Mississippi Democrat.

THREE DOLLARS] "THAT GOVERNMENT IS BEST WHICH GOVERNS LEAST." [IN ADVANCE.

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Miscellany.

"GOING TO BED BEFORE A YOUNG LADY."—Under this title we published, a few weeks since, an amusing sketch of one Judge Douglas, of Illinois. It has called forth from the Editor of the St Louis *Reveille*, the following "yarn":

"The "gentleman of Illinois" is not the only gentleman whose *legs* have led him into embarrassment! A political friend of ours, equally happy in his manners, if not in his party, among the Missouri constituency, found himself, while canvassing the State, last summer, for Congress, in even a *more* peculiarly perplexing prediciment than the Illinois Judge.

There is a spot in the south-western part of this State, known as *The Fiery Fork of Honey Run!*—a delicious locality, no doubt, as the *run* of "honey" is of course accompanied by a corresponding flow of "milk," and a mixture of milk and honey, or at any rate, honey and "peach," is the evidence of sublunary contentment.

"Honey Run," further chiristianized by the presenec of an extremely hospitable family whose mansion, comprising *one apartment*—neither more nor less—is renowned for being never shut against the traveller, and so our friend found it during the chill morning air, at the expense of a rheumatism in his shoulder, its numerous unaffected cracks and spaces clearly showing, that dropping the latch was a useless formality. The venerable host and hostess, in their one apartment, usually enjoy the society of two sons, four daugters, sundry dogs and "niggers," and as many lodgers as may deem it prudent to risk the somewhat equivocal allotment of sleeping partners. On the night in question, our friend, after a hearty supper of ham and eggs, and a canvass of the *Fiery Forkers*, the old lady having pointed out his bed, felt very weary, and only looked for an opportunity to "turn in," though the musquitoes were trumping all sort of wrath, and no net appeared to *bar* them. The dogs flung themselves along the floor, or again rose, restlessly, and sought the doorstep; the "niggers" stuck their feet in the yet warm ashes; the old man stripped, unscrupulously, and sought his share of the one collapsed-looking pillow, and the sons, cavalierly, followed his example, leaving the old woman, "gals" and "stranger," to settle any question of delicacy that might arise.

The candidate yawned, looked at his bed, went to the door, looked at the daughters; finally, in downright recklessness, seating himself upon "the downy," and pulling off his coat. Well, he *pulled* off his coat—and he folded his coat—and then he yawned—and then he whistled—and then called the old lady's attention to the fact, that it would *never* do to sleep in his muddy trowsers—and then he "undid" his vest—and then he whistled again—and then suddenly, and idea of her lodger's possible embarrassment seemed to flash upon the old woman, and she cried—

"*Gals*, jest turn your backs round 'till the *stranger* gits into bed."

The backs were turned, and the stranger *did* get into bed in 'less than no time,' when the hostess again spoke:

"Reckon, stranger, as you aint used to us, you'd better *kiver up* till the *gails* undress, hadn't you?"

By this time our friend's scary fit was over, and though he did "kiver up," as desired, some how or other, the old counterpane was equally kind in hiding his blushes, and favoring his sly glances. The nymphs were soon stowed away, for there were neither bustles to unhitch nor corsets to unlace, when their mamma, evidently anxious not to smother her guest, considerately relieved him:

"You can un*kiver* now, stranger;—I'm *married folks*, and you aint afeard o' *me*, I reckon!"

The stranger happened to be "married folks," himself; he un*kivered*, and turned his back with true connubial indifference, as far as the ancient lady was concerned, but, with regard to the "*gals*," he declares that his half raised curiosity inspired the most tormenting dreams of *mermaids* that ever he experienced.

CURE FOR A COLD.—The following prescription has been taken from an old black-letter book, A. D. 1403. We print it for the benefit of those medical antiquaries who are fond of tracing the progress of medicine:

Put your feete in hott water,
As highe as your thighes,
Wrappe your heade up in flannelle
As lowe as your eyees.

Take a quart of rum'd gruelle,
When in bedde, as a dose,
With a number four dipee,
Well tallow your nose.

