



MONDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 1858.

Death of Col. Thos. H. Benton. THOMAS H. BENTON died at his residence in the city of Washington, last Saturday morning, about 7 o'clock, retaining the full exercise of his mind, nearly up to the last hour of his existence, and with characteristic firmness and industry, employing himself in finishing the work on which he was engaged.

He was a man who made his mark in the history of our country. With defects of temper and disposition which all must acknowledge, he yet had traits which commanded the respect even of his opponents. With great experience, untiring industry, and indomitable zeal, he pursued every political or public object which attracted his attention—and was never turned aside by obstacles or difficulties. As a Senator from Missouri, for many years, he took rank with the leading men of the Senate, when the Senate saw its palmist days. In the course of his service in that body, and in some other portions of his public career, he made enemies—but we trust the animosities of former days have been assuaged or obliterated by time. Most men will be willing to admit that he has "done the state some service"—and overlook the errors or eccentricities which occasionally checked his course. As a statesman, and a legislator, he had not many superiors, however we may differ from some of his views and opinions.

As a husband, father, friend and citizen the meed of praise will be accorded to the deceased, without a solitary contradiction and with the assent of every one who knew him in those relations of life. His home was a home of peace, and affection, and love—and graced with all the kindly charities and amenities which shed such a charm around the dwellings in which they abide.

The present House of Representatives is elected with twenty odd Democratic majority. The Union admits that now a majority of the House oppose and reject the leading measures of the Administration. The Union administers a rebuke to certain Democrats from the South, for not supporting the Administration always and in all things, by saying, that "it is a financial question, some one of a half dozen Southern Democratic members, afflicted with a weak vanity for figuring as watch dogs of the Treasury, and aspiring after Cicerone fame, who hang about the epigones of the public elder-barrel, giving violent symptoms of rabies at every reverberation that falls from them, regardless of what happens at the bang—we say, some one of half a dozen Southern members at the head of the compact Black Republican party, reinforced by a small cohort of Southern Democrats, to prevent the passage of this measure of the Democratic majority and of the administration." This is caustic enough.

It also, states that the "Deficiency bill did not pass the House by a majority of Democratic votes. It was passed by the special favor of a few Black Republican members. Its passage is due to the fact that there were Black Republicans in the House, of sufficient public spirit and virtue to vote for an urgent measure of public necessity."

We do not think that this "vermillion edict" from the Administration will make these recalcitrant Southern Democrats any more tractable, and, therefore, agree with the Union, "that it is impossible to calculate what this course of proceedings must produce, if persisted in!"

Rev. Eleazer Williams ("Have we a Bourbon among us?") who foolishly figured some few years ago, as the son of Louis XVI, and who is now in Washington, was assaulted, it is said, in his own room, last week, by an assassin, who attempted to stab him, and who, upon being resisted, fled, leaving a dagger behind him. The carrier of Mr. Williams seems to be a remarkable one.

In the House of Representatives, on Friday, Mr. Faulkner of Va., asked unanimous consent to introduce for reference a bill to establish a national foundry for the fabrication of cannon for the use of the army and navy of the United States. Mr. Leiter, of Ohio said, "I object." [Of course this veto settled the matter for the day.]

It appears that, after all, the famous Jennings or Jenness estate in England is very much of a hump. The Jennesses in England have propagated the delusion, and amassed large sums from guinea contributions for geological researches and legal investigations, with the hope of establishing a claim to this fabulous estate.

Such is the rush of applications for the location of the National Foundry, from the cities, towns, and villages in Maryland and Virginia, that the letter-writers and paragraphists are making a jest of the scramble.

The Fredericksburg Herald thinks the number of the representation from Virginia to the "Southern Commercial Convention" will depend upon the action of the Railroads with regard to free tickets!

Brevet Colonel Charles A. May, major second dragons, is ordered to report at Carlisle barracks, Pa., for the purpose of conducting the recruits at that station to their respective regiments in Utah.

