THIRTIETH CONGRESS—First Session.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1848.

SENATE.

Mr. Dickinson presented a petition from citizens of N. York, praying the erection of a buoy.

Mr. Turney, from the Committee on Patents, reported a bill to extend a patent to Jethro Wood. The bill having been read a first time, Mr. Turney asked that it might be put on his passage at once. The bill was read a second time, when Mr. Allen moved to strike out the enacting clause, which motion was rejected—yeas 16, nays 26.—The bill was then passed over informally.

Mr. Benton gave notice that he would, to-morrow, ask leave to introduce a bill to amend the 61st and 69th rules in the articles of war.

The Army Bill was again taken up, when

Mr. Dix addressed the Senate. He said there were two questions which mainly divided the public mind. 1st. The propriety of withdrawing our forces from the Mexican territory altogether, and 2dly, whether we shall retain all the territory we have taken possession of, as the means of securing peace. The first has been answered affirmatively on this floor, and by a statesman retired from public life, and whose opinions are entitled to great weight. He had, in deliberation, come to a different conclusion. He was in favor of retaining all we have acquired, not permanently, but as a means of securing peace. No policy which will not secure peace shall receive the support of the Senate. He did not intend to go into the question of the origin of the war, which, from the moment of commencement, he saw could not be terminated until after a fair trial of strength. He referred to the readiness with which our countrymen, from the plough, the work-shop and the law office, had rushed into the field, and asserted that the results of this enthusiasm had been glorious beyond all parallel.

He then proceeded to state his objections to the plan of withdrawing our troops. He believed such a measure, instead of accelerating, would postpone the prospect of peace.

He took a brief view of the various parties in Mexico, their character, their views, and their strength. The re-establishment of any of the turbulent parties in power would be most calamitous in its effect on Mexico, and would certainly retard a peace. The Federalists, he believed, had evinced a disposition to continue the war mostly from a desire to put down the Centralists. He was disposed to treat with the Federalists, whom he believed to be honest. He distrusted the good faith of the Centralists. Withdraw our troops, and the party feuds would be renewed with more than the usual bitterness; and the probability of interference by foreign powers would be increased. The President had vouched upon this peril, and he was disposed to coincide with him.

To sustain him in this view, he quoted M. Guizot's declaration respecting the balance of power, which declaration was at variance with all the known rules of international law, and which could not be made applicable to our hemisphere. Mexico, one of the States of Spanish origin, is the field on which this foreign interference has been invoked. He contended that this doctrine of a balance of power was of modern discovery. It has sprung up within the last two centuries, and has been acted on by European nations in the regulation of the powers on that continent, sometimes beneficially, but for the most part injuriously. He took a glance at the various writers on the laws of nations, to show that the idea was not entertained by any of them when their works were written.

It was a mere right of weaker nations to sustain themselves against powerful neighbors, and had resulted from circumstances, and not from any provision of international law. But when it is used for purposes of aggression and tyranny, it ought to be checked, on account of its injurious tendency. Yet history informs us that, instead of being confined to weaker nations, it has been resorted to by powerful nations, for the subjugation of the weaker. He instanced, in particular, the partition of Poland, the details of which he went into, and the course which the different powers had taken, until the very name of that country no longer appears in the map of Europe.

Our country has hitherto refrained from any notice of the acts of European sovereignties, so long as they have been confined to their own continent, but when the principle is threatened to be applied to our hemisphere, it becomes our duty to interpose. He expressed his belief that the theory of M. Guizot was sustained by the King of France. He referred to a work written by a member of the French diplomacy, called the "Exploration of Mexico," from which he quoted, to show that, in the opinion of the writer, it would be for the interest of France that Mexico should be under a sovereign, and if that could not be effected, that she should be annexed to the United States. Without charging the French Government with all these views, he deemed it unlikely that they would have been promulgated without the sanction of that government.

Looking at these facts and at the course of France and Spain within a few years, in reference to some parts of South America, he could not but come to the conclusion that there would be great danger of foreign intervention, should we withdraw our troops. Any such intervention would be productive of much more serious events than we have yet experienced. We should be compelled to make resistance by the force of public opinion, to sustain a declaration made by our government forty years ago. It is true that, in the history of Europe, such resistance has not always been attended by war; sometimes the entering of a protest has been deemed sufficient.—But in our case, it would inevitably lead to a conflict.

He next adverted to the policy of Great Britain, and her innovating policy with regard to the Musquitoes on the coast of Honduras. The Musquito territory embraces 40,000 square miles. He referred to the protest entered by Nicaragua and San Salvador against this encroachment on the territory of Central America. The king had, when dying, bequeathed that territory to the king of Great Britain, who had placed on the throne a Queen who had spread her possessions further into Central America, in defiance of this protest.

