his "turkey call" fallen from his hands beside him. He had gone out on the morning of the day previous for the purpose of turkey shooting, and it is supposed to have been killed by one of those unaccountable fatal accidents frequently occur, by some other hunter mistaking him for a turkey. The spot from which the shot was fired could be well distinguished, about 60 yards distant—footsteps were traced to within 20 yards of the deceased, as if the person who fired had gone up to secure his game, but upon perceiving what the effect of his shot had been, had suddenly wheeled off at an angle, and with terror adding wings to his steps had fled horror-stricken from the spot. One of the deceased's neighbors, named Boutwell, had also gone out hunting the same day, returned early, put away his rifle and went to ploughing. After working a short time he took his horse, saying that he was obliged to go up into the bottom. Since then he has not been heard of. The verdict of the coroner's jury was "death by an accidental shot"—and all the circumstances to show that such was the case, as two men were on a perfectly friendly

JOLIET SIGNAL. JOLIET, ILL.

Tuesday, May 5, 1846.

DEMOCRATIC NOMINATIONS.

FOR GOVERNOR,
AUGUSTUS C. FRENCH,
Of Crawford.

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,
JOSEPH B. WELLS, of Rock Island.

Democratic Notice.

The undersigned, the Democratic Central Committee in and for Will County, hereby give notice to the Democrats of said County, that they are requested to meet in their respective precincts, at the usual places of holding elections, on Saturday the 30th day of May next, for the purpose of choosing delegates to attend in County Convention to be held at Joliet in said county on Wednesday the 3d day of June next, to nominate candidates for Representatives and for the County Officers, generally; and also to choose delegates to attend the next Congressional Convention for this district, to be held at Joliet on the 4th day of June next.

Dated, Joliet, April 27, 1846.

URI OSGOOD,
N. D. ELWOOD,
W. E. LITTLE,
Central Committee for Will County.

Fair at Lockport.

The Ladies of Lockport, will hold a Fair for the sale of Fancy and useful articles, at the Stone church in Lockport on Friday evening the 5th instant.

To Messrs. Brees and Wentworth our thanks are due for public documents, speeches, &c.,

CONGRESSIONAL.

Washington, April 23, '46.

The Senate and House Committee have agreed, and adopted resolutions similar in meaning and almost in words to the Senate resolutions.

The Senate adopted the report by a vote of 42 to 10; Gen. Cass, Allen, and our senators voting in the minority. The House adopted the report by a vote of ayes 142, noes 48, all our democratic delegation voting in the negative.

Not a whig voted with the forty-six.

Our relations with Mexico, are at present in rather a precarious situation, and may tend to hasten an event which could not fail to be injurious to both countries. The Union says:—

"The world will see how flimsy are the exceptions which the Mexican government have taken to the reception of Mr. Slidell. They profess themselves willing to treat with him as a Texas negotiator, but not as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, to adjust all the points of difference between the two countries. Why this distinction? Why settle one question, which, except in the line to be run from the Rio Grande, has, in fact, settled itself—and yet refuse to settle with us our other grievances, which will fester with time, and would promptly bring the two countries again into collision? Where is the wisdom of this course? Can we permit our citizens to be cut off from the indemnity to which they are entitled by a specific treaty? Can we permit their unsettled claims to remain unadjusted forever? Where is the wisdom of this species of negotiation? Why try to close up one breach, and leave others to remain open at the hazard of involving the two countries in future war?'"

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THE NOTICE.

The following are the resolutions as adopted by the Senate, April 18th:

Whereas, by the Convention concluded the 29th of October eighteen hundred and eighteen, between the United States of North America and the King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the period of ten years, and afterwards indefinitely extended and continued in force by another convention of the same parties, concluded the 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, it was agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the north-western coast of America westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains, now commonly called the Oregon Territory, should, together with its harbors, bays and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be "free and open" to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two powers, but without prejudice to any claim which either of the parties might have to any part of said country; and with this further provision, in the second article of said convention of the 6th of August, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, that either party might abrogate and annul said Convention, on giving due notice of twelve months to the other contracting party:

And whereas, it has now become desirable that the respective claims of the United States and Great Britain should be definitely settled; and that said territory may no longer than need be remain subject to the evil consequences of the divided allegiance of its American and British population, and of the confusion and conflict of national jurisdictions, dangerous to the cherished peace and good understanding of the two countries:

With a view, therefore, that steps be taken for the abrogation of said Convention of the 6th of August, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, in the mode prescribed in its second article, and that the attention of the governments of both countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to renewed efforts for the settlement of all their differences and disputes in reference to the said territory:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and is hereby authorized at his discretion, to give to the British government the notice required by said convention of the sixth of August, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven.

The resolutions adopted by both houses are nearly word for word like the above.

Oregon.