ORIGIN OF THE COLORED RACE.—The lower order of the Brazilian race have a very singular theory for accounting for the origin of the colored race. At the time of the creation of Adam, say they, Satan looked on and formed a man of clay, but everything he touched became black. He determined to wash nim white in the Jordan; on his approaching, the river retired, and he had only time to push the black man on the wet sand, which touching the soles of his feet and the palms of his hands, accounts for the whiteness of those parts. The devil in a state of irritation struck his creation on the nose, by which the flatness of that organ was caused. The negro then begged for mercy, and humbly represented that no blame could be attached to him, upon which the other, somewhat pacified, patted him on the head, and by the heat of his hands curled his hair in the way it is seen at the present day. [*Morier's Travels.*

A two-fisted backwoodsman, half-horse half-alligator, went lately to see a caravan of wild beasts. After giving them a careful examination, he offered to bet the owner that he could whip his lion in an open ring, and that he might throw in all his monkeys and let the zebra kick him occasionally during the fight.

AGRICULTURE IN CALIFORNIA.—The N. Orleans Picayune has the following article in relation to the agricultural prospects and physical advantages of this delightful, but almost unknown country. It was there, we believe, that little more than a century ago, Swift located his Lilliput and Brobdinag, as in a land out of the reach of geographical pursuit, or historical knowledge. But Anglo Saxon civilization, enterprise and skill are destined soon to convert its waste places and wilderness into smiling fields and gardens of plenty. And the time may come when many of our Atlantic cities shall have gone down like those in Oriental lands, when grass shall grow in their streets, and brambles in their palaces, that by the breath of a free commerce of the Pacific, cities may spring up rivalling in trade, splendor, and opulence, many of those we now look upon as first in all that constitutes greatness:

COTTON IN CALIFORNIA—THE OREGON SETTLERS.—We have been informed by a gentleman, who left the Pacific coast in December last, that two or three Americans are about to engage in the culture of cotton in the lower part of Upper California, and that they feel confident of raising a superior article and in great abundance. Their rancho or plantation is not far from San Diego, in lat. 33 degrees N., the climate being warm and delightfully fine.

The same gentleman informs us that many of the Oregon settlers have arrived in the neighborhood of the Bay of San Francisco, in the Upper California, and taken up their abode there. So productive is the land in the neigborhood of San Francisco, that one bushel of wheat sown, frequently yields a crop of seventy-five bushels, and this with very little trouble, while the climate is so dry and pure that sickness is almost unknown. To illustrate the remarkable dryness of the climate, it is only necessary to state that wheel vehicles, furniture, &c., manufactured in New England of the best seasoned timber, shrink up shortly after reaching this section of California and fall to pieces unless every precaution is taken.—American emigrants are constantly arriving and settling at the Sacramento and other streams emptying into the Bay of San Francisco. At the Yerba Buena the English is the principal language spoken, the Alcalde being an American, and the time is not far distant when this part of California will teem with Anglo-Saxon civilization and the thrifty products of Anglo-Saxon hands.

A USEFUL HORSE.—A gentleman having a horse that ran away and broke his wife's neck, a neighboring squire told him he wished to buy it for his wife to ride.

"No," said the other, "I will not sell it—*I intend to marry again myself!*"

Political.

OREGON — A WAR WITH ENGLAND.—The last number of the Plattsburg Republican contains an ably written article which sets forth in a very forcible manner the short-sighted policy of those who are endeavoring to defeat the bill, now before Congress, for the occupation of Oregon, on the ground that the success of that great national measure might possibly involve us in a war with England. After contending that our right to the territory is indisputable, and dwelling on the immense value to the Union of that vast region, the writer proceeds to say, in reference to the fears expressed by those opponents to the occupation of Oregon who contend that it would bring about a war between this country and England:

"England counts too well the cost of an *unrighteous* war with a civilized and powerful nation. She may extend her empire throughout India, reckless of morality and justice; she may poison a whole nation with impunity—giving them the option to be drugged with opium, or have their cities and towns destroyed, and their inhabitants murdered; she may carry fire and sword into Scinde; she may usurp empire in Egypt, and plant her standard upon Aden, and float her war-steamers upon the Red Sea; she may do all this, and *more*—she may bully France, and dictate to Spain and Portugal, and wrap them up in her political web; she may cajole Russia, and keep Austria and Prussia in her interests; she may spread her protection over Turkey—

—"Such protection as vultures give to lambs —covering and devouring,"—

she may do all this; but TO WAR WITH THE UNITED STATES—SHE DARE NOT! The first sound of her hostile cannon would be the *tocsin* to a nation in arms! and its reverberaton the knell of her own infamous death! The despoiler of nations would fall by her own guilty hand. A policy so *suicidal* she will not adopt. Well does she know that a war with this country could let loose upon her thousands of her own starving manufacturers and cultivators, who are even now baying like bloodhounds upon her remorseless course, and whose hot breath almost fans her bloated cheeks!