He referred then to the movement of Lord Wm. Bentwick to force Spanish colonies to pay claims to British subjects. Lord B. stated that war was not the only mode of obtaining payment, but that the possession of Cuba would be sufficient; and his views were sustained by Lord Palmerston to a considerable extent. He glanced at the offensive allusion made by Lord Palmerston to the non-payment of their debts by some of our States, which was made at the very moment when we were sending cargoes of food to the famishing people of Ireland.

He concluded, from all these facts, that the withdrawal of our troops from Mexico might lead to some innovations on the part of foreign governments even on the soil of Mexico.

There would be difficient views entertained as to the action we ought to take on the declaration of foreign governments, but it would be a great error of statesmanship in us entirely to overlook them. There may be an early peace, and it may be said that in that case our troops would be withdrawn, and the same danger would be incurred. This might not be, as Mexico may not be actuated by the same views when at peace, that she would if the war should be continued. He looked at the rapidity with which England had spread herself over the globe; in India, to Afghanistan, and even contemplating an extension thro, Persia to the shores of the Tigris. She has planted herself in the Celestial Empire ostensibly for commerce only, but in reality for political power. Her dependencies encircle the globe—She spreads her commerce as Mahomet did his religion, by fire and sword. Happily, the civilization which distinguishes her at home, goes with her and lessens the evils of her march.

With France we have been on most amicable terms. The swords of many of her gallant sons have gone into the field with the swords of our own citizens, in the support of our own rights.—La Fayette, Rochambeau, De Grasse, D'Estang, are names which must ever be dear to us. He did not wish to be understood as animated by any hostile feeling in his reference to England and France. He had merely spoken of them historically.

He then went on to speak on the question of indemnity. Although not originally one of the objects of the war, it did not become us now to abandon the principle of indemnity, which would be abandoned by the total withdrawal of our troops from Mexico.

While in favor of obtaining territory, he was opposed to holding territory. He was opposed to carrying on war for the conquest of territory.—We have a right to a boundary—to an indemnity for wrongs—to an indemnification for the expenses of the war, if we insist on it. Beyond this we have no right—and if we take more than will avail for these objects, we are bound to make restitution. On this and some other points he agreed generally with the Senator from South Carolina—especially as to the danger which threatened our own institutions from a state of war. He particularly regretted this war. We hvae been long engaged in carrying on a republican system, and it is the only theatre in which free institutions has ever been established with a perfect success.

He thought we should retain possession of the country as far as we had gone, and of the mines, until peace could be obtained. For this purpose 40,000 men would be required to be in organization, 30,000 of them in the field. We have now not more than 24,000 effectives in the field. He was in favor of the bill before the Senate, because he considered it necessary to make up the number which was required. He concluded with an eloquent burst on the prospects of our country.

Mr. Phelps next obtained the floor.

The amendatory act regulating passengers in merchant vessels, was passed, with the House amendment, excepting from restrictions of previous act, vessels in the employ of the Colonization Society.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Speaker said the first business in order was Mr. Donnell's motion offered yesterday to reconsider the vote by which the House had agreed to stop the debate on the President's message this day at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Howell Cobb moved to lay the motion on the table.

Mr. Boyd moved a call of the House.

This motion was decided in the negative, yeas 71, nays 118.

The question on Mr. Cobb's motion was then taken by yeas and nays and decided in the negative—yeas 96, nays 100.

The question then recurred on Mr. Donnell's motion, which was decided in the affirmative—yeas 102, nays 98.

The resolution limiting the debate on the President's message was then laid on the table, by the following vote—yeas 105, nays 95.

The Speaker laid before the House sundry communications on various subjects, which were ordered to be printed.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and proceeded to the consideration of the President's message.

Mr. Palfrey being entitled to the floor, entered into a discussion of the subject of Slavery—and replied to what he designated as a "set" speech of Mr. Clingman. He said Mr. C. was the first to introduce the subject of slavery this Congress.—Mr. Palfrey's speech was remarkable for its statistical information.

Mr. Brodhead next took the floor; but he had spoken on the subject before.

Mr. Henley followed. He replied to Mr. Tompkins—defended the President's course, and abused the Whigs roundly.

Mr. R. W. Thompson next took the floor, when the committee rose, and the House adjourned.

LEGISLATURE OF VIRGINIA.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1848.

SENATE.

Mr. BONDURANT, from the committee on Internal Improvement, reported the following bills:

A bill directing a subscription by the Commonwealth of two-fifths of the additional capital of the Shepardstown and Smithfield Turnpike Company, with an amendment;

A bill to revive and amend the act passed April the 24, 1839, incorporating the Grave Creek Turnpike Company;

A bill to incorporate the Point Pleasant and Ripley Turnpike Company;

A bill to provide for Macadamising the Northwestern turnpike;

A bill making an appropriation for Bridges on the Staunton and Parkersburg Road;

A bill to incorporate the Walker's Creek and Holston Turnpike Company, with amendments.

SEABOARD AND ROANOKE RAILROAD CO.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill concerning this company.

