Richmond Enquirer.

RICHMOND, VA.

Friday Morning, May 23, 1845.

AGREED!

Our neighbor of the Times, commenting upon an article from the N. Y. Express, in relation to the immense advantages of water power, &c., to be found in the vicinity of Richmond, employs the language below. Now, while we agree with the Express, as to the capacity of our city for manufacturing purposes, had we the capital at hand, we must dissent from its position, that a high Tariff is necessary to support our mechanical industry—One of our most intelligent practical manufacturers has assured us, that a revenue Tariff must necessarily furnish a protection of 40 per cent to our manufacturers and this should be enough in all conscience. But to the proposition of the Times:

"Let the capitalists, however, commence the work; and we may hope that one Democrat after another, as he finds *that he sells his produce higher and pays less for what he buys*, will abandon this visionary theory, which has so long blinded the South. Democracy may answer—though badly, we think,—for South Carolina; but a State, contains in its bowels as much coal and iron as Virginia, and has a soil as fertile as her's was originally, and can become again, was designed by *nature* itself to be Whig! We do not despair of the good old State being yet redeemed from this folly, into which she has fallen. We confidently look forward to the time when Virginia will no longer "light a candle and put it under a bushel," and when her "*city*, that is set on a hill, cannot be hid."

We are perfectly willing to strike a bargain with the Times. If, under the operation of the present unjust Tariff (which cannot much longer, we think, resist the spirit of enlightened experience and glaring truth,) the Democrats find that they can "sell their produce higher and pay less for what they buy," we shall be glad to see them giving up their Democracy and shouting hosannahs for a protective monopoly. But that day will never arrive. It is not in the nature of things, that such should be the effect of an unequal and arbitrary system—nor does our daily experience justify any such conclusion. Have our farmers reaped any benefits from the present Tariff? Have they sold their produce at better rates since the operation of this boasted "fruit of the victory of 1840?" If not, why should they be expected to sacrifice their convictions and their interests, for the special benefit of the more fortunate manufacturers?

We find in the Nashville Union a short article, presenting some of the effects of the present Tariff. If the data be correctly stated, and they profess to be based upon authentic reports, how is it possible that the people of Virginia can be expected to sustain such a system? They may be ridiculed by the Times as being guilty of extreme "folly"—but, if that "folly" be justified by reason and experience, they will hardly be moved from their present firm position.

While we are utterly opposed to a high tariff, we are deeply interested in the prosperity of our beautiful city, which, in many respects, is marked by signs of decided improvement. We join with our neighbors in inviting foreign capital which, we believe, can be profitably invested in this neighborhood. But we do not consider a high tariff as at all essential to the permanent success of manufacturing industry. What benefit is to be derived from protection, if the farming interest—the feeder of large cities—is to be depressed more and more, until it sinks to nothing? Give an impulse to agriculture, and commerce and manufactures will feel its genial action.—Smother and prostrate the farming interest, and all others must droop. We, therefore, look forward to the day, when, under a wise and well-regulated revenue system, a moderate and permanent rate of duties will be adopted, which will operate, with benefit, upon all interests alike. Then will our business affairs assume a healthy and vigorous condition, and our towns and cities will grow up steadily and permanently.

But there is another view, to which recent events attach some importance. Under the relaxation of the stringent system of Great Britain, many articles of commerce have been admitted into that great reservoir of trade at reduced duties, and at higher prices. This demonstrates the importance of meeting foreign nations in the same spirit. Is it wise, that we should continue our rigid system, and force foreign nations to impose higher burthens on our productions, at the very moment that they have evinced a disposition to relax those burthens, and to admit the fruits of our industry upon better terms, and, of course, at higher prices? This is the auspicious moment for us to commence a re-modelling of our system, according to the rules of justice and reciprocal benefits. Mr. McDuffie truly and beautifully remarks, in his letter to the "Council of the Anti-Corn Law League of Great Britain," which we find in the league of April 19, received by the Britannia:

"I have regarded it (the anti-Corn-law League) with the deepest interest, as being destined to produce a fundamental change in the commercial policy of Great Britain, which cannot but be followed by a corresponding change in the policy of all the commercial nations of the earth. Since the Saviour of our fallen race sent forth his chosen apostles to preach the sublime doctrine of 'Peace on earth, and good will to all men, no human association has been formed, in my opinion, better calculated to promote the peace, prosperity, and happiness of all nations, than the Free Trade League of Great Britain. A system of Free Trade, adopted by all nations, would bind them together by bonds of common interest and mutual good will, which the ambition of rulers could never tear asunder. Every nation would rejoice in the prosperity of all nations, as being essential to its own.

"And here the remark may be appropriately made, that there are no political communities on the face of the earth to which these views so forcibly apply as to Great Britain, France, and the other manufacturing nations of Europe on the one hand, and the agricultural staple States of the North American Confederacy on the other."

We shall close with the following practical, common sense views of the Nashville Union:

[From the Nashville Union.]

