

# THE ATHENS POST.

BY SAM. P. IVINS.

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## TERMS:

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## THE POST.

ATHENS, FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1850.

The Louisiana Gazette, edited by Hon. JOHN F. H. CLAUDON, a late Democratic member of Congress, himself, holds—that no member of Congress has a right to speak on behalf of the Southern people, in favor of a "dissolution of the Union."—"Not one of them can pledge the North or South, the East or West, to any such thing."

**THE DISUNION PETITION.**—The Wilmington Journal publishes a copy of the "Disunion Petition," supposed to have come from the Quakers of Delaware, that was recently presented by Senator Hale, and speaking of the signers, says that eight of them are negroes, and that the balance are the names of persons not half so sensible or patriotic as their colored confederates, and adds:

"The whole thing is a base, ignominious, diabolical and infamous attempt to number Delaware with those desiring the dissolution of the Union, a sentiment that she loathes, abhors; her very soul is stirred with strong disgust whenever she hears such a proceeding talked of; and she would rather see the sun of her existence set forever in the dark clouds of eternal night, and her bright escutcheon blotted from the National sisterhood, than to lend her voice, countenance or assistance to such a scheme."

**INDIAN REVENGE.**—The Springfield (Illinois) Journal has the following paragraph, copied from the Lacon Gazette:

"Among the overland emigration for California, last spring, was Mr. Green, of Green's Woolen Factory, Fox river, and two of his sons, the youngest a youth. It is reported that while passing through a tribe of Indians, this youth, who was naturally full of mischief, killed a squaw. The tribe having been well advised of the fact, hastened after and overtook the company, and demanded the murderer. At first the demand was resisted; but after the Indians had informed them that they would destroy the company if their request was not granted, the youth was surrendered into their hands. They then stripped him, and in the presence of his father and the whole company, they skinned him from his head to his feet. He lived four hours after he was thus flayed. This should be a warning to all interested, not to trifle with the unfortunate sons of the forest."

Men may commit the same crimes without being equally wicked. The man who runs away with a homely woman, with red hair, is a much more depraved wretch than he who flies south with a beauty. The turpitude of vice sometimes depends upon the temptation.

The Cincinnati Commercial contains an advertisement of "The Ladies Anti-Slavery Sewing Circle"—requesting the members of that delectable association to meet at some private house. This notice reminds us of the "Hokey-cum-snivem-Club," and the "Poke-your-nose-into-other-peoples-business-Society."

The Albany Dutchman truly remarks that the best looking thing about a girl is cheerfulness. We care not how ruddy her cheeks may be, or how velvety or kissable her lips, if she wear a scowl she will be considered ill-looking even by her friends, while the girl that illumines her face with smiles will be considered handsome, although her complexion be coarse enough to grate nutmegs on. As sunshine is to the landscape—as perfume is to the rose—so is cheerfulness to the countenance and good nature to the lovely. Girls, think of this.

**LEISURE HOURS.**—It was a beautiful observation of the late Wm. Hazlit, that "there is room enough in human life to crowd almost every art and science in it.—If we pass 'no day without a line'—visit no place without the company of a book—we may with ease fill libraries or empty them of their contents. The more we do, the more we can do; the more busy we are, the more leisure we have."

"Union is not strength," as the old toper said when he put water in his brandy.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 1.

A more hopeful feeling pervades the whole community here, both of public men and of private observers. Those who look on, see most of the game, and the lookers-on are impressed with the belief that we have safely passed the crisis of excitement. With coolness and discretion, on the part of the pilots, the ship will weather the storm. Mr. Bell's proposition, offered to day, is considered as approximating to an adjustment satisfactory to all. It was offered upon consultation with many Senators and Members of different sections. The three slaveholding States which he proposes on the Gulf of Mexico, comprise, in his opinion, the whole region into which slavery can possibly go. He proposes to admit California, with her present Constitution. As to the rest of the country acquired from Mexico, he allows of territorial governments, without restriction as to slavery, but they are not to form State governments without the assent of Congress, and, after this assent, the people are to regulate their own domestic policy. No opinions have been publicly expressed as to this offer, but it is considered as an approximation to an adjustment. The country east of the Sierra Nevada is not very likely soon to have sufficient population to justify the assent of Congress to the erection of State governments. Congress will not be disposed to press the admission of New Mexico or Deseret.

The opinion is, that Congress will soon adjust the question, and then the ordinary legislative business can be attended to, and not till then.