Mr. KINNEY'S amendment respecting a regulation of the fare on this and other Railroads, was the pending question.

Mr. THOMPSON moved so to amend as to give the Petersburg Railroad Company one year to accept the provisions of an act of last year.

A long debate took place on this and other amendments, between Messrs. DANIEL, CAPERTON, THOMPSON, WOOLFOLK, WITCHER, KINNEY, CARLILE, GALLAHER, BARBEE, STANARD and KANE, when Mr. Daniel offered a compromise proposition, which was voted upon in opposition to that offered by Mr. Kinney, and adopted.

The question then came upon the amendment, as amended, which was carried—ayes 18, noes 12.

Mr. WOOLFOLK offered a new section, authorizing the Board of Public Works to authorize the Attorney General to institute process against companies violating their charter.

Mr. DANIEL and Mr. THOMPSON opposed the amendment.

Supported by Mr. WOOLFOLK, and negatived.

The bill was then read the third time and passed.

A CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION.

Mr. CARLILE offered his resolutions, formerly read, in reference to the House of Delegates in admitting two members from Fairfax and Alexandria.

Mr. BONDURANT raised the point of order formerly raised, but before any decision was had, after remarks from Messrs. STANARD, CARLILE, and others, the Senate, on motion of Mr. BONDURANT, adjourned.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from Hartwell Carver relative to the construction of a railroad to Oregon, which was laid upon the table.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. SCOTT, from the committee for Courts of Justice, presented the following bills:

A bill to amend the act entitled "An act to amend the act entitled 'an act to reduce into one the several acts concerning mills, mill dams and other obstructions to water courses,' passed March 20, 1846;

A bill changing the time of holding the Circuit Superior Court of Floyd county;

Mr. BURWELL, from the committee on Schools and Colleges, presented a report rejecting the petition of Samuel H. Martin.

Mr. LANIER, from the committee on Propositions and Grievances, presented reports adverse to the petitions of citizens of the town of Darkesville, of the town of Romney, and of members of Harmony Lodge, No. 19, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. DORMAN, from the committee on Finance, presented a report upon the memorial of the State Temperance Convention, held in Richmond on the 20th of October, 1847, declaring it inexpedient to legislate upon the subject.

Mr. OLDHAM, from the committee on Claims, reported the following bills:

A bill authorizing the payment of a certain sum of money to James I. Bristow, deputy for M. C. Booth, Sheriff of Middlesex;

A bill authorizing the payment of a certain sum of money to Peter B. Forbes.

Mr. SYME, from the committee on Banks, reported a bill to establish a Bank at Weston in the county of Lewis.

Mr. DARRACOTT, from the committee on Agriculture and Manufactures, reported a bill incorporating the "Planters' Factory."

Mr. MEREDITH, according to order presented "a bill extending the jurisdiction of Justice of the Peace.

CONTESTED ELECTION FROM HARRISON AND DODDRIDGE.

Upon motion of Mr. EDGINGTON, the report of the committee of Privileges and Elections upon the contested election from Harrison and Doddridge, was taken up and made the order of the day for Monday next.

MEHERRIN NAVIGATION COMPANY.

On motion of Mr BARBOUR, the rule of the House was suspended, and the vote rejecting the engrossed bill to incorporate the "Meherrin Navigation Company" was re-considered, and the question being put upon the passage of the bill, it was decided in the affirmative—yeas 47, nays 44.

NEW JUDICIAL CIRCUITS.

The bill to create the 22d and 23d Judicial circuits, with the substitute proposed therefor, reported by the committee for Courts of Justice was taken up, on motion of Mr. PRICE, and the substitute having been read was agreed to. The question being then on the bill as amended by the substitute, a debate took place between Messrs. PARKS PRIOR TUNSTALL, DORMAN, SCOTT, BURWELL, FLOYD and GRIER.

Mr. DORMAN moved the following resolution, but afterwards withdrew it, stating that he fully acquiesced in the propriety of affording the relief proposed by the substitute, and would effect his object at another time:

Resolved, That the bill be recommitted to a select committee, with instructions to equalize the labors of the judges of the General Court throughout the Commonwealth, and to create, if necessary, new Judicial Circuits; and also to consider the expediency of increasing the salary of such judges as perform such extraordinary labor as to merit it.

The question upon the passage of the bill as amended, was then decided in the affirmative, by a large majority.

On motion of Mr. DORMAN, the bill to create the 23d Judiciary Circuit was taken up; and, after being read a second time, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the bill be recommitted to a select committee, with instructions to enquire into the expediency of equalizing, as far as practicable, the labors of the judges of the General Court; and also to consider the propriety of the creation of new circuits.

On motion of Mr SCOTT, the bill changing the time of holding the Circuit Superior Courts of Franklin, was taken up and passed.

A bill authorizing Thomas Wynn to erect a wharf and bridge on James River, in the county of James City, was taken up in regular order, and passed.