Facts for the People—the Tribute Exacted from their "Unconscious Purses."

The operation of the tariff system of taxation is so gentle and insinuating in its mode of reaching the "unconscious purses" of the people, that intelligent persons, usually astute in seeing their own interests, are often greatly deceived. The delusion which takes possession of the mind on this subject, under the influence of party appliances, can seldom be removed by any course of theoretical reasoning, however well sustained. Stubborn facts, appealing directly and feelingly to the purses of the unconscious victim of this delusion, can alone penetrate the thick incrustation of error which partyism throws around his mind.—We have seen, with astonishment, men of intelligence gravely and earnestly contending that "high duties make cheap goods," and the delusion was sustained by a supposed appeal to pretended facts. Another year has passed by, and we are furnished with additional facts for testing the truth of the doctrines advocated by the two parties. We have before us the importations of foreign goods for the year 1844, and the amount of duties actually paid into our Treasury under the present tariff law. From this authentic source we will select a list, including some of the most essential necessaries, together with their value and the duties actually paid in 1844, to which we invite the attention of our readers:

Articles.	*Value.*	*Duties.*
Leather Goods,	$77,487	$23,216
" Boots and Shoes,	25,534	8,363
Hats, Leghorn, &c.,	713,483	249,719
Molasses,	2,833,753	1,122,429
Sugar, brown,	6,793,540	4,396,437
Raisins, Muscatel,	318,142	254,753
Pepper,	59,037	83,669
Nutmegs,	97,532	19,942
Cloves,	56,021	29,251
Cassia,	85,432	56,882
Pimento,	46,765	43,499
Camphor, crude,	97 496	12,227
Indigo,	1,145,067	69,585
Bleaching Powder,	111,092	26,748
Cordage, tarred,	68,349	56,226
Hemp,	262,365	101,504
Pins, solid headed,	20,014	11,455
" pound,	22,921	11,474
Salt,	911,512	659,451
Coal,	236,963	152 377
Bar Iron, rolled,	1,065,682	947,280
" hammered,	583,065	200,983
Iron, cables and parts,	28,775	23,127
Other manufactures,	484,653	297,045
Total amount,	$16,000,000	$9,000,000

From this table, it appears that, on importations made in the year ending July 1st, 1844, and valued at about *sixteen* millions of dollars, the amount of duties actually paid into the Treasury, was about *nine* millions of dollars. These questions now naturally arise: From whose toil and labor was this heavy tribute of nine millions exacted? Was the loss sustained by the foreign producers, or by the home consumers of the articles? Have the prices of the articles enumerated above fallen since the Tariff act was passed in 1842? How have the prices of agricultural produce compared lately with the prices previous to the imposition of the Tariff? These are all questions which appeal directly to the interests of the great mass of the people. To our minds, the answer to them is so obvious, that it is a matter of surprise that two opinions should exist. We will not, however, enter into any discussion on the inferences to be drawn from the facts presented when taken in connection with the facts in reference to prices known to all—we are content to furnish the materials on which others may reflect and make up their own minds.

TRUE ELOQUENCE.

We do not remember having met with a passage of the same length, so full of true feeling, thrilling pathos, and graphic power, as the following extract from a speech delivered by Mr. A. B. Longstreet of Georgia, before the Methodist Convention at Louisville. The reader is transported, involuntarily, to the gloomy but sublime scene, where the self-devoted pioneer of a holy cause falls beneath the weight of his perilous enterprise. The vast West is filled with romantic incidents of these holy men, leaving behind them the comforts and security of civilization, and meeting the dangers and sacrifices of a forest life. To their credit be it said, the zealous Methodists are found the first among those who break the stillness of the Western wilds, and push on the blessings of civilization and religion.

But will it be believed that the orator, whose eloquence is able to arouse the deepest sympathies of the heart, is also the author of the "Georgia Scenes," so justly popular as a record of the richest, laughter-stirring humor? It furnishes but another instance of the versatility of the human mind. It is, we think, Thomas Hood, the prince of jesters, who is described as suffering keenly from pecuniary and physical causes; and yet, his published jokes and conceits seem never to flag in spirit. Laman Blanchard, the author of the inimitable "Mrs. Caudle's Lectures," is also said to have been a severe sufferer from many causes. In both instances, the natural bent of the mind had full sway, at intervals. But here, in our own land, we have a striking instance of a man, who can, at one moment, dash off with his pen the most comic sketches of passing scenes, and, at the next, rise in a religious assembly, convoked for the most solemn and vital objects, and chain, with his pathos and his eloquence, the hearts of a listening crowd. Such is the variety of feelings evoked by the peculiar excitement of surrounding circumstances:

"No; we must part, and the sooner the better.—Let us, with our new organization, try to get back to primitive Methodism. I speak not of its externals, some of which never legitimately belonged to it, but of its inward graces. I speak of its former zeal, which glowed with equal fervor amidst the miasm of the lowland swamps and the healthful breezes of the mountain, which led the Methodist preacher to seek the lost sheep of the fold of Christ withersoever they wandered.—I speak of that Methodism that preached not only on stated days, and at stated times, but which preached at all times and in all places—in the chapel, the hut, the kitchen, the grove, the wilderness—to fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, parents, children, masters, servants—which never entered a house without a word for the Lord, and never left it without praying a blessing upon it—which planted the standard of the cross on the spot which we occupy ere the elk and the buffalo had left it—which pushed on its labors, at times, until exhausted nature sunk under them.

