

bringing them into this state for the purpose of setting them free.

#### ARTICLE XV.

There shall be annually assessed and collected, in the same manner as other state revenue may be assessed and collected, a tax of two mills upon each one dollar's worth of taxable property, in addition to all other taxes, to be applied as follows, to wit: The fund so created shall be kept separate, and shall annually, on the first day of January, be apportioned and paid over *pro rata* upon all such state indebtedness, other than the canal and school indebtedness, as may, for that purpose, be presented by the holders of the same, to be entered as credits upon, and to that extent in extinguishment of the principal of said indebtedness.

Adopted by the Convention, Aug. 31, 1847.  
NEWTON CLOUD, President.  
HENRY W. MOORE, Secretary,  
HARMAN G. REYNOLDS, Ast. Sec'y

#### STATE OF ILLINOIS,

Office of Secretary of State,  
I, H. S. COOLEY, secretary of state of the state of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and perfect copy of the original enrolled constitution of said state, as adopted in convention this day, and deposited in this office according to law.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name, at Springfield, this 31st day of August, A. D. 1847.

H. S. COOLEY, Secretary of State.

From the Buffalo Courier.

#### Arrival of the CALEDONIA.

#### LATER FROM EUROPE.

The steamer *Caledonia*, Capt. Lott, arrived at Boston yesterday morning, bringing dates from Liverpool to the 19th of August.

A serious downward tendency has taken place in the grain market since the departure of the Steamer of the 4th, only occasionally arrested by broken weather, this however, has failed to give a firm tone to the market, though at our market yesterday the above quotations were freely realized, and greater confidence manifested among buyers.

The certainty of a bountiful harvest at home, coupled with continued large imports of foreign breadstuffs, forced upon our market by the necessities of holders, must exercise a still stronger depressing influence upon the trade; and it may be fairly inferred, that the markets have not as yet retrograded to anything like the point to which they appear destined to fall.

In London market, also, a similar languor has taken place, which accelerated by the alarming failures that have taken place, almost precludes the possibility of reaction. Up to the closing of the corn market yesterday, a very limited quantity of English had come to hand, and though there were scarcely any samples to offer, the demand was tolerably steady at average prices.

There was rather some inquiry for foreign wheat of the best quality, but middling to the inferior kinds were quite neglected.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL.—The money market, owing to a variety of causes has been seriously depressed since our last advices per *Cambria*. The pressure continues to affect all branches of trade with unrelaxed severity. The primary causes of this state of things, are the advanced rates of discount required by the Banks of England, whose example is followed by all the private and joint stock Banks of the Empire, and a succession of failures in West India and American trade. Up to last night, the actual bankruptcies were little short of two million, and it is apprehended that many of these will fall heavily upon American houses.

A rumor is generally circulated that Louis Philippe had been assassinated. London papers bring no confirmation.

The elections show an increase in favor of liberal measures.

Munro has been found guilty of the murder of Col. Faussett, in a duel four years since.

#### IRELAND.—The elections have been somewhat more stormy than in this country, and the returns will stand very much as they did in the last Parliament.

#### New Call for Troops.

The War Department has just called for five new regiments, exclusive of the regiment from Ohio, which is already reported to be raised, and is now in progress of being mustered into the public service, and will, in a few days be en route to Vera Cruz.

The five regiments now called for are to be drawn from the following States; Two regiments from Kentucky, two from Tennessee, and one from Indiana.

The regiments from Kentucky are to rendezvous—one at Louisville, and the other at Smithland, at the mouth of the Cumberland river.

The regiments from Tennessee are to rendezvous—one at Nashville, and the other at Memphis.

The Indiana regiment is to rendezvous at such convenient point on the river Ohio as the governor of the State may designate.

These five regiments are expected to be rapidly raised, and promptly placed in the public service. Officers have already been made, which induced the Executive to designate these States, and to make the necessary arrangements for embodying these troops without delay.

The administration have determined to do their duty, whether for peace or for war. They have offered the olive branch. As it may be declined, they have deemed it their duty to prepare for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and to fill up the ranks of the army to the proper standard,

as they have been partially thinned by disease and death. Let the enemy be assured that they have to deal with an administration which will not shrink from the most energetic execution of its duties. The best interest of the Mexicans is peace—their most fatal danger is in this war.