Also, a bill changing the time of holding the Superior Courts of the counties of Wayne, Cabell and Boone counties.

Mr. NEWTON presented the petition of merchants and others, of the city of Norfolk, for the restoration of the Pilot Laws of 1836, or certain amendments to the present law, which was referred to the committee to revise the Pilot Laws.

On motion of Mr. HAYMOND, the vote of the House concurring with the adverse report of the Committee of Courts, on the petition of Wm. Johnson, was reconsidered, and the petition laid upon the table.

On motion of Mr. MARTZ, the rules were suspended for the purpose of taking up the bill authorizing an enlargement of the capital stock of the Louisa Railroad Company, and the bill was read a first and second time by its title and recommitted, Mr. HAYMOND stating that its friends desired to make some amendments to it.

The bill for increasing the compensation of commissioners of the revenue for the county of Lee was taken up and passed.

On motion of Mr. LANIER, the House adjourned.

RICHMOND, VA.

Friday Morning, January 28, 1848.

THE LONDON DAILY NEWS vs. GENUINE "NATIVE" BORN AMERICAN WHIGS.

Nothing would have brought down upon the head of a Democrat the bitter denunciation of the Whig leaders more than for him to have said, at the time Congress declared that the war existed by the act of Mexico, that the Whig party could not be trusted in a vigorous prosecution of the war for full indemnity for the many wrongs Mexico had inflicted upon us, and that so far from it, their leaders would, before the close of the year 1847, be found exerting their powerful talents to establish the point that Mexico was in the right and our government in the wrong about the war. The Whigs would have then said, that such a charge was a foul libel upon their honor and patriotism; and if the Democrat had added that a leading British Journal would be found doing more justice to the United States than the leading Whig Journals, he would have been a lucky man if he had not so far provoked the Whigs by such a statement, as to cause them to make an attack upon him for thus outraging their patriotism; and, yet, had such a prediction been made, how fully would it have been realized. We will allow facts to speak for themselves.

We take from the London Daily News, the following extract from a very able article in that paper of the 7th December last, and present it in contrast with the conduct of the Whig party in the House of Representatives; by which it will be seen that that party could not consent to vote the old hero, General Taylor, a medal for his brilliant achievement at Monterey, without amending the resolution, with the view to disgrace our government. In this they have failed, but their vote will leave a lasting disgrace upon them:

WHIG PATRIOTISM.

[*From the London News.*]

In this War the Mexicans have been beaten at all hands. In a wonderfully short time, with seemingly most inadequate means, the Americans have made themselves masters of four Northern States of the Mexican Union, of all the Mexican seaboard on the Gulf of Mexico, and of the Capital of the Republic. The Mexican armies have been again and again beaten and broken up. There is no real Mexican Government. The Americans—conquerors in a regular war—are, by all the laws of Grotius, entitled to dictate the terms of peace. They have fought well, and they have fought fairly. Had they not obtained a final and unequivocal recognition of their sovereignty in Oregon, policy would have taught them to be contented with the frontier of the Rio Grande. But, as sovereigns of Oregon, the annexation of San Fernando is an object to them; they hold, and can continue to hold, that harbor and the intervening territory towards their frontier; and there can be little doubt that they will exact the cession, at least on the part of Mexico, as a compensation for the expenses the war has entailed upon them.

We do not take upon us to say, that there has been nothing in the conduct of the United States, throughout these transactions, of which Mexico has not cause to complain; but we could show that Mexico has repeatedly given just cause of complaint to the United States. And Mexico, in the wilful ignorance of vanity, has provoked a collision with a power far its overmatch in strength. Even yet, though drubbed in a manner of which women might be ashamed, the rulers of Mexico (if any there be) appear unaware of how entirely they have been beaten. They seem not disinclined to protract indefinitely, not a struggle, but the settlement of a definitive peace. And the consequence of this folly can only be the exaction of still heavier concessions by their antagonists.

The Mexicans have their own want of prudence and energy to thank for the scrape they have got into. That the United States are resolved to turn the blunders of their rivals to account, may not square with the dictates of an ideal morality; but, for proposing to retain their hold upon the Northern part of California, where is the State entitled to throw the first stone at them? Not France, while it retains the Palatinate on one hand, and Algeria on the other; not Prussia, while it holds fast the Saxon province; not Russia, while it reigns at Warsaw; not England, while it retains half its colonies, to say nothing of India. It is ridiculous the attempt to make that a crime on the part of the Government at Washington, which, in the case of European Governments, is allowed to be the inevitable consequence of the more powerful nation in all cases of international quarrel, being obliged to be judge in its own cause.