"When I thus speak of Methodism, let me not be understood as claiming for our sect all the religion that is in the world. Far from it—there is as pure religion in the other churches as in ours. I am no sectarian. If I possess one christian virtue, it is love for all that love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ; but I confess I feel a kindling emotion, allied to the moral sublime, when I contemplate Methodism personified in such men as our Nolly, whose funeral obsequies were performed by himself, whose dirge was sounded by the winter winds, whose winding sheet was the snow drift, and whose monument was the sturdy oak of the forest—found by the woodsman, frozen on his knees and buried in the attitude of prayer. Of myself I will not glory, of my church I will not glory, but of such as these I might become a fool in glorying and all christians would pardon me, if not join me. Yes, were I to inscribe on the tree, the root of which was his last pillow, *The christian's best monument*, every Christian of every church would cheerfully inscribe under it Amen and amen. To this kind of Methodism let us get back; let it be the characteristic of the Southern church, and then, if they will, let the Northern church take all the rest."

The Effects of a Good Example.

Much as we rejoice at the late victory, in view of its importance to the honor and welfare of Virginia, we look for its still more beneficial effects upon the political condition of our sister States. There is not one to whose struggle we turn with more interest than to the Old North State, so long estranged from the Republican cause. Virginia has led off the column. The following cheering notes from the Raleigh Standard sound as if North Carolina meant seriously to follow the example:

"The rallying cry is sounded upon the winds in earnest. Thanks to the Democrats for that! They are rousing the Coons. Let *them* 'work' also. Organization, union and energy will carry them in triumph through the contest. The Whig party is falling to pieces. In Virginia it has just been scattered to the four winds, and the mother of States is now looking with words of encouragement and hope to North Carolina. Her eye is upon the Ninth District, for *that* is nearest to her borders. Shall she be disappointed? Shall North Carolina, after having refused to vote *for her own son*, pursue the suicidal and unpatriotic policy of opposing his Administration?"

We can assure the Alexandria Gazette, that we are disposed to do full justice to Mr. Clay. Had he remained true to the principles which he advocated at the time of the Missouri Compromise, he might have reaped the rich rewards of a consistent political life. As soon as he abandoned, however, his early faith, and sought after "new gods" in the shape of loose and extravagant constructions of the Constitution, the people withheld their confidence, and, after many trials, doomed him to retirement. Whether it will be a final retreat from the cares and troubles of public life, we shall not undertake to predict—the issue is in the hands of the people.—But, we can say, with a clear conscience, that thus far the nation has acted with a rectitude and independence, in smothering the ambition of Henry Clay, above all praise.

IMPORTANT, IF TRUE.

Should the following be true, there is no doubt that the proposition will come too late. The enthusiasm and union of the people of Texas are too decided in favor of annexation to the United States, to allow them for one moment to listen to the tendered bribe. News from the South will be looked for with intense interest:

LATE FROM MEXICO.—We learn, says the New York Journal of Commerce, from Captain Baker, of the bark Falmouth, which left Matanzas May 9th, that the English mail steamer from Vera Cruz arrived at Havana 7th instant, with despatches from Mr. Crawford, the British Consul, advising him that the boundary line of Texas had been defined and settled, and her independence guaranteed by a Convention between England, France and Mexico. Accounts by the same arrival, state that Santa Anna has been reduced to the alternative of ten years' banishment, or a trial for maladministration.

The above intelligence must have left Vera Cruz on the 2nd or 3d instant, which is ten days later than our previous advices.

The Convention of the Episcopal Church met in Philadelphia on Tuesday. The Rev. Dr. Bull was chosen President. A very interesting session is expected, as a Bishop of Pennsylvania is to be chosen, to succeed the late Henry Onderdonk. The prominent divines named for the office are, Dr. Tyng of Philadelphia, supported by the Low Churchmen, and Dr. Bowman of Lancaster, the favorite of the High Churchmen.—The friends of both are eager and confident.—Other candidates are named, and among them, Rev. Thomas Atkinson, formerly of Virginia, now of Baltimore, and Prof. Potter of Union College.

WHICH IS THE BANNER DISTRICT?

The Monroe District puts in her claims and very strong they are. The Fincastle Democrat says:

"Ours is certainly the *Banner District* of the State. In the last House of Delegates the Whigs had *six* of the *eleven* members from this District, but now we have *ten* and the Whigs *one*, viz: Col. Callison of Greenbrier, and he elected by the Democratic vote."