Some few years since, a Senator of the United States, in a speech, delivered in Congress, drew so graphic and lovely a picture of Oregon, that it found its way into every journal in the Union—whig as well as democrat. That Senator was Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, and here is the enchanting picture:

"In extent it is larger than the Atlantic portion of the old Thirteen States; in climate, softer; in salubrity, superior; in fertility, greater; in position better—because from the west, and washed by a tranquil sea. In all these particulars, the western slope of our continent is far more happy than the eastern. In configuration, it is incomparably fine and grand—a vast oblong square with natural boundaries, and a single gateway into the sea. The snow-capped Rocky mountains enclose it at the east, an iron bound coast on the west, a frozen desert on the north, and sandy plains on the south. All its rivers rising on the segment of a vast circumference, run to meet each other in the centre, and they flow together into the ocean through a gap in the mountain, where the heat of summer and the colds of winter are never felt, and where southern and northern diseases are equally unknown. This is the valley of the Columbia—a country whose every advantage is crowned by the advantages of position and configuration: by the mildness of all its parts—the inaccessibility of its borders, and its single integritation to the sea. Such a country is manifestly formed for union, wealth and strength. It can have but one capital, and that will be a Thebes; but one commercial emporium, and that will be a Tyre, queen of cities."

Senator Benton then added, in the strongest and most emphatic language:—
"Such a country can have but one people—one interest—one government—and that people should be American—that interest ours—and that government AMERICAN! Accursed and infamous be the man that divides and alienates it!"

SUICIDE IN THE STATE PRISON.—A young man in the New York State Prison under two years sentence, committed suicide last week in consequence of being informed by a negro that his (the convict's) father had died of a broken heart, owing to the misconduct of his two sons, one of whom, the man he was speaking to, was in the State Prison, and the other would shortly be sent up there. This intelligence had such an effect on the poor fellow, that when he was locked up in his cell, he tore his blankets into strips and hung himself. The intelligence brought by the negro was false; the father of the convict had not died of grief, and his brother was a man of good character, and not liable to be sent to the State Prison.

It is much to be regretted that there is no punishment allotted to the fenish crime of which this negro was guilty.

PERSEVERING MAN.—Mr. A. H. Mickle, the newly elected Mayor of New York, was a poor orphan boy, who at an early age, was bound an apprentice to a tobacconist. He served out his apprenticeship faithfully, and is now the ruler of the greatest commercial city in the western world.

PATENT OFFICE AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE.

WASHINGTON, April 21, 1846.

There are many things in Washington that are really worthy of observation. Besides the many magnificent buildings of the government—of themselves a sufficient inducement to stop the passer-by—there are many other things that are pleasing to the eye, and fill the mind with food for reflection. The Patent Office is a great store-house of curiosities, and is decidedly the most interesting place for an American, that anywhere is found on the whole continent. The building is a fine specimen of architecture, perfectly plain, and without ostentation. Attached to it, and immediately in its rear, is a beautiful garden, tastefully arranged, and one of the best hot-houses I ever saw. This is, of course, stored with choice and rare plants, sheltered alike from the scorching rays of the summer's sun, and from the chilly breath of winter. The whole of the grounds connected with the establishment are in an almost perfect state of repair; and the general appearance of the building, inside and out, gives the present Commissioner of Patents a high stand as a man of neatness and refinement.

You ascend to the main entrance of the building by a flight of granite steps, very spacious and costly, and standing for a moment to admire the immense columns that support the cornice, and form a colonnade—massive, unique, and grand—you enter the main hall of the building. At the right and left are halls running out from the main one, and on each side of these are ranged the different models that from time to time have been placed in the Institution. But before I proceed farther, it may be well to state that this, the lower floor, is used as the Patent Office, proper, while above are the rooms—or rather is the room—of the National Institute. The patents are all stored in large glass cases, of a uniform size. I am not much of a mechanic myself, but if I had been one, I doubt not I should have discovered among the perfect mass of models some that were new and interesting. Models for almost every article now in use can be here seen, and it would seem that the inventive genius of our countrymen would, by this time, be well nigh exhausted. But I am told that there have been more applications for patents during the last year, than during any previous one. The building is well warmed, and in winter, the visitor finds himself fully as comfortable as in his own room. But the eye will soon tire of looking upon so many things that it does not comprehend; and passing up the main staircase, which parts the entrance door, you enter the hall of the National Institute. The stairs are spiral, and are fully as beautiful as any I ever saw. They seem suspended in air, although they must be of great weight, as they are built of stone. Near the entrance to the hall is kept a book, where it is customary for each visitor to record his name. This book shows that within the last year, an immense number of people of both sexes, from all parts of the Union, England, Ireland, and France, have visited this place, so rich in historical relics and curiosities. All the curiosities, in the shape of shells, fish, birds, insects, implements of war and husbandry, Indian dresses, &c., &c., brought home by the U. S. Exploring Expedition, are here deposited, and form an immense number of objects—as curious as they are rare. I noticed as many as fifty kinds of Humming birds, all preserved with great care, and anatomical preservations of many large animals. But to describe, or even to name one half—nay, one hundredth part—of all these lesser objects of curiosity, would require fifty such letters as this. Nearly everything that can be thought of, is here to be seen; and among other things I noticed some very rare collections of copper coins. The Hall is completely surrounded by paintings—some of them by the best artists of the country, and there are also to be seen numerous likenesses of the members of delegations of Indians that have from time to time visited the home of their "great father." The only thing unpleasant in paying this hall a visit is the feeling which comes over one of our utter inability to see and appreciate all the curiosities.