Happen what may, the President means to do his duty thoroughly. We are in the war, and we must fight it out, if necessary, bravely, vigorously, and honorably. The presence of Paredes was not known here when the six regiments were called into service; but that movement may be productive of no serious consequence, yet it will only increase our vigilance. At all events, the President is determined to prepare for every contingency, and to vindicate the rights and honors of his country against every enemy—to meet war as well as to accept of peace.—*Washington Union.*

## JOLIET SIGNAL.

JOLIET, ILL.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 1847

#### THE MEXICAN WAR.

In an article in the "True Democrat" on the present war, the editor fully displays his feelings in opposition to his country. He follows in the wake of some of his party, in falsely charging upon the administration the commencement of the war. And, to use his own language, he says that "the administration has plunged us into a protracted—bloody—desolating war with a sister republic, to screen from public gaze its corrupt and damnable acts." In the same article the editor says that the victories which have been won will shine on the page of history and encircle our arms with a "halo of glory."

Thus, it appears that with one breath he lauds the deeds of our soldiers who are engaged in this war, and at the same time denounces the war as damnable and unjust. Though these same sentiments have been expressed by Whig speakers and Whig presses heretofore, we confess that we cannot reconcile them with consistency and sound morality. If the war is unholy and unjust, what encouragement have those who are ever willing to aid their country, and to maintain her honor, to induce them to volunteer and fight her battles? Poor encouragement, indeed, to the brave volunteer to tell him that his brave deeds on the blood-stained battle field are brilliant, but he is in the wrong—that his victories will avail naught to his country. Where can be the honor in being engaged in an unrighteous war?

This is the position which the editor of the "True Democrat" takes on the war. And if his views are sustained by the people of this region, and even by the larger number of the party to which he belongs, we greatly mistake their patriotism and love of country.

It is thus admitted by the Whigs that the victories achieved have not only covered those engaged in them, but the country too, in imperishable renown. How this renown among nations or people professing to be governed by morality, can be acquired by prosecuting an unjust and unholy war, is certainly a mystery to us, and we call upon our neighbor of the "True Democrat" to explain to us.

But in giving the glory and renown to the manner in which the war has been prosecuted, and the manner in which the victories have been won to others, while at the same time an attempt to throw odium upon the administration for its commencement, has been the policy of the Whigs. They admit that glory belongs to this war, and for our lives we cannot see how they can deprive the administration under whose auspices it has been conducted, of part of that glory. Those Whigs in making the denunciation against the administration which they have, in order to render it obnoxious and unpopular with the people of the Union, must see the encouragement they have given our enemies. The speeches and articles which have been published by the Whigs in opposition to the war have been re-published to the people of Mexico, and have had their effect. Our enemies by these means have been encouraged, for the reason that a powerful party in this country were opposed to the war and were on their side.

They have been induced to believe, from the tenor of certain portions of the press of this country, that dissensions exist among us to such a degree as to compel the nation to desist from prosecuting the war with vigor. Influenced by the "aid and comfort" they have received from those here who should have been their opponents, the Mexicans have refused to listen to our overtures from the United States—hoping a change of circumstances may place the power in the hands of those who have advocated the justness of their cause.

To this may be attributed the stubbornness of our enemies, and their refusal to hear any proposals for peace however reasonable and just.

The President in conducting the war, so far, has been sustained by the people of this Union, and has discharged his du-

ty his country. The grievances which led to the commencement of the war, as is acknowledged by a large portion of the Whigs themselves, was sufficient cause for war long before it was commenced.—Mexico had inflicted wrongs upon the citizens of this government which justice demanded should be redressed—she had been requested, frequently, to settle them, but blindly refused to make any compromise—and at last, to cap the climax, she approached our territory and commenced hostilities. Thus our government was compelled to engage in war, much as she endeavored to avoid it.