The same paper announces the official majority of General Chapman for Congress as 1,693.

The Democrat also sets forth, as follows, its preference for Governor McDowell as United States Senator:

"UNITED STATES SENATOR.—In the Valley Star of the 8th instant, friend Letcher expresses his preference for William Smith, for the above office, that is, if the Senator is to come from the East,—if from the West, he goes for Judge I. S. Pennybacker, and has called upon his "brethren to speak out" on the subject. In reply, we beg leave to say, that while we concur with the Editor of the Star in what he has said of Mr. Smith and Judge Pennybacker, we prefer Governor McDowell, and we shall this week place his name at our mast head, there to remain until the matter is decided next Winter. We do hope that every man in Western Virginia will go for Governor McD., because the West has not had a Senator for a *great* number of years, and she is now entitled to one. And where, we ask, can Governor McDowell's superior be found? Neither in the East or the West. He has none in the State, and is well qualified to dignify and adorn the office.—His sterling Republicanism no man can doubt, who knows how long he has battled against the Federal cohorts of his native county, Rockbridge. We repeat, that his claims as a Western man are pre-eminent, and *we know* that he will reflect credit upon the Old Dominion' in his administration of the duties of any office that she may think proper to confer on him."

STRANGE CONFLICT OF LANGUAGE.

The Staunton Spectator, alluding to the melancholy fact, that only one Whig is elected to Congress from Virginia, says:

"Thus is the Gerrymander, imposed upon us by our opponents, for the first time successful.—When the present arrangement of the districts was made, it was designed by the Locos that the Whigs should have but a single member—not that they were disposed to do us even so much justice, but because they could not prevent it. Augusta and Loudoun could not both be managed.—One or the other, it was found, must carry a member—and so the preference was given to the latter. Its success now, however, is evidently owing to the apathy of the Whigs more than a want of strength. Several of the districts have been lost by small majorities, and the vote generally has been a thin one over the State."

Now, as to this frightful monster of a 'Gerrymander." The very reasoning of the Spectator refutes the idea of its existence. That paper states, that '*several* of the districts have been lost by small majorities," and that the Whig defeat is "evidently owing to the apathy of the Whigs more than a want of strength." Let the Spectator, then, turn all its blows upon its own Whig friends, who had the strength, but not the courage, to win the battle. *They* are to be blamed, and not the Democrats, who were guilty of no Gerrymander, as is clear from the evidence of the Spectator itself.

SIGNS OF BUSINESS.

We call attention to the advertisement of an auction sale, by Davenport & Allen, of a fine cargo of Sugars—the first cargo received *direct* for a long time. We take pleasure in noticing these cheering signs of the improving trade of Richmond.

INCENDIARIES AND FIRES.

We learn that on Saturday night last, the Barn of Mr. Norborne E. Sutton, in Henrico county, about a mile and a half from this city, was set on fire. The progress of the flames was so rapid, that the building was consumed, together with a quantity of provender, stored therein.

On Wednesday night last, a large fodder stack on the farm of Mr. Sutton was also set on fire and consumed. These depredations have necessarily excited suspicion, and we are glad to learn that there is some probability that the incendiary will be arrested.

We understand, that on Wednesday night last, a scheme had been laid to set fire to the Richmond Theatre. Some persons passing by about 9 o'clock, saw one of the doors open, which excited their curiosity—as there was no performance for that night. Upon investigating the matter, some one was heard moving about among the boxes: lights were obtained, and a search made, but the depredators had fled, (through a back door it is supposed,) leaving behind a quantity of combustibles prepared for the match.

We adopt, for ourselves, every word of the following bulletin, and hope our subscribers will act up to its suggestions:

OFFICE CHARLESTON MERCURY.

The new Post Office Law, going into operation on the 1st July, will deprive Postmasters of the privilege of franking.

We hope our country subscribers, in this and other States, and our agents, will avail themselves of the intermediate time to remit, through their respective Postmasters, the amounts due this office, and save us the heavy postage that must accrue after that period.

So large is the present indebtedness in the country, and so difficult its collection, that a reasonable attention to our interest will not admit of its being increased; and, on the 1st July next, the paper will be discontinued to all country subscribers owing above fifteen dollars.

The New York Herald erred in announcing the arrival of Mr. Everett from London by the Britannia.

For the Enquirer.