A war with England! And are we to sacrifice our rights for such an idle fear? Who are they that deprecate our occupancy of Oregon for fear of war? Such,

"When the clarion sounds to arms,
Shrink like tortoises within their shells,
To die with APPREHENSION."

And we are to be deterred from asserting and maintaining a national right for fear of such a result! Rather let us at once and wholly surrender up our nationality than have it wrested from us by piecemeal, or *negotiated* away, as was the Northeastern boundary, in a *trafficking* spirit—and God knows at what expenditure of "*secret service*" money to a notoriously needy individual.

It were useless waste of time to show forth the great advantages, to the people of the United States, the occupation of Oregon presents. From the first attempt at settlement, by John Jacob Astor, whose prescience enabled him years ago to look toward it as a great source of private and national wealth, up to the present time, all men largely engaged in commerce have been impressed with its vast importance. The rising empires growing up in the numerous isles of the Pacific — empires which have lately become of importance sufficient to tempt the cupidity of France as well as England—already these present markets for American products and manufactures to a considerable extent; and in the settlement of Oregon, a busy commerce in timber will spring up immediately, leading to various other branches of trade in articles of agricultural growth and manufacture. The Oregon opens the way to a more direct trade of the United States with the Phillipines, India and China, and Australasia; and it is no vain prediction that the child is born who will live to see a vast empire grow up under our pretecting care, upon the shores of the Pacific, and a journey to Oregon, from the Atlantic cities, a mere plaything of time.

Give it up to England, or surrender any part to her, and we cannot count the consequences; if not reduced to a state of vessalage in the course of years, the United State will never cease to suffer in all her commercial relations. Secure it to ourselves, and we are free indeed. With Texas, properly acquired, on one hand, and Oregon on another, we may bid defiance to "a world in arms." We are not among those who believe, or affect to believe that the extension of our institutions will weaken the fabric of our Republic. The securing of Oregon and the acquisition of Texas, will strengthen the bonds of the Union. It is not a colonization scheme, acquiring territory in foreign parts, upon distant continents, and in isles far removed, like that of England, pursued with a rapacity outraging all justice, and knowing no rights but those of the sword. It is not the establishing of great corporations, like unto the East India Company, which, in less than a century, is found controlling nearly half the civil and military power of Great Britain, and defying the crown. It is not the building up States in distant parts, as pursued by England, and which will drop in time, ripe in revolt, from the mother country. But it is extending ourselves within natural bounds, and taking advantage of that which the great God of nature has vouchsafed to us as a heritage. We have no fears of weakening, by these means, the sinews of our strength. Rather are they to be loosened by an American press with European ideas, such as we hold the "National intelligencer," *et id omne genus*. The growth of these United States, God grant it! Would we could stand, like Isreal's seer, upon a Pisgah's top, and look upon the promised scene.—What a glorious vista would open to our view! A nation, of Titan growth—the Mistress of the World!—her sons in arms, the guardians of Liberty!—a navy, of a thousand line-of-battle ships, riding at peaceful anchor in unrivalled strength, or on a crusade for the Rights of Man, with trumpets sounding notes of anticipated triumph—pennons gaily floating in the wind, and the "Star Spangled banner" proudly upheld by our gallant tars, and inscribed with "FREEDOM TO THE WORLD!"

From the Boston Times.

The following communication will serve to show the importance of the Californias to the United States:

CALIFORNIA.—I am surprised to notice in some of the papers a dispositiion to treat with levity the recent report of an attempt on the part of Great Britain to get possession of the Californias. This can only proceed from profound ignorance of events in that part of the globe. The fact that the whole of that coast has been surveyed by British cruisers, under direction of their government, is well attested and established. The bays of San Diego and Francisco were sounded throughout, which occupied more than a year, and must have been attended with great expense, for what other motive than its ultimate possession? It it well known that overtures were made by Great Britian to Mexico in 1840; and the Californians were at that time daily expecting to hear of the consummation of the purchase.—To this purport letters from several distinguished individuals were published in the papers of this city; and it is within the knowledg of the writer that sufficient importance was attached to the same to induce a correspondence with some of the members of Congress, calling their attention to our interests, which were so much involved in the procedure.