The expenses of the war as waged, must necessarily be large; still when our national honor and glory is at stake, what matters it? If there is any duty which is sacred it is that of preserving the national honor and dignity of the republic. This, which is ever the object of care with all civilized nations, should be doubly dear to us. That nation which is dead to the voice of honor, meets and deserves the disrespect of other nations. Then, we say let the war be prosecuted, regardless of expenses, and our national character maintained. These are the sentiments of every patriot. Let the question, shall this war with Mexico be prosecuted? be presented to the American people for their votes, and there would be one general response in its favor. Our cause is just, and our government has been driven to seek redress on the field of battle—then let every true American uphold his country, until an honorable and permanent peace shall have been established.

The Whig party will probably have a small majority in the next Congress.—There are some Whig papers advocating a proposition for withholding supplies of men and money for the war, but we trust that enough Whig members will act with the Democrats in Congress, to ensure the President the necessary means. We are anxious to see the olive-branch of peace again wave over this country, but until an energetic and vigorous prosecution of the war has compelled our enemies to yield, we do not expect to witness a termination of the contest.

#### New Constitution.

To-day we publish the schedule to the revised constitution. The new constitution will, doubtless, be examined closely by every one who has a voice in its adoption or rejection. Every one should make himself thoroughly acquainted with its provisions and measures, before he should form his opinion upon its merits.

The decidedly Democratic system of electing all the officers, of any importance, in this State by the people, as provided for by the new constitution, is one which was certainly demanded by the people of this State. This provision is one which will meet with the approbation of a large majority of the people of Illinois, and will redeem many of the defects in this important document. We do not approve of the provision in relation to the right of suffrage, on subject of banking, and some others; but there is much in the proposed constitution, taking it all together, to recommend its adoption.

It must be admitted that the new constitution is far superior, in most respects to the one under which we at present live. The Democratic members to the convention from this county, with others, labored to have a constitution presented to the people free of the objections which have been urged against this, but did not succeed. But it is utterly impossible, in a document of this kind, for all parties to be pleased—hence there are few who are perfectly satisfied with all the provisions of this. Before any individual decides upon voting against it, he should compare the different articles and sections with the old one, when the difference between the two must obviously appear.

The convention adopted the constitution almost unanimously—one hundred and thirty-one out of one hundred and thirty-eight of the delegates who voted, were in favor of its adoption. Judging from the unanimity of this vote, we are led to conclude that this constitution will be adopted by the people.

There are said to be under General Taylor 9010 men, and under Gen. Scott 16,500, making a total of 25,510 American troops in Mexico.

FOURTY-TWO LIVES LOST.—The ship *Monloup* which sailed from Boston to Liverpool on the 9th ult., was wrecked on the 15th. There were sixty-four persons on board at the time, forty-two of whom perished. The remainder after remaining on the wreck three days, were taken off by the brig *Belize*.

FROST.—On Wednesday night last, there was considerable frost, but not enough, however, to do much injury.

The Georgia Whig, nominates Mr. Clay for the Presidency, and John McLean for Vice President.

YELLOW FEVER.—This scourge is prevailing to an alarming extent in New Orleans. Over forty die daily, and there are no signs of an abatement of the Fever—on the contrary, it is said to be on the increase. There have also been several cases of this epidemic in Mobile.

In connection with this matter, we take the following from the Washington Union of the 3d inst:

"We are happy to learn that, with a view to avoid the danger of contagion during the prevalence of yellow fever at New Orleans, orders have been given to have the means of transportation ready at Baton Rouge, Natchez, or some other healthy point, for all the volunteers who are ordered to be ordered to Mexico, during the present state of the health of New Orleans, and who, in their progress to the seat of war, must pass down the Mississippi by that city.

#### The Chicago Convention.

NUMBER III.

#### THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM.

The hardest duty of an American statesman is to oppose great sectional interests, coming in conflict with his creed of constitutional authority. So vast is the influence of such interests, when lashed onward, as they usually are, by every element of excitement, that they sweep into one common tide of importunate demand the whole population concerned—comprising all the minor currents and counter currents of political feeling. In standing up sternly between them and the constitution, he runs the risk or rather incurs the certainty of becoming to the last degree unpopular; and is driven to seek his consolations in a sense of sacred though unwelcome duty—his rewards in the calmer judgments of posterity. He is to expect the desertion of political friends—the aggravated hostility of his political enemies—the most furious attacks upon his character and motives, and the angry rejection of every plea either of justification or mitigation. It matters not how consistent the opposition, which he felt himself constrained to make, with his previously expressed opinions, or how harmonious, in its spirit, with the established doctrine of the political school to which he belongs. It matters not how really doubtful and fairly contestible the claims presented to him; nor how illustrious the array of precedents under which he can shield himself. Local interests, after they have broken their shell and taken wing together, soon become too eager to discriminate, too selfish to judge with justice and too furious to be stayed by rational admonition. Happy, indeed, will it be for our political bark, if in all future time, it can be blessed with pilots, who, with steady eye and firm hand will ever keep it on constitutional courses, even when most tempted to drift off with the tides of expediency, or when most thwarted by the storms of sectional excitement!

I have heretofore expressed my dissent to the reasoning of Mr. Polk in reference to the River and Harbor interests of the West. But I cannot impeach his motives: I cannot impute to aught, but a deep inflexible sentiment of allegiance to the constitution, his disapproval of a bill, upon which the local interests and anxieties of so vast a section of the country appeared to be embarked, and in defeating which, he was threatened with a prospect of unpopularity, as formidable, surely, as ever gloomed before an American statesman. I must even respect his prejudices upon a question, which has not uniformly been argued on its right ground; but has been seized upon as a convenient nucleus for re-embedding in our national policy some of the worst notions of the Clay and Adams school. And I cannot forget, that those principles, on which our cause is to be justified, and so closely on the boundaries of that obnoxious school, that the first political geniuses of the nation may without surprise be found widely differing in reference to them.

A definite constitution like that of the U. S. will often, in the nature of human affairs, prove to be a Procrustean rule of legislation. It must, of course, be general in its terms; and these, however comprehensive, must occasionally be found too narrow for the exigencies of the case.—Thus, after the Union was formed, time and experience disclosed to our statesmen many objects, for which the new general government seemed quite the most suitable agent; but which, alas! did not seem to be very clearly provided for in the express charter of its powers. From this awkward state of things, then quickly sprung up, what might have been expected, the *latitudinary or stretching and straining process* of construction. To supply the defect by amendment was at best a tedious way; and after the People had fairly got ranged into hostile parties, next to impossible. The easiest if not the only *modus operandi* then left, was to find somehow the required power somewhere in some sly corner of the instrument itself. To this end, the clause most 'german to the purpose' is taken in hand, turned over and over and inside out, set in every desirable point of view, squeezed *hydrostatically*, and if it comes to a pinch, decomposed *chemically*, to torture out of it, *solens volens*, some little latent, infinitesimal spark of authority, which, by close nursing between the Preamble on the one hand, and the last clause of the 8th section, (that bottomless pit of auxiliary and contingent powers) on the other, might, with a little further help from the zeal of party spirit and selfish interest, be worked up into a tolerable sort of Jack-o'-lantern to delude the country. By this sharp process, was begat the U. S. Bank, the Protective system, the Bankrupt law, and various other 'chimeras dire' of some kind; false lights which false priests have set up in the temple of the constitution. By a like process, also, was engendered the *Internal*

Improvement System, (so called); a system which has been scoured out of our policy by all our Presidents with the exception of the younger Adams—by Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Van Buren; and with which the pending projects of River and Harbor Improvement must by no means be confounded. No doubt, it is the secret wish of some Whig leaders to rally the routed and scattered remnants of that system behind the banners of our own great cause. Indeed, Mr. Webster in the outset of his Chicago letter, plainly intimates so much. But the West, I devoutly trust, will not fail to clear her skirts of the connection: She has already suffered quite enough from having her just claims twined in.

—the scaly folds  
Voluminous and vast—  
of this monster of federal usurpation and prodigality. Her demands upon the national aid are indeed powerful; but nothing would so fatally prejudice them as to be flung hotch potch into this 'bubbling caldron' of Whig diablerie. Let her sons and her friends see to it, that she join in no partnership of principle or of name with the bankrupt heresy in question; which would force the whole republican party of the country, with every true statesman of the Jefferson and Madison school at their head, to take ground against her.