I have almost ceased to be surprised at any course of the Whig press, yet I have been indignantly astonished to see the following article copied into the two Whig papers of this city, the Whig and Compiler, without a word of comment from either. A more pure, unadulterated piece of black abolitionism has never come under my notice. It is every way worthy of Garrison & Co. The Whig Press, in all contests between this and foreign powers, have uniformly taken sides against their own country; and while they deprecate in the strongest terms, their opposition to war, they as uniformly pursue the very course most likely to bring about that which they would seemingly so much deprecate. They seem to take great pains to convince the British, that, in case of war, they will have the sympathies if not the aid, of much of our own population. Such is the spirit and the intent of the following incendiary article, copied by the editors of the two Whig papers of this city, for whom it will be no justification to state, that they published the article for its humor. Such a delicate question ought, on no account, to find its way into the newspapers, and no disguise can excuse the demoniac spirit which it breathes:

[*From Punch.*]

A WORD IN THE EAR OF MR. POLK.—Hearken, Mr. Polk, President of the United States of America, to a friendly whisper of advice from *Punch*. You have been lately expressing an intention of seizing on the Oregon territory; and, in defiance of the British lion, appropriating the lion's share. You have thereby caused the said lion to wag his tail and roar. Attend to that roar, Mr. Polk—mark that tail—be warned and beware. Run not your head into the lion's mouth. In other words, do not engage yourself in a contest with Great Britain.

In the first place, you want money to buy powder and shot; you have no national uncle, nor any body else, to lend you a six-pence; for those who lend six-pences expect to see them again.

Secondly, Mr. Polk, there is a circumstance on which it behooves you well to ponder. Among your glorious institutions, that of slavery is very conspicuous. You have a large negro population. That's a fact, sir, as your countrymen say; a great fact. You will hardly venture to arm your negroes. You dare not trust your slaves with arms. It would not be against the friends of freedom that they would direct those weapons. Would you expect them to fight for their chains and drivers, and to defend the law of Lynch? Do you calculate they would rally round the whipping-posts, and be faithful to their colors—the stripes?

On the contrary, does it not occur to you that England might present them with their freedom in cartouch boxes? We should need to send few men to Kentucky, if we sent plenty of muskets. Liberty, remember, is inscribed on the British flag; it would be awkward for you were we to hoist that flag in America.

You are yourself a slave owner Mr. Polk. What would be the effect of a proclamation of the O'Connell species, addressed to your "hereditary niggers?" Thing of that, Master Polk. No Sir; vapour, hector, bully, bluster, swagger, as much as you please. Shake your fist, cock your chin, make faces, take sights across the Atlantic at the "Britishers," and welcome. You will only divert us ourselves especially—by affording us subjects for jokes and caricatures. In a word, talk as long and as big as you like about going to war; but dont do it. If you do depend upon it, as *Richard the Third* says, "a black day will be for some body;" and who that somebody will be, you may pretty particularly considerably well guess.

RETURN OF AN OLD FRIEND.

Our readers will unite with us, in welcoming back to our columns the enlightened and elegant letters of our European Correspondent, from whom we have not heard for many months. He is now in the midst of scenes deeply interesting to the peace of the whole world, and we shall hereafter look to his philosophic pen, to expose the hidden motives of foreign diplomatists in their conduct towards the United States.

While we cannot go with him in his summary measures, and while we are in favor of continued negotiation, we thoroughly agree with him in the opinion, that this country should "present an undivided front, and bear a steady hand." Prudence and firmness should both mark our councils—and we should, by no means, resort to war, unless the continued blustering of Great Britain, which Agricola, with much justice, considers to be "for effect," should force that unpleasant alternative upon us. But the whole letter is full of interest, and we hand it over to our readers, to make their own comments:

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE—[No. XLII.]

"OUR OWN COUNTRY"—"ARM, BROTHERS, ARM!"

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

FANKFORT-ON-THE MAINE, April 30, 1845.

Dear Sirs:—In my numerous letters to you, whenever I have touched upon the subject, either directly or incidentally, I have expressed my belief, that under no conceivable circumstances would Great Britain wage a war with the United States. That opinion remains unchanged, notwithstanding the belligerent demonstration in Parliament on the evening of the 4th inst.

Mr. Polk, in his Inaugural Address, *before* he was President of the United States, remarked:—"Our title to the country of the Oregon is '*clear and unquestionable*'"—quoting the latter words as used, if I remember right, by John Quincy Adams, in his "Lay on Macduff" speech in the House, a short time previous. This sentence is regarded of sufficient importance in England to demand special legislative action—and the steamer is detained beyond her regular day of sailing, *expressly* for the purpose of carrying out "the emphatic declaration of the Government," which was received with *unanimous* satisfaction in the House of Lords, as well as Commons, "that Great Britain has rights in Oregon, and is prepared to maintain them."

The glove has thus been thrown down, and the most intense solicitude prevails on the continent, to see whether our government will take it up—or whether it will continue the negotiations commenced with Mr. Pakenham—or begin them anew upon the question. As relates to the *honor* of our country, no alternative is left us: The period of diplomatizing has gone by. Indeed, we have trifled with our national character, in having postponed the occupation of Oregon so long, for every person who has investigated the matter, is decidedly of opinion, that our title to the whole country is "clear and unquestionable." We should waste no more words: "Our voice should be in our swords!"