Our last advices show that California was again in a state of revolution, the natives wishing to expel the Mexicans, and with every prospect of success. General Mitcheltorena was then beseiged at Montery. The natives had seized upon the greater part of his munitions, and obtained full possession of the interior. The struggle, we learn, was expected to be of short continuance, and the defeat of the Mexicans was beyond doubt. Mexico will readily relinquish what she is unable to hold; and if, by so doing, she can relieve herself from the large debt due our citizens, she will be a gainer by the operation. The only important harbors for our vessels from Cape Horn, by the Columbia river, are the two above mentioned. Deprived of these, it must enure to the injury of our commerce. Relinquis these, and in the noble harbor of the San Francisco, we place in the hands of an ambitious rival the key of the broad Pacific, which we may be debarred. To our government, for a naval dopot, it should be immediately secured. Timber of the best kind is here in abundance for repairs and building vessels in case of war; its importance to our whale ships, therefore, may be readily conceived. The entrance is very narrow, and can easily be defended, while the depth and expanse of the bay is sufficient for the protection of the navers of England and America. The Californias desire annexation to the United States.

OPINION OF THE PRESIDENT OF TEXAS ON ANNEXATION.—The Nashville Union says, from a conversation with Maj. Donelson, we are gratified to learn that the present Executive of Texas, so far from encouraging the party in Texas adverse to annexation, as has been stated in many of our public journals, may be relied on to carry out faithfully the wishes of the great body of the people. The result of the recent election in the United States was highly acceptable to President Jones; and as an indication of the opinion of the people of the United States, met with a hearty response in all the branches of the Texas government.

The Tropic talks about the "indecent haste" with which the Texas measure has been passed. He must have the ideas of a terrapin or a snail. The measure has been before the country for eight years—has been discussed in every possible form and manner, and has had probably about ten thousand speeches made concerning it in and out of Congress. If this is the Tropic's "haste," save us from his *deliberation*. [*Sentinel.*

TEXAS RESTORED TO THE UNION.

The struggle in the Senate is at last terminated, and the fairest and richest province of the great valley—given away to Spain, to injustice and despotism—is again embraced in our glorious confederacy of republics, the only free government on the earth. The political chicane which sacrificed this fine country to the jealousy of the monarchical spirit with which British influence, at an early period, infected portions of the Union was busy on this crisis to prevent its redemption from the fate to which it had been consigned. But all the artifices of this cunning, unscrupulous and most dangerous party could no longer prevail; and on this day its power in this country was broken, and we believe it can never be renovated. With Texas and its train of new States—with Florida, and Iowa, and Oregon—the whole Northwest—bringing the giant force of their incorruptible democracies to sustain the already dominant popular party in the Union, all the Machiavellian policy, the intrigue and corruption, the cunning combinations and political machinery, plied by federalism heretofore with partial success, will, for the future, be plied in vain.

The power of federal machinations will be seen in the closeness of the vote in the Senate against the voice of the country. One senator from Maine, two from Virginia, two from Tennessee, one from North Carolina, one from Geogia, one from Louisiana, two from Kentucky, one from Indiana, two from Michigan, voted against the well-known will of the people of their respective States. The joint resolutions from the House, blended with those of Mr. Benton in the Senate, would, with those votes, have passed by a vote of 40 to 12. The question, under party drill, was carried only by 27 to 25!!—so much more potent is party discipline than popular authority. Several of the members of the federal party, it is known, were strongly inclined to vote the wishes of their constituents. Messrs. Johnson, of Louisiana, Merrick, of Maryland, and Henderson, of Mississippi, had the manliness and the moral courage to discharge this high duty. They deserve the thanks of the whole country. But for them, one half of the invaluable acquisition obtained by the statesmanship of Mr. Jefferson—lost through the diplomacy of Mr. Adams, and restored by the soldiership of Houston—would again have been cast away by federalism, possibly lost to the Union forever.

We cannot but express our joy at the happy concert that prevailed in the democratic ranks on this trying occasion. All personal emulations and jealousies were banished from the bosom of every man.—Not a vote was lost; and we look upon it as one of the most fortunate omens of this blest restoration of Texas to the Union, that its first good effect was seen in restoring harmony to the democratic party. If this be perpetuated, the march of our country to prosperity and greatness can never be embarrassed by enemies at home or abroad. [*Globe.*

OPINION IN TEXAS.—The Galveston News of February 8, speaks of the resolutions for the annexation of Texas, which have passed the House, and now pending in the Senate, as having "the best chance of success, among the great variety that have been presented to Congress." It says:

"This bill, it will be remembered, leaves to Texas an entire control over her own territory, as well as the payment of her national debt, allowing the Missouri compromise to settle the limits of slavery.—The people of Texas, we believe, will prefer these terms to those of the late treaty. With a powerful and stable Government, commanding the respect and confidence of foreign nations, the lands of Texas will speedily begin to appreciate towards their intrinsic value. One hundred million acres of public domain, which we probably have, will soon liquidate a debt of four or five, or even ten millions, which is, at least twice the actual amount received by this Government for all its outstanding liabilities. Whatever others may say about this Government being "eviscerated of its lands," and overwhelmed in debt, the people of Texas are perfectly willing to take the former, and guaranty the honorable payment of the latter to the utmost farthing."