The Marietta and Cincinnati Company are again running passenger and freight cars in connection with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Tappey's Southern Foundry, at Petersburg, was destroyed by fire on the 9th.—Loss \$12,000.

Neither House of Congress was in session last Saturday.

This is the day on which, under the law of last October, all the suspended banks of Pennsylvania will have to resume specie payment. There is one remarkable circumstance connected with the banking policy of Pennsylvania. It is some time since the Legislature prohibited the circulation of bank notes of a less denomination than five dollars, with the expectation that it would give the people a sounder currency and more specie than the neighbors; and yet, when specie from the banks was found with less of specie than those of any of the Eastern cities.

A Bridgeport paper says: "A singular affair occurred here the other day. The desks and furniture of the Merchants' Exchange Bank were sold at auction by order of the receiver. A couple of gentlemen bid off one of the large desks. On examining their purchase they found stowed away in one of the drawers \$2,200 in bills of the bank, duly signed and ready for circulation."

We learn from the New York Herald that "Hope Chapel" was "nearly filled" on Monday night by the audience which assembled to listen to the autobiography of Lila Montez, in the form of a lecture from the lips of Lila herself. That "frequent bursts of applause" should have testified to their delight, might naturally be expected from people whose taste could lead them to be present at the entertainment.

The Senate Committee on Territories, has reported against the organization of the Territory of Arizona, and in lieu of it submitted an amendment to the organic act of New Mexico, which provides for a new judicial circuit, to include the Gadsden Purchase, and for a new census and apportionment in the Territory, with a view to giving a fair and equal representation in the Territorial Legislature.

The new building for the N. Y. Times newspaper is an object of general attraction. It is declared to be the finest edifice in America for the purpose. It is thoroughly fire-proof, from roof to cellar; and the safety thereby ensured produces a greater revenue for the proprietors for the portions rented than the premiums for insurance would amount to.

Canada has just adopted a Decimal Currency. The new coins have been prepared at the English mint, and the first consignment is daily expected to arrive. The silver coinage consists of five, ten, and twenty cent pieces. Cents have also been struck. As yet no quarters have been coined, but the convenience attending their use will soon add them to the list.

General Harney, accompanied by Messrs. McCullough and Powell, the new Commissioners to Utah, Mr. Hartnett, Secretary of the Territory, Mr. Russell, and others connected with the military and civil service, will leave for Fort Leavenworth Tuesday Despatches for Col. Johnson will go out at the same time.

A report that Col. Benton had died on Friday, gained general circulation in Washington, and a premature announcement of the supposed fact was made in the House of Representatives, and that body immediately adjourned. Mr. Benton has characteristically written a letter expressing the hope that no notice of his death may be taken in Congress.

There are rumors that the brig Bloomer, from Boston on the 1st of March for Placentia Bay, with Captain Field, Major Ripley and others interested in the mining operations of the New York and Newfoundland Telegraph Company, has been wrecked.—The rumor is doubted, but a vessel is to be sent in search of her.

There are now about one hundred and fifty of the "hardest" looking cases in the Baltimore city jail, imaginable. A new jail is now in the course of erection, which will soon be completed, costing \$250,000. It is a splendid affair of its kind, and so arranged as to accommodate every prisoner with a separate cell.

They have had a tremendous rain in Austin, Texas, lately. For four days the sun was hid behind the dense clouds: until at last, on the night of the 23d ult., the rain and hail came down amidst flashes of lightning and roars of thunder, with a violent wind, completely deluging the city.

Accounts received by telegraph from St. Louis announce a great overflow of the Mississippi. The flood extends from White river, above the Arkansas river, to the Louisiana line, and has caused an immense destruction of property.

It is understood that the Senate will, to-day, ask a conference with the House upon the bill to discontinue the Kansas bill. It is still confidently believed by the friends of the administration that the Senate bill will pass the House, after some further delay.