For the sake of *peace*—and for the sake of PEACE alone—we have delayed from time to time the extension of our laws over the country beyond the Rocky Mountains. The claim of G. Britain never has been, and never can be, I feel very certain, recognized as just to any portion of it between the 42d and 54th degrees. If we had even been disposed to yield what was clearly our own, we cannot now do so, without derogating from our fame throughout the civilized world. I wholly mistake my countrymen if there is not universal indignation among them, regardless of party, at the *threats* conveyed in the British despatch of the 5th April. They will show England that they can be as united, as if they were but one man, on great and important questions. The greedy Lion reckoned beyond his host, when he imagines he will find them disloyal and disaffected to the constituted authorities.

While I am confident, Great Britain will "show the white feather," notwithstanding her vaunted power and greatness, it is the duty of the United States to prepare for the worst. If she should attack us, let us be in a position to defend ourselves as becomes freemen—as becomes Washington's sons. The God of battles will stand by us as he did during the revolution; for we have a just cause. We are actuated by no selfishness in securing Oregon: we want it only as a means of imparting liberty and happiness to the human family—of extending our political and religious institutions to the verge of the Western horizon.—If these are of that worth at which I estimate them, they are destined, like the light of Heaven, to cover the whole universe in coming time.

How proud I feel of such a country, (and who would not fight for it?) when I see the oppressed of Europe casting their eyes towards it as their last hope; when I see the industrious husbandman economizing in every imaginable way, in order to realize sufficient means to procure a home there for his wife and children! Ah! what blessings will not Oregon bestow, under our liberal system of government, on thousands of honest German peasants, who carry with them the most valuable of all treasure—an ability and disposition to develope the latent resources of the earth!

The impression is very general, that if hostilities commence between England and the United States, all Europe will ultimately be involved in war. France, it is thought, would not consent to see our ports blockaded, (a measure which would assuredly be attempted,) in the state of her commerce with us. She consumes as much of our cotton alone, as we exported to Great Britain in 1825; and she would endeavor to extend the consumption of it, and thereby build up a rival interest in manufactures, to that of England. Germany, Russia, Spain, Austria, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, each have large commercial intercourse with us, and would not permit it to be suspended by the interference of any power. Under no state of the case, could Great Britain come out of a war triumphantly; but, on the contrary, she would lose Canada, and possibly her other North American colonies, and forfeit her high position for strength in the world's estimation.—As much as I despise her avarice and insincerity, it will be no pleasing spectacle to me, to behold the train of evils which will ensue to her from an attack upon the United States, and she cannot, without great want of foresight, seriously meditate a step so utterly suicidal.

If there is any thing calculated to mortify a genuine American abroad, it is the marvellous ignorance of persons hailing from his country, relative to its true moral and physical condition.—Most of those I meet with have been absentees from home for many years, and probably never will return—making their citizenship a mere convenience. They have imbibed, generally, British notions, and do us more injury than the subjects of Kings, who have been taught from infancy to detest our character. There are others, foreigners by birth and education, who have gone to the United States, made large fortunes, been naturalized, and return to Europe to pass the remainder of ther lives. Some of them, particularly, in Germany, have sought and obtained Consulships under our Government, without perhaps understanding our laws, or ever having read the Constitution. They desire office for the consequence which it bestows, without receiving any fees, or performing any duties. One of these contemptible fellows ventured to remark to me, a day or two since, as though the thought was father to the wish: "Well, John Bull is going to give us a d—l of a licking." Another one, who had been in a very important consulate, and who had been forty years from the U. States, said to me: "I used to pride myself upon my country; but it has become so justly disreputable, that I am ashamed to hail from it any longer." I would sooner part with my right arm, than extend it to such creatures in a spirit of brotherly regard. It is imperative upon Congress to enact a law, when it convenes, to compel absentees, who have been out of the country longer than five years, to return immediately, on pain of forfeiting their citizenship. Silly, blabbing magpies, should not be permitted to appear in the plumage of the noble bird of Jove.

None but *bona fide* citizens, and only those who are natives, should be appointed to offices, however important or however insignificant, abroad. At home no distinction should be made, when the qualifications are equal, between naturalized foreigners and natives, because they are under the immediate superintendence of the government: but abroad, the former assume airs wholly unbecoming Americans, and fail to command that respect which should attach to their position. Every day I see more and more to convince me that there should be a limited period for our Ministers, Secretaries of Legation and Consuls to serve—and that they should be ineligible to re-appointment to any post abroad. The term of a Minister should be four years, (unless recalled for satisfactory reasons, which should be made to appear,) but should not be permitted to extend beyond eight; Secretaries of Legation should continue in office the same length of time. Consuls, inasmuch as they are not salaried, and get no outfit, should be appointed for eight years, and made ineligible after twelve. We have Ministers in Europe who have been absent from home eighteen and twenty years—and Consuls who have been abroad thirty. They can have no more correct idea of what America is at present than the Emperor of Russia, who has never been there—and they have, consequently, no sentiments in common with the great body of the nation. Their feelings are alienated, and they cannot appreciate our true interests. Talk of Oregon and Texas to them, and they hold up their hands and exclaim, "We shall be involved in war! What use have we for so much territory? Great Britain won't suffer such things!" Send individuals fresh from the people, who have the firmness to take the bull by the horns, and the time is not distant when the slanderers of our fame would be effectually broken down in Europe.