In my next, I design to give my views, in brief, of the basis in which the cause of the West ought to be urged.

#### A DELEGATE.

#### Return of Gen. Paredes.

The return of Gen. Paredes, the ex-president, to Mexico is causing many speculations as to the effect it will have on the present state of affairs there. He reached Vera Cruz on the 14th ult., under an assumed name, and through the assistance of some friends at that place, made his escape to the interior without being detected. It is thought that he has gone to the capitol, where his presence will doubtless change the present regulations. It is probable that he will endeavor to reach Mexico before the American army.

It is well known that Paredes is the avowed enemy of Santa Anna, and is a bitter enemy to the United States. He is in favor of the most energetic measures for carrying on the war against this country, and will inspire the Mexicans, should he get command, to a more determined resistance. The war party, in Mexico, will support him, and he will doubtless interfere with any overtures for peace for some time. It yet remains to be seen, what effect his entrance will have.

The sixth regiment of Illinois volunteers sailed from New Orleans to Tampico and Vera Cruz, on the 23d ult.

Our thanks are due to the Hon. JOHN WESTWORTH for a map of Lake Superior and the Mineral Lands, which he has kindly sent us.

On Saturday last, wheat was selling at 76 to 84 cents per bushel, in Chicago.

ILLINOIS JOURNAL.—Mr. Francis of the Sangamo Journal, has associated with him as assistant editor, Mr. Bledsoe; and changed the name of that paper to the "Illinois Journal." Mr. Bledsoe as a writer, is spoken of in the highest terms.

WISCONSIN.—The returns of the election in this territory, so far as received, are in favor of the Whigs. If Strong, the Democratic candidate for delegate to Congress, does not get a large vote in the west part of the territory, Tweedy, the Whig, is elected.

THE HOME JOURNAL.—Morris & Willis still publish, in N. Y. city, this valuable family newspaper at the low price of \$2 per annum. Its contents are well adapted to all classes of society, and more particularly is entertaining and instructive to the family circle. The talent employed upon it, place it among the first periodicals of the age.

CONCERT.—Mr. Charles Teschemacher a native of Prussia, assisted by his son and daughter, will give a concert of vocal and instrumental music at the Washington Hotel, in this place, on Friday evening the 24th inst. Performance will commence at early candle-light—admittance 20cents.

#### Death of Silas Wright.

The Ogdensburgh Republican, in noticing the death of this great statesman and pure patriot, has the following:

About half past eight o'clock A. M., Mr. Wright called at the post office, apparently in his usual health. While seated in a chair at the post office, reading a letter the young man, clerk in the office, who was alone, perceived that he had dropped the letter, and appeared as if seized by sudden pain. He was alarmed, and enquired of Mr. Wright what was the matter? Mr. Wright, putting his hand to his heart, replied that he was suffering extreme pain in the chest—that he had twice before within the week felt similar pain, and that upon sitting down it passed away. But this was more severe—he felt it passing into his left arm and to his neck. He rose and went to the door to go home, but returned to his seat and desired the young man to go or send for Dr. Clark, who soon came into the office and gave Mr. Wright some medicine, which seemed to relieve him, and Mr. Wright, accompanied by the Dr., walked home a few rods from the office.

The Doctor remained with Mr. Wright at his house some time, and left him lying upon his bed in a gentle perspiration, supposing him to be better. Very soon after he had left him, a message reached Dr. Clark that Mr. Wright was dying, and before the Doctor reached the house he was dead.

From the N. O. Free Press of the 31st.

#### Late from Vera Cruz.

ADVANCE OF GEN. SCOTT TO AYOTLA. Safety of Major Lally's Train—Repulse of the Americans at National Bridge.

The schooner Mississippi arrived from Vera Cruz on Sunday, having sailed thence on the evening of the 21st inst. At that time the fashion had not arrived there, though constantly expected. She left here the evening of the 17th.