How striking is the contrast! A British press says, 'Mexico, in wilful ignorance of vanity, has provoked a collision with a power far its over match in strength," and again, "The Mexicans have their own want of prudence and energy to thank for the scrape they have got into." And yet again, "It is ridiculous the attempt to make that a crime on the part of the government at Washington, which, in the case of European governments, is allowed to be the inevitable consequence of the more powerful nation in all cases of international quarrel being oblied to be judge in its own cause." And then turn to "Native"-born American Whigs and hear them denouncing their own country and justifying Mexico and abusing our people as "land stealers" and "murderers" and "robbers." The unprejudiced reader must come to the conclusion that the bitterness of prejudice and the lust for office must both be very strong when it so far deadens the impulses of patriotism as to cause Americans, native born or adopted, thus to commit "moral treason" against our country which so well deserves the love of all her citizens.

Ashmun's Amendment. Mr. Houston's resolution of thanks to General Taylor, as amended by Mr. Ashmun, and adopted by the Whig majority in the House of Representatives, reads thus:

"*Resolved*, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be struck a gold medal, with devices emblematical of this splendid achievement, (the capture of Monterey,) and presented to Major General Taylor as a testimony of the high sense entertained by Congress of his judicious and distinguished conduct on that memorable occasion, 'IN A WAR UNNECESSARILY AND UNCONSTITUTIONALLY BEGUN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.'"

The amendment was adopted by a vote of 85 to 81; Messrs. Botts, Goggin, Preston and Fulton voting for it.

We refer to Whig orators and presses *passim* for denunciations of the war as "atrocious, God-abhorred, damnable, aggressive, rapine, murder, plunder, robbery, &c."

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO LIEUT. JOSEPH SELDEN.

With the assistance of the faithful and intelligent Secretary, W. F. Watson, Esq., we, yesterday morning, after several hours' labor, gathered up the fragments, the *disjecta membra* of the dinner, and prepared an extended report of the proceedings at this most agreeable *re-union* of the friends of our very popular and distinguished townsman, Lieut. Selden. When we had concluded, we found that it was too late, without losing all the mails, to publish to-day the large budget of materials. We are, therefore, much to our regret, compelled to defer them until to-morrow. The same reason will account for our meagre editorials, for which we substitute the favors of our correspondents and the animated voice of the Democracy, responding to the call for a State Convention.

In the meanwhile we can freely say, that we were never present at a more joyous or more pleasant, social meeting. The "poor lieutenant," as Mr. L. E. Harvie aptly described him, should have felt, as we doubt not he did, more true joy at this spontaneous and overflowing compliment to the *man* from his devoted friends, than had he been invested with all the influence and power of superior rank. It was a gushing tribute from those who knew him well from boyhood, not only to the brave soldier who had shed his blood for his country's rights and honor, but to the modest citizen, the sincere friend, the generous and disinterested patriot. It was the highest compliment we have ever seen paid by the citizens of Richmond, and as such, we are satisfied Lieut. Selden welcomed and appreciated the demonstration of regard.

The elegant dinner took place at the City Hotel on Wednesday evening. About one hundred and fifty persons sat down to three tables—forming one of the finest and most respectable companies we have ever seen collected around a dinner table. The middle table was beautifully decked with pyramids of cake, decorated with American flags and inscribed with the words "Virginia." Champagne and other wines were kept in rapid motion—and the toasts and speeches were drunk, amidst storms of patriotism and good feeling. The excellent band of music, attached to Capt. Dimmock's Public Guard, enlivened the evening with their beautiful airs.

Wm. M. Macfarland, Esq., presided with grace and spirit, and was efficiently aided by Vice Presidents L. E. Harvie, Patton, Lyons, R. W. Haxall and G. A. Myers. The guests of the evening were Gov. Smith, Mr. Jenifer of Md., ex-minister to Austria; Lieut. Johnson, U. S. A.; Capt. Carrington, [Virginia Regiment] Mr. Chas. Selden, brother of Lieut. S.; Speakers Cox of the Senate and Strother of the House, and the Mayor of the city. The President's address was in fine taste—and Lieut. Selden's reply was marked with modesty and grateful feeling. Indeed, all the speeches of the evening [and they were of the most various character,] were animated and appropriate. Gov. Smith was in his happiest and most *gallant* vein—and Mr. Patton was never more humorous or more skillful in his *hits*. His witty amendments of some of the regular toasts kept the meeting in a roar.

In a word, all was gaiety and good feeling, but never passing the bounds of moderation and propriety. A little after 10, P. M., the meeting was dissolved; but some of the gallant cavaliers (old and young) adjourned to the parlor, where the fair ladies of the House joined in a merry dance, to the stirring strains of the Armory Band.

It was, we repeat, one of the most pleasant meetings we have seen, and certainly as high a compliment to the gallant Selden as he could have wished for, or received. He now stands fully endorsed for promotion by the City of Richmond and State of Virginia; but, above all, by his honorable scars, and long and indomitable services.

The "Yankee in England," one of Hackett's best characters, will be represented by him this evening. All who wish a hearty laugh will doubtless attend the Theatre. The engagement of this popular performer is every where hailed as the guaranty of excellent houses. We are sure that Richmond will not prove an exception.