You will see by the papers that the cotton market is somewhat agitated, with slightly advanced prices, and consols rather flat. This is occasioned by a belief, that the Great Western will bring any thing but pacific accounts from Washington. It is well to be prepared for the worst; but in closing this letter, I will not conceal my conviction, that the proceedings in Parliament were nothing more than a display of words, to silence the clamor of the Whigs, and that the Ministry, by having manifested some spirit, will be enabled the more readily to reconcile the opposition to the relinquishment of all claims upon Oregon. Let the United States, more than at any period of their history, present an undivided front, and bear a steady hand, and they will dispel, without the loss of a drop of blood, the last speck of war which will probably ever be seen upon the horizon. It will be recollected, that Great Britain assumed high ground in relation to Texas; yet, as soon as the resolutions pass for its annexation, she lowers her pretensions, and says it is a question over which she has no control.

Yours truly, AGRICOLA.

Communicated.

RICHMOND COLLEGE.

With a good many ladies and gentlemen, I availed myself of an invitation, kindly extended to the public, to attend a debate of the Columbian Society of this College, on Friday night last. I do not know when I have been more highly gratified, than I was upon that occasion. This Institution has been sorely afflicted, in the last month or so, with Scarlet Fever (a disease which prevades all places, and at all seasons,) but Health has again resumed her sway; and the College is in a flourishing condition. It is really gratifying, that an Institution of so much merit, should exhibit such evident signs of prosperity. I should judge it to be deserving great encouragement from the public generally, for, as a classical school, it ranks deservedly high.

The orator selected to address the Society, was Mr. Robert Payne Waring, of King William, a young man of very prepossessing appearance, with a fine eye, and an intellectual cast of countenance, and as I learn, a near blood relation of the lamented Spencer Roane. The subject was, the Age in which we live, which he handled in a most satisfactory manner, evidently evincing a mind quick, comprehensive and philosophical—I should think, his morning promises a brilliant and distinguished evening.

The comparative results of the French Revolution, were discussed very satisfactorially by four other young gentlemen, in the regular order of debate—Messrs. Cabaniss, Locket, Weaver and Owens—each acquitted himself with credit, and had I time, it would give me great pleasure, to specify particularly the admirable manner, in which these gentlemen conducted the debate.

May, 1845 A VISITOR.

The Whig, respectfully requested to copy.

[*From the Louisville Journal.*]

THE SOUTHERN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

LOUISVILLE, May 16.

Fourteenth day.—The convention met pursuant to adjournment, Bishop Soule in the chair.

On motion of Mr. Bryant, the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole for the purpose of resuming the unfinished business of yesterday, Rev. J. James in the chair. After considering the report on Missions, particularly the location for the Parent Mission, a large number of cities being named and their claims advocated, the vote was finally demanded.

The first place nominated was Petersburg.—The question to make that place the Parent Missionary Station being put, only 18 rose in its favor. Louisville was next in order. For making this city the Parent Station, a large majority of the convention arose.

The chair announced the vote to be in favor of constituting Louisville the Parent Station of Missions.

The points for two Assistant Treasurers were then decided to be Charleston and New Orleans.

The report was read as amended in committee of the whole, adopted, and on motion the committee rose and reported the same to the convention, Bishop Soule in the chair. On motion by Mr. Lee, the report was laid on the table until the report on organization shall have been disposed of.

SOUTHWESTERN ROAD.—The Wytheville Whig says: "Southwestern Virginia will present an unbroken front, in favor of the Southwestern Road in the next Legislature. Every man elected in this quarter of the State goes for this road as the great saviour of this region from utter prostration."

OFFICIAL.

NAVY DEPARTMENT—ORDERS, &c.

MAY 20.

Passed Assistant Surgeon J. J. Brownlee, permission to return from the coast of Brazil.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Jas. McClelland, to Brazil squadron, to relieve Passed Assistant Surgeon Brownlee.

Midshipman Samuel Wilcox, returned from coast of Africa and leave three months.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery,
May 21, 1845.

The Naval Medical Board of Examiners, which convened at Philadelphia, May the 1st, for the examination of assistant surgeons for promotion, adjourned on Friday last.

The following candidates were examined, and found qualified for promotion:

Dr. Charles J. Bates, of the date of March, 1838.

Dr. James McClelland, of the date of March, 1838.

Dr. J. O'Connor Barclay, of the date of October, 1839.

Dr. William A. Nelson, of the date of October 1839.

REMOVALS AND APPOINTMENTS.