Mr. Butler stated, yesterday, that Mr. Calhoun, still unable to resume his seat, would address the Senate, by proxy, on Monday, which was unanimously assented to.

To-day, the Senate is to dispose of accumulated executive business.

WASHINGTON, March 2.

I learn that Mr. Bell's proposition for a compromise are preferred to those of Mr. Clay by the Southern members. From the best sources, I am informed that Mr. Bell's project was a subject of consultation, and that it is as favorable to the South as any measure that is likely to pass. The South would prefer the Missouri Compromise line to any other project that has been named, but it cannot pass. The whole question will, it is said, be settled in a fortnight, or not for three months. The Texans will give their hearty assent to Mr. Bell's plan.

The *Intelligencer* contains an article of seven columns from a distinguished source, on the topic of the day. The writer says the storm is at its height and there are symptoms of a breaking away of the elements. I presume the writer is Mr. John P. Kennedy, of Md. It is an able article.

We think that, so far as Congress is concerned, the storm has passed.

The Supreme Court has adjourned till the first of April.

The amount in the Treasury, on the 25th of February, was \$7,273,000.

We had a high wind yesterday, which, at 11 o'clock, took off the roof, with rafters, sheeting, cornice, &c., from Winder's great building, which is occupied by Government bureaus. It is a miracle that no one was hurt. A mass of the roof was carried across the street and narrowly missed the south-west corner of the Navy offices, cutting down large trees. If it had struck the building it would have endangered the lives of Commodore Smith, and the clerks in the room.

WASHINGTON, March 4.

**MR. CALHOUN'S SPEECH.**—To-day, Mr. Calhoun occupied his seat in the Senate, and a great crowd was in attendance. Mr. Mason, of Virginia, read his remarks on the exciting subject which is now all absorbing, as it involves the very existence of our Union. The deepest attention was paid during the delivery of the address.

Mr. Calhoun said that the Union was in danger. That the cause of the discontent which prevailed was produced by the destruction of the equilibrium between the North and the South. The South must be satisfied that she can remain in the Union in safety and peace. The Union could not be saved by Mr. Clay's project, nor by the admission of California, with the provisions incorporated in the proposed Constitution.

The Union could be saved by giving the South an equal share of the common domain, and by restoring to owners fugitive slaves. The South had no compromise to offer. The question could not be settled unless it was effected, during the present session of Congress; and it was time to decide it. If it could not be settled, it was judicious to part in peace. If an amicable arrangement could not be made, legislatively, the admission of California should be made the test question.

Mr. Webster has been announced as occupying the floor of the Senate, on Thursday, to give his views on the subject.—*Cor. Char. Cour.*

## A CARD—T. BUTLER KING.

HON. THOMAS BUTLER KING, publishes in the National *Intelligencer*, the following card, which we commend to the attention of those—if any such there be—who have been simple enough to believe the slander that he was sent out as General Taylor's secret agent, to aid in the formation of the new government in California. Mr. Poll's administration, it will be seen, comes in for a full share of the honor and the responsibility.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23, 1850.

To the Editors of the National *Intelligencer*: GENTLEMEN—Permit me to state in your columns that my illness in California and subsequent long continued delirium—my numerous engagements since my arrival here, and the effects of a recent indisposition, which has paralyzed my energies for some days, have delayed my longer than I intended or expected my report on California. But I cannot longer permit the public mind to be assailed, perhaps misled, by insinuations, inquiries and imputations, which, if not promptly answered, may be considered as acquiescing in or holding assent to—misrepresentation has assumed that form—to pass uncontradicted. I, therefore, assert that I did not receive, in connection with my duties in California, nor have I at any time received, secret instructions, whether verbal or written, from the President of the United States, or any member of his Cabinet, on the subject of slavery or any other subject. I did not attempt to influence the people of California to decide the question of slavery one way or the other; and any assertion that I did receive such instructions or attempt to exercise such influence is false. Any insinuations or insidious inquiries which are so framed or intended as to induce the people to believe that the President or any member of his Cabinet did give, or that I could be base enough to receive, such instructions, I declare to be totally without foundation in fact and without the shadow of truth.

