

LE POINTE COUPEE DEMOCRAT.

UNITED WE STAND; DIVIDED WE FALL.

VOL. 1.

FALSE RIVER, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1858.

NO. 2.

THE DEMOCRAT.

EVERY SATURDAY MORNING,
BY
EDWARD J. PULLEN.

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UNSEEN SPIRITS.

BY N. P. WILLES.

The shadows lay along Broadway,
'Twas near the twilight tide,
And slowly there a lady fair
Was walking in her pride—
Alone walked she, yet viewlessly,
Walked spirits either side.

Peace charmed the street beneath her feet,
And honor charmed the air,
And all astir looked kind on her
And called her good and fair—
For all God ever gave to her,
She kept with chary care.

She keeps with care her beauties rare
From lovers warm and true,
For her heart was cold to all but gold,
And the rich name not to woo,
Ah, honored well are charms to sell
When priests the selling do!

Now, walking there was one more fair—
A slight girl lily pale—
And she had unseen company
To make the spirit quail;
'Twixt want and scorn she walked forlorn,
And nothing could avail.

No mercy now can clear her brow
For this world's peace to pray—
For, as love's wild prayer dissolves in air,
Her woman's heart gave way;
And sin forgiven by Christ in Heaven,
By man is cursed away.

THE CATHOLICS OF N. ORLEANS.

Dr. Clapp, in his recently published memoirs of himself, speaks in the highest terms of the Catholic Church. In the course of his remarks on his acquaintance with Catholics and observation as to the effects and tendency of the Catholic worship, he says:

"Since my acquaintance with Louisiana began, there have been, I believe, at no time, less than twenty priests stationed in New Orleans. Besides performing clerical functions in churches, chapels, convents, asylums and hospitals, they have founded and kept in vigor numerous schools and

fashionable life, who make a dazzling show for a few hours, and then sink to be seen no more. These angels are seen in all our hospitals, both public and private, and in other places where their services are required, irrespective of the distinctions of name, religion, party, clime, or nation.

"Indeed the Roman Catholic Church is infinitely superior to any Protestant denomination in its provisions of mercy and charity for the poor. They seek to inspire the most wretched and forlorn with those hopes that point to a better world."

Of the treatment of the poor by Catholics, he says:

"No Protestant denomination, with the exception of the Methodists, have suitably remembered the poor. This remark was once made by a distinguished prelate of the Church of England. In our Northern cities there is an actual rivalry as to which church shall be the most exclusive. And one congregation has erected a separate building for the poor to worship in. Churches are constructed on purpose to shut out the poor. The pews are sold like the boxes to a theatre, to the highest bidder. The poor can never enter there. Oh, what a commentary on the christianity of our times! After spending the week in folly and dissipation, the aristocratic among us can repair to a fashionable place of worship on the Lord's day, to gratify a love of dress, to indulge that wicked, pitiful vanity, which one act of religious worship would annihilate forever. I do not know where all this will end; but I do know that Protestantism will soon go down into the dust and darkness of death, unless it changes its entire ecclesiastical plans and policies. Eternal honor to the Roman Catholic church for practically observing the distinctive precept of our religion, to remember and bless the poor. For the larger the charity of a church, the nearer it is to God.

In another place he says:

not recognize General Walker as a prisoner; that it had no directions to give concerning him; and that it is only through the action of the judiciary that he could be lawfully held in custody to answer any charges that might be made against him.

In thus far disapproving of the conduct of Commodore Paulding, no inference must be drawn that I am less determined than I have ever been to execute the Neutrality Laws of the United States. This is my imperative duty, and I shall continue to perform it by all means which the constitution and the laws have placed in my power.

My opinion of the value and importance of these laws corresponds entirely with that expressed by Mr. Monroe in his message to Congress of December 7, 1819. That wise, prudent and patriotic statesman says: "It is of the highest importance to our national character and indispensable to the morality of our citizens that all violations of our neutrality should be prevented. No door should be left open for the evasion of our laws, no opportunity afforded to any who may be disposed to take advantage of it to compromise the honor of the nation."

The crime of setting on foot or providing the means for a military expedition within the United States to make war against a foreign State with which we are at peace, is one of an aggravated and dangerous character, and early engaged the attention of Congress. Whether the executive government possesses any, or what power under the Constitution, independently of Congress, to prevent or punish this and similar offences against the law of nations, was a subject which engaged the attention of our most eminent statesmen in the time of the administration of General Washington, and on the occasion of the French Revolution. The act of Congress of June 5th, 1794, fortunately removed all the difficulties on this question which had therefore existed. The 5th and 7th sections of this act, which relate to the present question, are the same in substance with the 6th and 8th sections of the act of June 5th, 1818, and have

The avowed principle which is at the foundation of the law of nations, is contained in the Divine command that "all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do you even so to them." Tried by this unerring rule, we should be severely condemned if we shall not use our best exertions to arrest such expeditions against our feeble sister republic of Nicaragua. One thing is very certain, that people never existed who would call any other nation to a stricter account than we should ourselves, for tolerating lawless expeditions from their shores to make war upon any portion of our territories.

By tolerating such expeditions, we shall soon lose the high character which we have enjoyed ever since the days of Washington, for the faithful performance of our international obligations and duties, and inspire distrust against us among the members of the great family of civilized nations.

But if motives of duty were not sufficient to restrain us from engaging in such lawless enterprise, our evident interest ought to dictate this policy.—These expeditions are the most effectual mode of retarding American progress; although to promote this is the avowed object of the leaders and contributors in such undertakings.

It is beyond question the destiny of our race to spread themselves over the continent of North America, and this at no distant day, should events be permitted to take their natural course. The tide of emigrants will flow to the South and nothing can eventually arrest its progress. If permitted to go thro, peacefully, Central America will soon contain an American population, which will confer blessings and benefits as well upon the natives as their respective governments. Liberty, under the restraint of law, will preserve domestic peace; whilst the different transit routes across the Isthmus in which we are so deeply interested will have assured protection.

Nothing has retarded this happy condition of affairs so much as the unlawful expeditions which have been fitted out in the United States to make war upon