We are requested to announce that Dr. Thos. M. Tate, will not be a candidate for re-election to the House of Delegates from the county of Smyth.

The Whig State Convention of Rhode Island have nominated Henry Clay for the Presidency, subject to a National Convention.

The Whigs of Connecticut had previously done the same thing

The Democratic State Convention of Arkansas have nominated Thos. S. Drew for Governor and R. W. Johnson for Congress. They have also appointed twelve delegates to the National Convention—adopted strong resolutions in favor of the justice of the war, and its vigorous prosecution. The following resolution was also agreed to:

Resolved, That this convention has unbounded confidence in the moral worth, integrity, patriotism, long experience, and sound Democracy of Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire; James Buchanan, of Pennsylvania; Lewis Cass, of Michigan; George M. Dallas, of Pennsylvania; Robert J. Walker, of Mississippi; and would warmly and cordially support either of said gentlemen for President of the United States, or any other good Democrat, if nominated by the National Convention.

We yesterday received a report of the interesting proceedings at the Masonic dinner to Generals Quitman and Shields. It shall appear very soon.

As usual, some of the Whig press, in utter ignorance of the facts, are turning their batteries upon the administration, because of the suspension of Gen. Scott, and the Court of Enquiry ordered at Perote. When the whole truth shall appear, we shall then be able to understand the merits of the case. In the mean time, we feel satisfied, that the great object of the administration is to *do justice to all*—and, for this object and none other, the investigation has been set on foot.

We are authorized to announce that R. R. Garrett, Esq, will not be a candidate to represent the Accomac Senatorial District at the next election.

It will be perceived, from this annunciation, that Mr. Garrett is about to retire from public life.

It is but justice to say, that few members have been more attentive to, or watchful of, the interest of their immediate constituents; or more courteous and gentlemanly in all their public intercourse than has been Mr. Garrett. He will, doubtless, retire from the service of the country with many recollections of the enlarged and liberal principles which governed his public acts; and of the confidential kindness which characterized him in his social intercourse with members. We part with him with regret, wishing him a long life, and profound happiness and prosperity, in his retirement.

FOR THE ENQUIRER.

To the Voters of the Senatorial District, composed of the counties of Halifax and Mecklenburg.

The term for which Colonel Baptist was elected to the Senate, will expire with the present session of the General Assembly, and you will be called on to choose a Senator at the Spring Election. It is hardly necessary to remind you that the present is a most important period in the history of the State. Federal politics, which once claimed so much of the time and attention of your Legislature, have happily given way to a consideration of the peculiar interests of the State, which more immediately concern us. A great movement is going on, not only in the Legislature, but out of it, to mend the fortunes of our beloved Commonwealth—the public mind is deeply imbued with the importance of doing something to improve our condition, develope our resources, give increased value to our labor, and stay the tide of wealth and population, which yearly pours its fertilizing stream upon other and distant States. We have reason to fear, lest in the eagerness to adopt some system of legislation, which may effect so desirable an end, an Utopian scheme of internal improvement will be saddled upon the State, whose burden, in the shape of increased taxes, will still further depress the labor and industry of our people, and it may be, add dishonor to misfortune, by forcing us to repudiate a debt we may be unable to pay. No man, who has observed the events of the last and present session of the Legislature, can doubt for a moment that the South side—the tax-paying region of Virginia—needs the services of the ablest and wisest of her sons in the councils of the State. If we would protect ourselves from intolerable taxation; if we would save the State from a ruinous system of profligacy and extravagance, which promises to mortgage our property and our labor, through all time, we must call into our service men whose talents and character will give weight and influence to their opinions, and afford some guaranty, at least, that the interests of this section will not be sacrificed by default.