I beg leave to call the attention of the public to some facts, which will show what was done by the late Administration to induce the people of California to form a State Government. I arrived at San Francisco on the fourth of June, in the steamer Panama; we did not stop at Monterey; nor did I see or hold any communication with Gen. Riley until about the middle of that month, when he came to San Francisco. His proclamation calling a Convention of the people of California to form a State constitution is dated at Monterey—one hundred and thirty miles from San Francisco—the third of June. The last paragraph of his proclamation is in the following words:

"The method here indicated to attain what is desired by all, viz: a more perfect political organization, is deemed the most direct and safe that can be adopted, and is fully authorized by law. It is the course advised by the President and by the Senators of State and of War of the United States, and is calculated to avoid the numerous evils which must necessarily result from any attempt at direct local legislation. It is, therefore, hoped it will meet the approbation of the people of California, and that all good citizens will unite in carrying it into execution."

The steamer in which I was a passenger to San Francisco was the first conveyance to carry to the people of California the intelligence of the inauguration of President Taylor and the appointment of his Cabinet—so that, at the date of Gen. Riley's proclamation, it was not possible that he could have received any communication from the present Administration. The President of the United States to whom he refers, was Mr. Polk, the Secretary of State Mr. Buchanan, the Secretary of War Mr. Marcy. It was in accordance with the recommendations of this proclamation, sustained as they are in President Polk's last annual message, that the people of California acted in forming their State constitution. I always addressed my State of California in my private character, and never assumed any official position among them. Interested as I am in slave labor, as a Georgian and a Southern citizen, I was prepared to expect that the objects of my mission would be perverted in the North; and I find accordingly that during the last fall elections in that quarter I was there represented as a Southern slaveholder sent to California to indoctrinate the people in my opinions about slavery. This was a base falsehood; but not half so base as an attempt to impress on the public mind that I was sent to force or influence California to exclude slavery.

T. BUTLER KING.

## THE LABORERS.

The laborer, the laborer,  
God's nobleman is he—  
His works are given in the soil,  
They float on every sea;  
The keystone in the social arch,  
Uplift his crest;  
His days are spent in manly toil,  
His nights yield balmy rest.

**EXPENSE ACCOUNT.**—Gov. Barbour, of Virginia, in an address before an agricultural society, says:—"Let every man have the fortitude to look his affairs in the face, to keep an account of his debts and items of his expenditures, no matter how long or black the list, if he don't look into it, his neighbor will; and more, let him show it to his wife, if he has one. If a prudent woman, it will be of service; if imprudent, it will do no harm. But there are very few of the latter, and I cheerfully bear evidence to the care and economy of women. When in a situation to observe I can safely say that I never knew a woman left to the care of an embarrassed estate, that did not extricate it if it was possible."

## A CASE OF CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE IN VERMONT, MANY YEARS AGO.

In the year 1813, one Russel Colvin, living in Manchester, Vermont, suddenly and mysteriously disappeared from the town, and his family and friends not knowing what had become of him, supposed that he had been murdered. Although Colvin was a strange man, and had before gone off without notice, yet his long absence this time heightened the suspicion of his murder. After Colvin had been absent six years two brothers living in Manchester, named Stephen and Jesse Boorn, by some observations, attached suspicion to themselves as the murderers. An uncle of the Boorns had a strange dream, repeated three times, in which Colvin appeared to him, telling him he had been murdered, and pointing out the spot where he was buried. The spot was examined, and a large knife, a penknife, and a button were found. These were sworn to as Colvin's by the wife. In another spot bones and human nails were found. The burning of a barn belonging to a Boorn, also a log heap, soon after Colvin's disappearance, were raked up as surer evidence of the murder. When the suspicions against these men began, Stephen Boorn had left Manchester and could not be found, but Jesse was arrested and charged with the murder. After a long examination no evidence could be found sufficient to hold him; but in questioning him he admitted that he had upon a time been impressed with the idea that his brother Stephen had murdered Colvin. He described a quarrel between Stephen and Colvin, in which the former struck the latter with a club or stone, and perhaps killed him. Upon this, Stephen was arrested. A son of Colvin's also swore to seeing Stephen knock his father down. Finally the evidence accumulated against both the brothers, and became so strong, that both were committed for trial. Public opinion had fully condemned them. Upon this they pleaded not guilty. They were tried on the 27th of October, 1819, and the jury, after an hour's deliberation, found them guilty, and they were sentenced to be hung on the 28th of January, 1820. By a strong effort of those who thought Jesse less guilty than Stephen, his sentence was commuted by the Legislature to imprisonment for life. The Rev. Lemuel Haynes was the clergyman in attendance upon the Boorns. From Stephen's manner of denial of the deed, he strongly believed him innocent. Not long after Stephen's sentence, a letter was received from a farmer of Dover, New Jersey, who had read the trial of the Boorns, and who knew Colvin well. This letter stated that Colvin was alive, where he had been living since 1819, in New Jersey. This astounded the whole community—nobody could believe it. Parties were despatched to New Jersey. Colvin was found, and brought on to Manchester. An intense excitement was created in Manchester, where Stephen Boorn was in chains. When Colvin saw him he exclaimed, "What are these chains for?" "Because," replied Boorn, "they say I murdered you." Colvin answered, "you never hurt me!" The Boorns were of course pardoned by the Governor and released from custody. But as they were not liked in the neighborhood, no compensation was awarded them for the perils and ruinous litigation which they suffered. The absence of Colvin was attributed to derangement, for he did not, and would not recognise his wife, and insisted that his children were in New Jersey, where he imagined he owned a farm. To New Jersey he finally returned. It was with difficulty that he was got to Vermont. These are the main facts of the case, which we get from a late N. E. Star.