At Richmond, Va., Wednesday night Mark Downy's stable, with \$1,000 worth of hay, was destroyed by fire—insured. H. M. Smith also lost \$6,000 worth of machinery—insured for \$3,000; and Dr. Pleasant's mill worth \$400, and not insured.

Rev. S. R. Riggs, the faithful and laborious missionary at Lacquiparic, has completed the translation into the Dakota language of the Pilgrim's Progress. It has been published by the American Tract Society.

Senator Davis, of Mississippi, is improving in health.

Significant Decision. A legal decision was made, on Friday last, in the St. Louis Land Court, which, it is sustained, is thought will effect a greater amount of property than any legal decision heretofore made. In the case of Adams vs. the city of St. Louis, his honor Judge Lord instructed the jury that, if the land contested was a sand bar in the Mississippi when Mississippi became a state, and the land is now a part of the state, and the plaintiff's title derived by purchase from the United States is therefore null. Whence it would follow that all sales made by the United States of lands formed since the day the adjacent States are void. The istence of the adjacent States to the Judge to all principle is even applied by the Judge to the lands overflowed at high water since the inception of the proximate states. All lands reclaimed from the rivers would then be regarded as the states—with the limitation named. But such lands have hitherto been regularly entered in the United States Land Office, and the present holders of them are titled as proprietors from that office.—Should the above ruling be affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, it would destroy the titles by which are now held the sugar lands of Louisiana, the bottom lands of Missouri, Ohio and Illinois, and the dried swamp lands of these and other States. The decision would cause an unprecedented revolution of titles in the great river valleys of this country.—St. Louis Democrat, April 6.

Democracy—By a Democrat. In a recent speech in the Senate of the United States, Mr. Clay, of Alabama, gave expression to the following sentiments:

"Our Governments are republics, not democracies. The people exercise their sovereignty not in person, at the ballot-box, but through agents, delegates or representatives. Our fathers founded republican governments in preference to democracies, not so much because it would be impracticable, as because it would be unwise and inexpedient for the people themselves to assemble and adopt laws. They were satisfied from reading, and from reflection, of the truth of Mr. Madison's observation about pure democracies, that they "have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security, or the rights of property, and have in general been violent in their deaths." They knew from the examples furnished by Greece and Italy, that it is impossible, in a pure democracy, to remove the causes or control the effects of faction; that an absolute majority is often a voice by passion rather than by reason; that its voice is often that of a demon that of a god; that it is the most cruel, rapacious, intolerant, and intolerable of all tyrants.—They knew that it is a wholly irresponsible power; acknowledging no superior, for it is itself superior; owing no obedience, for it is its own master; respecting no authority, for it is a law unto itself; subject to no control or restraint, except the still small voice of conscience, which is too often drowned in the tumultuous waves of party or of faction. It might sacrifice public good or private rights to any ruling passion or interest of the hour, with impunity. It had robbed the poor to relieve the poor, and oppressed the poor to aggrandize the rich, with equal ardor and indifference. It had voted henlock to-day and statues to-morrow, to its best citizens. They suffered no man to be a judge in his own case, lest he should be biased by passion or by interest; and could find no better reason why a large body of men, although a majority, should be the supreme and final arbiters of its cause. On the contrary, they knew that a large body of men is more liable to be controlled by passion or by interest than a single individual, and is more apt to sacrifice the rights of the minority, because it can be done with impunity. Hence they endeavored to impose restraints upon themselves. Hence they committed the making of all their laws, organic or municipal, to their delegates or representatives; whose crimes they could punish, whose errors they could correct, and whose powers they could reclaim.

The great security of our rights of life, liberty, and property, is in the responsibility of those who make, and of those who execute the law. Establish as a principle that to give sanction to law it must be approved by the majority at the ballot-box, and you take away this security and surrender those rights to the most capricious, rapacious, and cruel of tyrants. I regret to see the growing spirit in Congress, and throughout the country, to democratize our Government, to submit every question, whether pertaining to organic or municipal laws, to the vote of the people. This is sheer radicalism. It is the Red Republicanism of revolutionary France, which appealed to the sections on all occasions, and not the American Republicanism of our fathers. Their Republicanism was stable and conservative; this is mutable and revolutionary. Theirs afforded a shield for the minority; this gives a sword to the majority. Theirs defended the rights of the weak; this surrenders them to the power of the strong. God forbid that the demagogues of the day should prevail over the philanthropic and philosophic statesmanship of our fathers."