There are several men among us who would do the State honor and good service in any station. Conspicuous among these is Doctor Thos. H. Averett of Halifax, and to him we would point the voters of the district, as one eminently fitted to serve them with usefulness and ability. He would carry into the public service talents of a very high order; integrity above and beyond suspicion; an industry that never tires; a sound judgment; and a heart, whose every pulsation is true to the interests of Old Virginia. This suggestion is made without knowing whether Doctor Averett will consent to serve the district; but in the belief, from a knowledge of the man, that he will acquiesce in the known wishes of a majority of his fellow citizens. The exigencies of the State call loudly upon such men to enter her service. Legislation in Virginia is fast becoming a stock jobbing, gambling business, in which the general welfare is sacrified by a combination of local interests. A system of log-rolling, ruinous in its effects and demoralizing in its tendency, has stolen into the General Assembly, and promises to make the business of Legislation an infamous traffic. A generous zeal for the public good, an enlarged and elevated patriotism, which embraces in its devotion the whole State, is not and cannot be felt by your representatives, while their legislation is disgraced by intrigues and combinations to consummate selfish and sectional schemes. Time is rapidly developing the iniquities of such legislation—the credit of the State, her money and the labor of her people have been pledged to schemes so conflicting, as to be mutually destructive. But a few years ago, and a great canal stretched like a reality before the prophetic vision of our political dreamers, extending from your seaboard to the Valley of the Ohio, and bearing upon its bosom the myriad products and inexhaustible riches of that almost fabulous region. "A change has come over the spirit of their dreams"—the canal must be abandoned as an obsolete idea, and some system adopted more in consonance with the spirit of the age. Fellow citizens, if you would avoid such error in future, if you would preserve spotless the honor and credit of Virginia, and more than all, if you would rebuke that political morality which teaches that it is not only right, but praiseworthy, to plunder and impoverish one section to enrich and improve another; if you would breathe a healthy influence into the infected atmosphere of your Capitol, look well to the qualifications of your representatives—select as your agents, men of talents, of industrious habits, of incorruptible integrity. It is but simple truth, to say, that no man among you possesses these qualifications in a more eminent degree than Doctor Averett. In federal politics, Dr. A. is known throughout the State as an able and fearless champion of democratic principles—through good and through evil report, he has been true to his colors, gallantly leading the van of his party in this region, and ever ready to do battle in its cause. Having an abiding confidence, a living faith in the soundness of his principles, his attachment to his party is the result of sincere conviction, and affords the amplest guaranty that his loyalty to his friends and his creed will never be tarnished by any co-operation, direct or indirect, with his political opponents. In his election you will secure to yourselves a zealous, intelligent and faithful representative, whose sterling qualities of head and heart, will make him a distinguished ornament of the body of which he may be a member.

A VOTER.

For the Enquirer.

GENERAL BUTLER OF KENTUCKY.

CARROLL CO., VA., Jan. 10, 1848.

Gentlemen: The period is rapidly approaching in which will again be witnessed the struggles and excitements of another Presidential canvass. In those struggles and excitements all who cherish an interest in political affairs must, to a greater or less extent, expect to participate. Already much anxiety prevails as to the great preliminary question, who are to be the candidates? Until each of the great political parties shall have selected its leader, this question will be incessantly agitated—the merits of the several prominent persons will be closely scrutinized, their opinions analyzed, their actions noted. Of one fact the Democracy may rest assured, to wit: that their opponents will leave no stone unturned to secure an available candidate and to ensure his election. If the Whigs can concentrate their strength on *any* one man, we need not anticipate an easy victory over them.

Under such circumstances no Democrat can be insensible to the importance, to the Republican principles and party, of a judicious selection of a candidate on our side. I do not propose to discuss the *mode* of selection: I wish only to lay hands on the proper man. We know that on this subject there is much diversity of sentiment. We have so many good men that the great difficulty lies in the choice—and, by the way, our Whig friends seem to be "among the breakers" also on this point. While so many on both sides are urging the claims of their respective favorites, I hope you will allow me space enough in your columns to say a word in regard to one whose name is not, as I humbly opine, sufficiently conspicuous. I allude to Major General Wm. O. Butler, of Kentucky. His character combines, in my estimation, all the qualifications necessary to fit him for the incumbency of the Presidential chair. I need not dilate upon his patriotism, his courage, his integrity. No one can be so much prejudiced by political dissension as to deny Gen. Butler the merit of cherishing those noble feelings in their brightest purity. He proved his youthful valor and love of his country amid the snows of the river Raisin, beneath the ramparts of Pensacola, through the perils of the Cypress Swamps, on the breastwork of "cotton bales" at New Orleans—and the blood-baptized streets of Monterey are witnesses to this day, that, though "falling into the sere and yellow leaf," the fires of courage and patriotism still burn brightly in his bosom. He is yet in Mexico, '*ready,—aye, ready.*"

But it is not upon Gen. Butler's military services and qualifications alone that I would base his claims to the attention of the Democracy.—Grateful as we must ever be to the brave men who have fought our country's battles, and proud as we are of their achievements, we should bear in mind that a President has duties to perform widely different in their nature from the command of armies and the destruction of hostile legions—duties having no connection with military affairs, and requiring a training totally dissimilar to that which will fit a man for the "tented field." Such a training Gen. Butler has enjoyed and has improved. A ripe scholar, a learned jurist, a profound statesman—he has studied the Constitution and laws of his country, understands the political questions which divide parties, has made up his opinions, and has participated in the national councils. This renders him, I think, (even if political sentiments were entirely disregarded,) decidedly preferable to Gen. Scott or Gen. Taylor, who are respectively the favorites of a large portion of the Whigs. They are military men *by profession*. Almost their entire lives have been passed in the army—Gen. Taylor having received his first commission in his 18th year, if I mistake not. Such men I cannot but consider dangerous occupants of the Presidential chair. Their habits of life, range of study, and course of experience, are not such as to prepare them for the discharge of civil duties—they rather tend to disqualify them for their performance. Here, however, I shall be met by the names of Washington and Jackson; but, as the lawyers would say, "the cases are not in point." Neither of those great men was regularly trained and educated for a soldier; neither of them military men *by profession*. Both entered the service at particular emergencies, and both retired to the walks of civil life, when the occasion which required their services, had passed away. Washington was engaged in the occupation of a surveyor, previous to the opening of hostilities with the French and Indians. After their close, he devoted himself to his farm, and was engaged in agriculture at the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. When the struggle was over, he returned to his estate, and was then summoned to the Presidency. Jackson practised law many years, acted as a judge, and represented his State in the Senate, long before he was placed at the head of an army. When active service in the field was no longer required, he resigned his commission, and again devoted himself to the avocations of civil life. Of a similar nature has been the career of William O. Butler. When his country was engaged in actual hostilities, he has ever been ready to shed his blood. He has filled almost every grade in the military service. Commencing as a private, he is now a Major General; and in all these stations he has received the approbation of his military superiors, and merited the thanks of his country. In the walks of civil life, he has also been distinguished.—Though defeated when a candidate for the office of Governor of Kentucky, yet that defeat is attributable solely to the large Whig majority of that State; and no one else could have come so near an overthrow of that majority. His district has always elected him to Congress, when a candidate, and I feel no doubt that the Democracy of the Union would joyously rally round him in case he should be our candidate.