"Peter Barnocks, come up and say your lesson. What made Eve eat the forbidden fruit?" "Cause she was tell'd she had'n't ought to." "How do you know that made her eat it?" "Cause, when our July Ann was tell'd not to speak to the folks she went and set right down in John Doolittle's lap." "You can run home, Peter: you have graduated."

**COULD NOT STAND IT.**—The Troy Budget tells a story of a juror, who, while the Supreme Court was engaged in an important trial, heard the alarm of "fire," and starting from his seat, bolted for the door. Before the court could interpose, he was streaking it through the streets, "his coat tails waving in the breeze," in the direction whence the alarm proceeded. The wheels of justice stopped, while a fast constable was put upon the scene, and succeeded in running down the absconding juror. He brought him back to triumph for the inspection of the court and the curious.

**FROST.**—When potatoes or other roots are frozen, soak them in cold water till the frost is all drawn out, and they will be nearly as good as before frost bitten.

**MURDER.**—The Memphis Eagle says:—We learn that Daily Anderson, Esq., a substantial planter residing near Raleigh, in this county, was murdered at his residence whilst sleeping in bed last Sunday night. His negroes heard the cry of "murder," and on rushing into his room, they found him weltering in gore and in the last agonies of death. He had been mortally cut upon the head (it is supposed with an axe) afterwards severely beaten with a bludgeon. On the morning preceding the night of the murder, he had quarrelled with his wife and family, (says report,) and yesterday morning a negro brought them in this cry the melancholy tidings of the fate of a husband and father.

**THE WILL AND THE DEED.**—God never accepts the will for the deed, when he puts it in a man's power to do as well as will. He judges us according to our means and not by what we have known, early what we have felt, nor by what we have intended, but by what we have done. All ye know these things, happy are if ye do them."—"Inasmuch as ye did it not to these, ye did it not to me."

The Cincinnati Non-Resistant says:—"It is estimated that six thousand persons, or nearly one fifteenth of our whole population, have had the small-pox or varioloid during the last four months. It is spreading to a considerable extent in Covington and Newport. Like the cholera, it bears a milder form now than it did in 1823, when it followed the wake of that dreadful scourge."

**FORGECASE.**—A member of the Wisconsin Legislature, who bears the ominous name of Horn, has introduced a bill to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors in that State. One of its sections makes very advantageous provisions in favor of the families of those who "for the space of twenty five years and upwards have been steady drinkers."

**EBRUYVILLE, KY., March 4.**

On Thursday last, on Tennessee river, ten miles from this place, a man by the name of Henry Slight was stabbed by Winfield Hicks. The circumstances are these: It appears that several men were assembled at Mr. Childs on a frolic. The conversation commenced upon gambling, and Squire Love told Mr. Hicks that he would bet him fifty dollars that Cible could beat him shooting. He made some reply; but in a few minutes spoke aloud and said: "God d—n Love's soul, I will kill him." At this moment Slight stepped out of the house and said: "Don't kill him, Hicks." Hicks said, "d—n you, I will kill you." Slight, at this, struck him with his fist. Hicks, who before this, had drawn his knife, then cut him—the knife entering near his spine, just below the shoulder blade, and was drawn forward, cutting a gash about eight inches long, and coming out by the heart. The wound is mortal. Hicks threw the knife down and fled immediately. He was taken at Paducah, and is now at Ebruyville awaiting his trial.