One would scarcely believe, on reading the above sound and admirable views, that the author of them was a Democrat—that he has been a consistent and life-long member of that party from his youth up—and that he still claims full fellowship in its organization. But, strange as it may seem, it is true, nevertheless.

We have always considered Mr. Jefferson the first radical Democrat we had in this country. Yet we do not believe Mr. Jefferson ever contemplated the extent to which his teachings would be carried. If living at the present time, and with the notions he brought with him from France, the most conservative of conservatives.

Radical Democracy first took hold of the Northern States. Its fruits were visible in the enlargement of the right of suffrage, in the giving of the most insignificant of municipal offices to the choice of the people, in the destruction of the independence of the judiciary, and in various other so-called "reforms," which served only to keep the people in constant tumult and confusion. Gradually it made its way to the South, and we are more and more convinced of the correctness of it, that it is this same democratic spirit in the North that is at the bottom of all our troubles on the subject of slavery.—Is it strange, if you give every body the privilege of interfering in the affairs of every body else, that these men should seize the occasion to interfere with slavery in the South? Is it strange, if you inculcate the idea that popular majorities may do whatsoever they choose without limitation or restriction, that these men should seek to eradicate an institution of the South which is offensive to their sight? If you allow everything, even down to the superintendency of a town pump, to be subjected to the popular arbitrament, is it any wonder that the fanatical and bigoted masses of the North should seek to increase their numerical power, and to increase their power, for the extermination of slavery? If they are impressed with the idea that this is a pure democracy—if they are led on such false and abominable maxims—"vox populi vox dei"—if they are told that "majorities must rule" in everything, what wonder that they should endeavor to exercise that numerical majority which they feel and know that they have, for the extermination of an institution which excites their resentment? With all our heart and soul we re-echo the sentiment of Senator Clay, in regretting to see "the growing spirit in Congress, and throughout the country, to democratize our Government—to submit every question, whether pertaining to organic or municipal laws, to the vote of the people. This is sheer radicalism. It is the Red Republicanism of France, and not the American Republicanism of our fathers. Their Republicanism was stable and conservative—this is mutable and revolutionary—Theirs afforded a shield for the minority; this gives a sword to the majority. Theirs defended the rights of the weak—this surrenders them to the power of the strong—God forbid that the demagogues of the day should prevail over the philanthropic and philosophic statesmanship of our fathers."—Lynchburg Virginian.

The Steamboat Race. The New Orleans Courier publishes the following account of the recent steamboat race: "The race between the Baltic and Diana has resulted in favor of the former by two hours and thirty-five minutes, thus putting at rest the claims of the Diana to be the fastest boat on the river, (as she was intended to be, and as some of her friends claimed,) for she has been fairly beaten by a boat that never made any great pretensions to fast running. The Diana was sailed by the Baltic from New Orleans to Louisville in five days six hours and nine minutes, being a little over eleven miles per hour."

Edward Everett's Home. In the summer or fall of 1856, we were at Boston, in the midst of the excitement of the Presidential election; witnessed the grand torch-light procession, which hailed the return of bully Burlingame from his Western tour, and heard his braggart speech out of Brooks's ear-shot; saw the magnificent procession and pageant attending the inauguration of Franklin's statue on the site of his old school house or play ground, and feasted on the Ciceronian tones and rich thoughts of the accomplished Winthrop, who delivered the inaugural oration; and also partook of the various sights and enjoyments which the modern Athens and its environs abundantly afford the transient visitor. Shortly after our arrival, we made a morning call on Mr. Everett, whose acquaintance we had the good fortune to make, and whose surpassing oratory we had enjoyed, during the great Pilgrim celebration, at Plymouth, in 1853. The gifted orator and distinguished patriot received us with a cordial welcome, and delighted us with social and general converse, embracing a wide and interesting range of topics, for a winged hour.