Turning to the left as you enter the door, and proceeding to the eastern extremity of the hall, your eye encounters a most venerable and interesting object—preserved from even the slightest touch by a large glass case. This relic is no less than the printing press of Benjamin Franklin—upon which, when a journeyman printer, he performed his daily task. Every printer in the broad land ought to look upon that press, and as he looks feel himself expand with the consciousness that he is one of those whom Franklin loved to call brother. It has the appearance of great age, and, like a good man, after having

filled its place among mankind, it has been placed here to tell to after ages, how great a consequence can grow from so small a beginning. This press is by far the most interesting relic in the whole building—or at least, thus I regard it.

I saw no less than four mummies, one or two of them taken from the catacombs of Egypt. They are a disgusting sight, and the beholder shudders at the thought that perhaps his body may be one day like these—all deformity. There is a stuffed specimen of the walrus, the hippopotamus, the alligator or crocodile, and of many other equally large and interesting animals. They are all preserved in cases, and are placed here with great care. In this—the eastern—portion of the hall, you see little else but animals. The naturalist can here see that which would otherwise require thousands of miles of travel to behold. Animals from all parts of the world greet the eye, and he is a poor being indeed, who, among so many interesting objects, cannot single out some that please him.

Passing from the eastern portion of the hall, towards the western, the visitor comes upon a number of relics, that, while he is an American, cannot fail to be interesting. In a glass case, and surrounded by other interesting objects, I was pleased to notice "the staff of Franklin and the sword of Washington," about which so much was said and sung at the time of their presentation to Congress. In another case I saw the original declaration of Independence, the original treaty with Great Britain, in which she acknowledges the independence of the "old thirteen," and the great Chinese letter, which, you will remember, Mr. Cushing brought home with him from China. This latter curiosity is about the size of an ordinary table cloth. Near these interesting objects are also preserved the suit of clothes which Washington wore when he received his commission at Annapolis, Md. I also saw his sword—the one that through all the perils of the Revolution was ever at his side. His cane is also preserved, and there are but few men of the present day who would require one so large. I also saw his old camp chest, several cooking utensils, a set of knives and forks, a piece of his field tent, and a chain. All these were with him constantly, when commander-in-chief, and in fact through the whole war of the Revolution. The fragment of his tent, though but a faded piece of canvas—duck sail cloth—I regarded as being a very interesting relic. It had sheltered the "Father of his Country" through many a night of storm and perhaps of suffering. Beneath its folds, after the toils of the day, he laid his weary head, and sought new strength to go forward and fight the battles of his country. The old chest bore undoubted marks of great age. There are many other things here preserved that are connected in a greater or less degree with the memory of Washington. Among other things I noticed a lock of his hair, preserved with great care, and many original letters in his own hand writing. What patriot can look upon these things without feeling his bosom thrill with pleasing emotions. Let them be treasured up for after ages, so that our children's children can come and gaze, and as they gaze catch a portion of the spirit of the "days gone by."

I saw some of the best finished specimens of warlike weapons that are to be found in the whole country, perhaps in the world. There is here preserved a whole assortment of such articles, from the short, thick sabre, to the magnificent broadsword, presents from some distinguished chief of the east. One of the scabbards of the swords is of solid gold, the sword is of the finest Damascus steel, and the hilt fully covered with diamonds. I know nothing of its cost, but it must have been immense. I also beheld one of the largest rifles that had ever before fallen under my observation. It would have made the mouth of a western man fairly water, and I do not know but in the hands of such an one, it would be more appropriately located than at present. There is also a jar of the otto of Roses, which, when pure, is three times the value of gold. There was nearly or quite a pint of the liquid, and must be worth quite a pretty little sum. This was also a present from some eastern prince, whose name has escaped me. I saw quite a number of gold snuff-boxes, presents from crowned heads to the different officers of the government, and placed here to adorn this Institution of the public. Many of them are of great value, being set with diamonds. It may be well to say that these most valuable (those of gold &c.) are nearly all contained in one case, and form a collection as rich as rare. The miser could come and look, and go away actually fat with enjoyment. But in my eye they are the least attractive curiosities in the whole building.