Am I then acting improperly in calling attention to this patriot, statesman and soldier? I am not asking the Democracy to "go it blind" for one whose political opinions are unknown to them, merely because he has performed signal military achievements. No; Gen. Butler has been long known; his opinions are those of the Democracy; he will be a safe and reliable leader, and I am constrained to believe a successful one.

A Democratic State Convention is about to assemble in the City of Richmond: to that body I would especially suggest the propriety of presenting the name of Gen. Butler to the Democracy of the Union, as a proper candidate for the Presidency in the election now rapidly approaching.

A DEMOCRAT.

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

LOUISA COUNTY, JANUARY 15th, 1848.

Gentlemen:—You will please publish in your country paper this communication. It is from one who feels no other interest, than the good of the county and party to which he belongs. The object of the writer is to respectfully call the attention of the voters of Louisa to the claims of a gentleman in every way worthy to represent them in the next General Assembly of Va.; that gentleman is Joseph K. Pendleton, Esq. Mr. Pendleton was born and raised in said county and his feelings and interests are perfectly identified with the great mass of the people. He is a farmer and lawyer, therefore well calculated to promote agricultural pursuits, and will be found ever efficient in advancing the jurisprudence of the country. It is needless to speak of his ability, but permit me to say, that his talents are good.—He thinks well and speaks admirably. Mr. P. for some years past, has held himself aloof from the political scrambles in the county, taking no other part than that of giving his vote. The writer of this has not conferred with Mr. P. on this subject, but believes that he would willingly serve his fellow-citizens if called upon, more, however, from a sense of duty than inclination. The writer knows Mr. P. well, and believes that he not only expresses the sentiments of himself but of almost every Democrat in Mr. Pendleton's neighborhood when he thus speaks of him.

For some years past Louisa has been in a state of political confusion, arising from individual aspirations and sectional prejudices. It is believed that the nomination of Mr. P. would at once arrest these dissensions, and make our county the political habitation of quiet and peace. The writer does not think it necessary to speak of the virtues of his nominee. It is from his neighbors that the people can learn, and having learned can duly appreciate,

F.

For the Enquirer.

KING AND QUEEN COUNTY.

Messrs. Editors: I see in the Enquirer that our present worthy delegate David P. Wright, declines being a candidate for re-election in the next Legislature. He has discharged the duties entrusted to him with ability and strict fidelity to his constituents, and will carry with him to the more desirable walks of private life, their unimpaired confidence and high admiration.

He declines, and it will be the duty of the Democratic party of the county to select another gentleman on whom to confer the trust. In making this selection, we should seek the services of a man of talents, of honor, of probity, and of tried devotion to the democratic faith—in a word, a man who would give dignity and character to the place, and not the place to the man. We know of no man in the county who combines so fully the requisite qualities and qualifications for the place than JOHN WALKER STREET, and therefore we recommend his name. Mr. Street's talents, information, clear and distinct views upon both State and Federal politics, added to his high and honorable bearing, fit him for the most trying and difficult occasions, and could we secure his services in the next Legislature, we should have a champion in the cause of democracy that would be able to contend with any Whig in the Legislature, with certain success on the side of Democracy.

O. P. Q.

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

BUCKINGHAM COURT HOUSE.

COB'S HOTEL, Jan. 12, 1847.

At an adjourned meeting of the Democratic party, Mr. Wm. H. Tapscott was called to the Chair and Mr. Wm. Turner and Capt. Wm. Mosely appointed Secretaries. The day was exceedingly cold; and it was very late in the evening before the least attempt was made to assemble the people; but we could have carried our resolutions by about the same that the Whig party carried theirs in the other Hotel, but we preferred adjournment for a