The most important news by this arrival concerns the movements of Gen. Scott. There had been various rumors on the subject in Vera Cruz, many of which our correspondent know to be unfounded, but he writes us on the afternoon of Saturday the 21st inst., on what he considers "the best authority," that the vanguard of Gen. Scott's army was at Ayotla on Friday, the 13th inst., and up to that date had not fired a gun. This news reached Vera Cruz by a gentleman who left Ayotla on the 13th, coming down by way of Orizaba. Ayotla is but twenty-one miles from the city of Mexico, being twenty miles beyond the pass of Rio Frio. We now turn for a moment to other subjects of great interest.

The expedition which left Vera Cruz about the 13th inst. to reinforce Major Lally's command was composed of Capt. Wells' company of the 12th Infantry, Capt. Hall's company of the 14th Infantry, and Capt. Fairchild's company of Louisiana Rangers, all under commands of Capt. Wells. They returned to Vera Cruz on the 17th, after having proceeded as far as National Bridge, where they expected to overtake Major Lally's command. Major Lally, however, had gone on, and by subsequent advices at Vera Cruz it is known that he had carried up his train in safety beyond Jalapa.

The command of Capt. Wells were compelled to fight their way to the Bridge, and they made the attempt to pass it, but found all the heights occupied by the guerrillas, who opened a heavy fire upon them, killing nearly all the mules and forcing the whole party to retire. They left the whole of their wagons save one only in the possession of the enemy. All the baggage of the officers and knapsacks of the men, which were in the wagons, fell into the hands of Mexicans, and little else besides the mail was saved. The loss of men in this affair has been five or six killed and two or three wounded, and several men have subsequently died from fatigue and exposure on the march.

About eight miles this side of the Bridge, Capt. Wells, on his advance, detached twelve dragoons, accompanied by Dr. Cooper, with directions to go forward cautiously, and, if they found it prudent, to report to Major Lally; but if they encountered any obstacles, to return and report the facts at once. Nothing has since been heard of this party, and it is supposed the whole have fallen into the hands of the Mexicans. These twelve dragoons we suppose to be a portion of Fairchild's company. Dr. Cooper was the surgeon who went up with the train.

Capt. Wells had five successive engagements with the enemy before the final affair at the Bridge. In this the Mexicans had one piece of artillery engaged, from which they fired grape, and were thus able to make good their stand against the command of Capt. Wells.

Major Lally on going up with the train is said to have had a sharp skirmish with the guerrillas at Cerro Gordo, and to have expected another brush with them at La Hoya. No accounts of these affairs have been received, but our latest letters say that there is no doubt of the safety of the train. No news had been heard at Vera Cruz of Capt. Besancourt's company for a fortnight. It was out on a scout when news reached there that Major Lally required reinforcements, and it is by many supposed that the company fell in with the train, and, crossing the National Bridge, continued up with it. Others again think differently, and suppose that the whole company has been cut off by the Mexicans. Such is the tenor of our latest letters.

In regard to general Scott's march, there were rumors at Vera Cruz that he had met the enemy and repulsed them after a sharp engagement, in which he lost 800 men. This the Mexicans regarded as a victory, as their loss was insignificant. Notwithstanding these details, our correspondent writes that there is no truth in them whatever. He also considers the announcement of the Sun of Anahuac that Gen. Scott arrived at Ayotla on the 11th as a statement hazarded upon mere rumor. He has confidence in the veracity of the men who arrived on the 21st, and declared the vanguard of Scott's army to have been in Ayotla on the 13th, having met no resistance so far. Both the Vera Cruz papers and our correspondent believed that Gen. Scott was in possession of Mexico by the 20th inst., but they had no information to this effect.

We have no more minute accounts on board the ship *Agnes* of the various engagements with the guerrillas mentioned above. The *Mississippi*, being a flat sailer, has anticipated those accounts, but without supplying all the details.

We have no letter directed from the army. The *Boletin de las Noticias*, of Jalapa, says that more correspondence from the army has been intercepted by the guerrillas. This paper appears to have advices from Puebla to the 10th inst., but only states that the last division of the American army left on that day four thousand strong.