We go for Polk out and out. We were gratified at his nomination, unspeakably pleased with his election, and so far, we are perfectly satisfied with his administration. Cliques—intriguing, meddlesome cliques, have been a curse to our party and the country for years. Thank Heaven, they are scattered and powerless now! The action of the glorious Baltimore Convention was the death of them. They have not been able to rally since; and we earnestly hope that the President will keep all officious characters at arm's length, and administer the Government himself.

We are sorry to see an inclination in some quarters to re-establish the system of irresponsible dictation, which the people have so emphatically condemned; and we are sorry too, that the Whig press can find no better employment than endeavoring to manufacture those mischievous party factions of which it once expressed so profound a horror. Every effort is made to call up old jealousies, and enkindle old animosities, by charging the President with an unequal distribution of the "spoils." Mr. Polk ought not to give a feather's weight importance to the representations of the hangers-on about the Metropolis. He should look beyond these, to the people—those who labored for him as the exponent of certain measures, and not as the distributor of the spoils of victory. They care less for the political character of subordinate officers, than for the success of the *principles* they have labored to establish; and we believe nothing could be more unpopular and impolitic, than for Mr. Polk to adopt the sanguinary counsel of some of his professed friends.—If Whigs are to be removed, ten to one, the least worthy of the Democratic party will get their places, in spite of the utmost vigilance of the Executive and his Cabinet. There is a certain class of offices which belongs of right to the party in power; of course they will be properly filled; but beyond these, what matters it, whether the occupant be a Democrat or Whig? If a good Whig officer is now in, a change for a mercenary Democrat would certainly be no improvement.—The Whig Party is entitled to little clemency we know—we ask it not for them; but we believe that proscription for opinion sake *ought* to be unpopular, and *will* be unpopular; and we hope it will be "*proscribed*" as the most effectual means of fixing the Administration fast in the affections of the *whole* people, and of securing an easy succession of Democratic ascendancy. Such a policy might irritate the camp-followers of the party, but the virtuous *mass* will approve and applaud. No President ever had it so perfectly in his power *to do right*, as Mr. Polk. His true friends are able and determined to sustain him, both against the assaults of open political foes, and the insiduous attacks of disappointed factions among ourselves.—[*Fredericksburg Recorder.*

FROM HAVANA.—Havana dates to the 6th inst. On the 21st ult., the French frigate Andromede, steamship Tonnere, and corvette Nayade, commanded by Rear Admiral Laplace, were at Puerto Rico. The Governor of that Island had paid a visit to the French Admiral, by whom he was entertained with a grand banquet. Trade was said to be very flourishing at Puerto Rico, owing to the great demand for sugar, &c., both for Europe and the United States. The commercial advices from Havana are not different from our last. Five hundred kegs of lard had been taken for Matanzas at $15. The Aurora of Matanzas states that great rejoicings were about to take place on the occasion of the completing of the Sabanilla Railroad.

THE OLD CUSTOM HOUSE.—The buildings formerly occupied as the Custom House, in Second street below Walnut, were sold last evening by Moses Thomas & Son, at the Philadelphia Exchange, for the sum of $32,300.

[*Philadelphia Sentinel.*

The STATE CONVENTION yesterday passed finally on the New Constitution, and will proceed this morning to certify the official copy with the signatures of the several members. The instrument was adopted on its final reading by a large majority, 55 members voting in the affirmative, to 15 in the negative—7 being absent.

[*New Orleans Bulletin, May 15.*

DREADFUL CATASTROPHE AT YARMOUTH, ENGLAND.—The London Sun of the evening of May 3d contains a letter from Norwich, written the previous evening, from which the following is an extract:

"The most awful excitement pervades this city. A most dreadful accident has occurred at Yarmouth. Mr. Nelson, the clown belonging to Mr. Cook's Circus, now at Yarmouth, announced the performance of being drawn by four geese in the North river. The suspension bridge crosses this river, and about 518 people were on the bridge, when, between 5 and 6 o'clock, the bridge fell in. It is reported that 100 to 150 persons perished. The utmost consternation exists here; special trains have started; the telegraph is beset by hundreds anxious to obtain news of relatives and friends. The report is, that already fifty-three persons have been picked out dead. It is thought many more are still in the river.

FRESH WATER IN BOSTON.—It was put to a vote in Boston, on Monday, whether or not that city should have pure fresh water, *a la Croton.*—It was decided in the negative, by 3,999 to 3,690—majority against fresh water 309. This decision is not a little curious. Boston is in want of water, and it can be carried into that city for a song, compared to what New York had to pay for the Croton. It is very likely, however, that the striped pigism of our little neighbor yet exerts a powerful influence on her welfare.—[*N. Y. Herald.*

A sad accident occured on the Ashton branch of the Sheffield and Manchester Railway on the 19th. Nine of the great arches fell in and buried a number of persons in the mines. From eighteen to twenty persons were killed. The