INVENTION.—We learn from the Vicksburg *Sentinel* that our old friend, Major GRAY, is the inventor of a new motive power in the wheels of a steamboat, which is likely to be a valuable improvement in steam navigation. The Sentinel says:

It gives a perfectly horizontal action to the buckets, avoiding completely the surplus power necessary in the wheel as it strikes downward on entering the water, and lifts upward when leaving it. It also avoids the lateral friction of the propeller; and is equally as simple in construction. It gives each bucket a perfectly horizontal stroke of 30 feet, without the slightest upward or downward resistance of the water, and accomplishes the whole with only one pinion and ratchet, in addition to the crank which now conveys the power to the ordinary wheel.

THE NEW POST-OFFICE LAW.

The *Madisonian* gives the following synopsis of the Bill:

It is to go into effect on the first of July next. For every single letter, in manuscript, or paper of any kind by or upon which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks and signs, conveyed in the mail, for any distance under three hundred miles, five cents; double, treble, and quadruple letters to be charged proportionably; every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight, to be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of an ounce, shall be charged with an additional postage.—Drop letters—that is, those delivered in the city where they are deposited in the post office—are to be charged two cents. If letters are advertised, they are to be charged with the cost of advertising (two cents) in addition to this postage, when delivered.

Newspapers, of no greater size than nineteen hundred square inches, may be transmitted through the mail to within thirty miles of where they are published, free of postage; if sent over thirty miles, the same postage charged as at present.

Private circular letters, unsealed, are subject to a postage of two cents.

The franking privilege, as it now exists, is utterly abrogated and repealed; and officers of the Government of the United States, heretofore having the franking privilege, are required to keep an account of the business letters which they receive, the postage of which is to be paid by the department to which they are attached. The assistant postmasters general are allowed to frank, but must endorse their letters or packages "official business," and if they should not be on official business, they are liable to a penality of three hundred dollars for each offence. Deputy postmasters are to have all the postage they pay on business letters refunded, and if their commissions do not amount to twenty-five dollars per annum, then the Postmaster General is allowed to increase them.

Governors of States are allowed to transmit through mail, free of postage, certain books and documents; and members of Congress, the Secretary of State and Clerk of the House of Representatives, can frank all public printed documents, and leaves the franking privileges of the Senators and Representatives, on all letters and packages not exceeding two ounces in weight, the same as it now is, and they are also allowed to receive letters and packages during the session, as well as for thirty days before and after the same. The Postmaster General is to keep an account of the charge on all matter that goes through the mail free, which is to be refunded from the contingent fund or from the Treasury.

Newspapers, pamphlets, books and periodicals, can be sent out of the mail, over the mail routes, by publishers, agents, or others, without hinderance from the Department.

Private expresses, to perform regular trips on mail routes, and transport mailable matter, are expressly prohibited under a penalty of one hundred and fifty dollars for each offence. Stage coaches, steamboats, railroad cars, packet boats, &c., with their owners, managers, servants, crews, &c., performing regular trips on post routes, are prohibited from carrying letters or mailable matter, excepting newspapers, pamphlets, or magazines, unless they relate to the cargo or some part of it, or to the articles conveyed in the stage coach, car or other vehicle, under a penalty of one hundred dollars for each offence, to be paid by the owner, and fifty dollars by the captain, driver, or other persons in charge, not being an owner in whole or in part.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars is appropriated from the Treasury to be applied to the Department, in case of any deficiency in its income caused by the general reduction of postage made by this act.

Newspapers are defined to be any printed publication, issued in numbers, consisting of not more than two sheets, and published at short stated intervals of not more than one month, conveying intelligence of passing events, and bona fide extras and supplements of any such publication.

Nothing in the act shall be construed to repeal the laws heretofore enacted, granting the franking privilege to the widows of the ex-Presidents Madison and Harrison.

The remaining sections provid for carrying the law into effect, &c.

The Mobile papers caution the public against counterfeit Mexican dollars, large quantities of which are said to be in circulation. They are made of bell metal, and contain only about five cents worth of silver.

Washington Irving made a mistake when he wrote—"Women, by themselves, are too little to be considerable—can live only by battle and without form." He Deci[illegible]ck out" of that reflection.