**SIX-YEAR CASE.**—There has been considerable excitement at Frederick, Md., in regard to the sudden death of a son of Mr. George A. Cole. A correspondent of the Hagerstown Mail says:

"After being kept for the period of four days, he was placed in Mr. Hart's vault, in the Lutheran graveyard, with the lid of his coffin open, as there were very serious doubts whether or not he was in a trance. His disease, the doctors say, was the erysipelas, the only indication of which was a small pimple on his lip causing much swelling, and of which, in the short space of three days he died."

Many persons have daily visited his remains, and all express their doubts. Though in this state for more than two weeks, his cheeks are as rosy and fresh as when in good health; his lips, at first somewhat blue, now have a very natural and likeable color, and his limbs are as pliant as ever, not having the rigidity of death at all—his eyes are not at all sunken, but natural as when in robust health. There is not, as yet, the least appearance of decay, and no offensive smell. His parents visit him daily, to ascertain if any change has taken place, either for better or worse. Though doctors say he is dead, many persons in the community doubt it. Doctors are not infallible. He was fifteen or sixteen years of age, of a looking and intelligent. On Sunday he was in excellent health, enjoying himself with his companions; on Wednesday night he was declared a corpse.—Such is life!

## THE ROCHESTER RAPPINGS.

BATAVIA, Feb. 25th, 1850.

To the Editors of the *Tribune*:

The remarks of the *Commercial Advertiser*, noticed in the *Tribune* of 23d last, reflect too strongly upon the "folly" to believe the Rochester Rappings to be supernatural. Who exhibits the most "folly" they who see, hear, and form opinions upon evidence, or they who form opinions denouncing others without evidence! Can it be a "preposterous hoax or imposition," which baffles the ability of any one to explain as such? I had the name of a near relative and child given and communications in the language and spirit with which I was often addressed when they were living, at the first interview, alone and without the acquaintance to my knowledge of a person in Rochester. At another time my name was spelled out by these mysterious communications with the wish to talk with me. My questions pertained to the ones above alluded to. I obtained no satisfactory answer—I called for physical signs to indicate who was addressing me—immediately came the sound of planing and then sawing, and during the last the table, around which we stood, trembled—instantly my mind recurred to having assisted a near relative in some mechanical experiments requiring the use of the plane and saw, some years ago, and what made it more impressive was the fact that he made me pledge secrecy, as he was in ill health and his friends feared the consequences,—this was the last time I ever spent with him of any duration, and the last physical efforts I ever knew him to make; nothing could have more quickly called up his memory. I asked his name, and *Silas* was spelled out to me, the name by which he was familiarly known. I asked where he died, and was answered *New Orleans*, which was the fact. I called for the exercise of physical force on the table, and it moved so as to crowd persons back, and was held down so as to require a strong man to lift it, or even one side of it. Now, this was all done in daylight, and in the presence of a number of persons, while we were standing around the table, under circumstances to render it impossible for any one to touch it without being detected. I have as little faith in the evidence of the senses as any one; and I know enough of the physical sciences to disprove any attempt to explain these facts upon such principles. Every attempt so far has shown an utter ignorance of the phenomena, or a dishonesty of purpose,—and moreover I know that those who believe in the spirituality of these communications are not all properly called "somebodies," and their opinions "folly," but that some of the best minds and most diligent searchers after truth believe in them; and if I have failed to give what will be deemed "evidence" by you, it is because mine is not the "pen of a ready writer." If you require positive evidence you must see and hear for yourself—no testimony would ever have been sufficient to satisfy me, and perhaps should not any one. That much connected with this matter should seem preposterous is no evidence against its pretensions, and the much which is said to be so appears very different when you see or hear it for yourself. C. D. G.

## AN ACT.

For the benefit of the widow and orphan.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That in all and every case when any person shall come to his death by injuries received from another, whether the same were inflicted feloniously or not, for which injuries in case death had not resulted an action of damages would lie at law, the personal representative of the person thus killed shall have the right to institute an action for damages in either of the Circuit Courts of this State, and the damages recovered, if any, shall belong to the widow and children of such deceased person, to be equally divided between them, free from the claims of the creditors of the deceased.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the widow and children of the deceased may use the name of the personal representative in bringing and prosecuting such suit on giving bond and security for costs or in "forma pauperis" even without his consent—*Provided*, however, That the personal representative shall not be responsible for costs unless his name be signed to the bond for the prosecution of the suit.

Passed February 1st, 1850.