While at his noble mansion, in Summer-street, we embraced the opportunity to note the pictorial and other adornments of the parlors, and his library, all of a second floor of the building. Describing our evident interest in the paintings and statuary, Mr. E. took a kindly pleasure in exhibiting and explaining them to us.

In his first parlor were admirable portraits of the first four Presidents of the Republic, Washington, John Adams, Jefferson and Madison; of Daniel Webster, in his youth, yet in all his grandeur of forehead and intellect; of the late Peter C. Brooks, Mr. E.'s father-in-law, and of Mrs. Everett; exquisite paintings of the exterior and interior of the Villa Careggi, near Florence, which Mr. E. occupied, with his family, as a residence, during his sojourn in Italy, which he described to us in his celebrated Discourse on the English Mission, and which he graphically described in his own bust by Chester Adams, and also his own bust by Sir Robert Peel, presented to Mr. E., while Ambassador to England, by those distinguished personages. The illustrious Duke accompanied his gift of the counter-ent presentation of himself with an autographic note, carefully deposited and preserved, by Mr. E., under the glass cover of the engraving, in the following words:

"LONDON, August 9th, 1845. "MY DEAR SIR: I have the honor of sending you an excellent impression of the painting, made of myself, by the late Sir Thomas Lawrence. This is supposed to be the best of all that have been published. I have signed my name upon it. Ever, my dear sir, yours most faithfully, WELLINGTON. Hon. Edward Everett."

Among the treasures of the small parlour were an original painting of Celeridge, from the pallet of Washington Allston, by which Mr. E. informed us he set great store, remarking that it was a great painting of a great man, by a great artist; a copy of Guercino's much admired "Sylbi," in the Tribune at Florence; Petrarch's Laura from the graceful pencil of J. S. O'Connell; "Birds," by Audubon, an original oil painting of that great Ornithologist; portraits of his daughter (Mrs. Henry A. Wise), wife of a nephew of Gov. Wise, of Virginia, and of his daughter (Mrs. D. C.) and of his daughter in Washington, D. C., and of his youngest son. He then showed us also a portrait of him, in a lock of hair of Napoleon, given to Mr. E. by the Prince of Canino, the great Napoleon's nephew.

The library into which a door opens, from the large parlour, is a spacious and elegant apartment, elongated in form and oval at the farther end, most beautifully and commodiously arranged, decorated and furnished, and stored with valuable books in rich and durable binding—we doubt whether a more elegant and commodious private library exists in our country. It is in this literary sanctum and intellectual mecca, that the illustrious statesman and orator gathers and assimilates those materials, which, blended with his own original musings, he then pours forth, in his philosophical and statesmanlike addresses which instruct the public mind, and charm the general ear, and place their author on a level with the most famous orators of ancient and modern times. In this sanctuary of mind and literature, and store-house of varied knowledge, the arts are as highly honored as in the other apartments, and one may enjoy the companionship of both living and departed greatness. There are to be seen portraits of Groves, Edmund Burke, Washington, Samuel Rogers, Lord Aberdeen, Daniel Webster, and Lord Brougham, with the busts of Henry Clay, Chief Justice Marshall, Peter C. Brooks, John Quincy Adams, Shakspeare, Sir Walter Scott, the Rev. Dr. Channing, Homer, Andronicus, Virgil, Pliny, and the Prince of Wales, the son of Albert and the Prince of Victoria, and the Duke of Wellington, and an Italian Deer Hound, from the large parlor, is a spacious and elegant apartment, elongated in form and oval at the farther end, most beautifully and commodiously arranged, decorated and furnished, and stored with valuable books in rich and durable binding—we doubt whether a more elegant and commodious private library exists in our country. 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