One of the cases is almost entirely appropriated to the personal effects of Mr. Smithson, he who, you will remember, willed his whole estate to the U. States, with the understanding that it should be applied to educational purposes. His desires have never yet been carried out, and the fund has now accumulated to the

amount of some hundred thousand dollars. There is, however, a bill before Congress to appropriate this money in the proper manner, and if it be acted upon, will doubtless be passed in the proper spirit.

But I have already wearied you too long. I cannot close, however, without noticing the sarcophagus that was brought home by Commodore Elliot, and intended as the sepulchre of Jackson. The old hero rejected the offer, "preferring," he said, "to sleep by the side of his beloved wife." It is about four feet high, and eight long by four wide, of a dirty, whitish color. A hole has been broken into it since its arrival upon our shores, but when found it was perfectly tight. It was dug from a ruin in Egypt, and, aside from the circumstances connected with it, is an interesting sight.

The Patent Office, it may be well to remark, is supported by the tax upon patents. Its greatest expenses are thus paid by those having business to transact with it. There is, however, a Patent Fund, out of which deficiencies are made up. The report of the Commissioner of Patents is now in press. It will make a document of over 1200 pages, and Congress has ordered 67,000 copies for the use of the people. It is replete with interesting and important information, and will doubtless be eagerly sought after. Efforts have been made to throw a bad odor around this institution, and the present report. The report I know to be a most valuable document; and the institution, under proper management, I regard as capable of bestowing many important benefits upon every class of people of the country.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT!

We find the following in the Hennepin Herald, of the 1st. inst.

About noon on Wednesday, we received the St. Louis Daily American, of Monday evening, containing the following:

DECLARATION OF WAR.

"The Clerk of the Convoy informs us that the rumor was current in New Orleans, on the day she left, that Mexico had made a formal declaration of war against the United States. The steamer *Peytonia* left about the same time as the Convoy, and a gentleman on board sent from Cairo by the Robert Morris, the following note to the editor of the Reporter, which states the origin of the exciting rumor:

"S. PERRY, JR., (Editor of the Missouri Reporter.) Herewith I send you a memorandum from the manifest of the steamer *Alabama*—26 hours from Galveston. She arrived at New Orleans on the 20th inst., at 5 o'clock, P. M. Off the bar of South-west Pass, spoke the U. S. steamer Colonel Harney, direct from Brasos, Santiago, and bound for New Orleans. The Colonel Harney, reports that war has been declared by Mexico against the United States, and that the whole of the Mexican coast was under blockade from Fort Jackson."

Gen. Taylor still retains his former position on the left bank of the Rio Grande, a few miles below Matamoros. No engagement had as yet occurred with the Mexican forces. Gen. T. was fortifying his position, as the prospect of a rupture was hourly increasing. Such is the nature of our latest intelligence.

FOR THE SIGNAL.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

The following account of the wonderful effect of this mysterious science in a case of most severe injury, I have been requested to communicate to the public. I saw the patient once during the attendance of the physician, and from the accounts received from the family and the neighborhood I have no hesitancy in vouching for the entire truth of all the statements.

Mary Wells, on the 15th of March received a very severe fall—her hip was dislocated so that the toes were turned in, and pointed directly to the heel of the other foot. A pitchfork was stuck directly under the ankle bone and upward, making a severe wound. On the evening of the 17th severe spasms of lock-jaw set in, and daily grew worse until the 19th and all the anodynes and applications failed to afford any relief. The spasms were now so violent that no hopes were entertained of her recovery. At this time Dr. Brownson was sent for, and it was much doubted if the patient could live till he arrived. In twenty minutes after his arrival he had so far succeeded in magnetism as to allay the spasms entirely and render the patient composed and comfortable. He continued with magnetism until Sunday, when the patient went into such a state of sleep as to predict the hour of the return of the spasms, and the day she would have the last, which was to be on the 23d. These predictions were true to the time, her spasms continually growing lighter till the last. On the 23d she was magnetized during the spasm; and got up and walked out doors, and with a little aid got into a buggy and rode out. She then stated she should need no further attention, and but a few days after was able to pursue her ordinary avocations. I do not feel that I have any right to give the name of the family with whom she lives; as they have no wish to figure in the public prints. Put the case is so well known throughout this section of the country, and the undoubted reputation of all the parties is such that confirmation of the facts above stated is within the reach of any one who harbors a doubt of their truth. There are other and very interesting circumstances connected with this case which may hereafter furnish matter for another communication. I have merely given the above as another evidence of the remedial effects of animal magnetism. A. S. W.

Wm. H. Bryant, formerly editor of the Louisville Courier, has departed for California.