

The Primitive Republican.

F. G. BALDWIN.

"Error may be safely tolerated, when Truth is left free to combat it."—JEFFERSON.

Editor & Proprietor.

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From the N. O. Picayune, 27th July, The Cuban Meeting Last Night.

It is but seldom, and only at times when matters of great and general importance are to be considered, that we have seen so large or enthusiastic a meeting as that which assembled at Bank's Arcade last evening in relation to the present struggle for Cuban independence.

The meeting organized at the call of Mr. John Goodwin, who nominated the following officers:

President—Capt. JAMES STOCKTON.

Vice Presidents—J. L. Carman, Gardner Smith, S. W. Cutler, Patrick Irwin, James Smith, Dr. Wedderburn, J. L. Levy, N. C. Hall, Joseph W. Burke, C. D. Yancy, T. P. White.

Secretaries—T. W. Hall, L. L. Dillard, Durant Da Pouta, Alex. Walker.

The nominations were approved by acclamation, and Capt. Stockton briefly addressed the meeting.

He said that he had assembled there to hear read the declaration of independence made at Puerto Principe on the Fourth of July, and signed by two hundred patriots, who were battling for the freedom of their country.

Judge Walker then read the following declaration of Cuban independence, which was listened to throughout with profound attention:

To the Inhabitants of Cuba & to all Freemen.

Every people possesses the unalienable right of changing the form of government by which it is ruled, whenever its interests, honor, and its safety require such a change; since it is only for its advantage that it has delegated its powers to certain determinate persons.

A government which is a standing conspiracy against the governed, loses its vitality and becomes a despotism intolerable to rational men. In such a case the sovereignty reverts, of right, to the centre whence it emanated, to be again, remodelled into such a form as may best suit the wants and circumstances of those to whom that sovereignty appertains.

The people of Cuba possess a strong, perhaps the strongest of all possible cases, for the application of these sacred principles, inasmuch as the colonial despotism of Spain over this island is unequalled in the history of nations; wherefore, resuming our outraged rights, we have this day determined to throw off the shackles of our tyrants, and to raise the bright standard of freedom to lead us to victory, with the unalterable purpose of raising ourselves to the rank of a free people, or of meeting on the field of battle a glorious death, preferable a thousand times to the degrading slavery which is now our lot.

But as a revolution is always attended by sacrifices, calamities and disasters, it is incumbent on us—in addition to the self-evident axiom, set forth in the commencement of this solemn declaration—to expose the just causes which have impelled us to assume the position which we now occupy.

The world must know the grievous injustice, and arbitrary vexations, which the Spanish Government has exercised, and does now exercise towards the miserable inhabitants of Cuba—its injustice and oppression of such magnitude that the sufferings of any other people, compared with ours, are but a shadow to a reality.

The Spanish Government has deprived us of all political rights, maintaining us in a state of pupillage, notwithstanding that our population, wealth and other circumstances render us superior to the greater part of her turbulent, poor and ignorant provinces.

The natural consequences of this usurpation is, that she imposes upon us the heaviest contributions against our will and consent, (which alone could make them legitimate), and which, whilst they impoverish the country, are employed in the support of a numerous army and navy, in the payment of many and useless salaries, and the keeping up the luxury of a corrupt and vicious court.

The Spanish Government does, in effect, prohibit us from embracing either the ecclesiastical or civil professions; because educated, costly of being gratuitous, is rendered as useless as absorbed in the management of their estates, can participate therein. Such a system has been evidently framed for the purpose of keeping us in ignorance, in order that despotism may reign triumphant.

The Spanish Government, so far from encouraging the cultivation of the mechanical arts, has constantly induced persons of color to apply themselves thereto, with the sole diabolical and avowed object of preventing the Cubans from dedicating themselves to those useful and honorable pursuits. It has looked to our ignorance and ignorance, fostered by their heartless policy, as the surest means of unfitting us for the assertion of our rights as freemen, and for the performance of our duties as men.

The same Government bestows upon the natives of the Peninsula all the offices and places of emolument or honor, without any regard to merit; and, faithful to its pernicious maxim, it has provided no law for the Cubans but the ever-changing will of the Captain General of the island.

The Cuban possesses no security for his life and property; for, besides the notorious partiality of the Government, always exercised against the native Cuban, the criminal laws have fallen into disuse, and most of the civil laws through the progress of the age, have become inapplicable.

The Spanish government, contrary to the plainest principles of sound legislation and of humanity, and as if the island of Cuba were constantly in exceptional circumstances, has for years past established and maintained in our midst an executive and permanent military commission, which, in utter contempt of individual liberty, without proof and often without a just cause of suspicion, and solely upon the building of the Captain General, delivers the unfortunate Cuban to an ignominious death upon the scaffold, confiscates his property, and sends him to exile.

As a necessary consequence of the odious tyranny of the Spanish Government, the liberty of speech and of the press is prohibited, and a rigid censorship prevents the defence of the people's rights and the development of their intelligence.

Commerce, fettered by a multitude of custom-houses, revenue offices, and vexatious

The Three Assemblies.

In whatever else the three bodies which bear the Presbyterian name may differ—as Old School, New School, and Cumberland Presbyterians—it is not a little remarkable that in the late action of their General Assemblies on the "vexed question" of the day, they have substantially agreed.

The Spanish Government prohibits free travelling through the island, obliging the inhabitants to take out a transit passport, in defect of which they are severely punished.

Such criminal proceedings, such violent infractions of every right and of every principle, fully justify our determination to throw off the yoke of Spain and proclaim our independence; to which we do in the name of the All-powerful God, in whose protection we confide, and to whom we fervently appeal to sustain us in a struggle into which we bring our lives and our fortunes.

The sun which shone for Junius Brutus for Washington, for Bolivar, for Hidalgo, and for Suere, will not be less resplendent for us; and when our blood shall have watered the tree of liberty, it will produce the same fruits as it did in Rome and Greece of old, and as it does now in the favored land of our brothers of the North American Republic.

To carry us successfully through this fearful contest, weak, unarmed and without guides, we rely upon the merciful protection of the Most High, for the justice of our cause, the valor of the Cubans and the assistance of our free neighbors and brethren.

After the reading of the document there were loud calls for Judge Walker, who made a brief but spirited and eloquent address.

He said that however conflicting the intelligence from Cuba, it was certain that the patriots had taken up arms and met their oppressors; that a battle had been fought, and victory perched upon the banner of the patriots. Something more, he said, should be done for them than mere speaking. Sympathy was not what was required. They should send to the struggling patriots of Cuba men, arms and means.

Judge Walker, at the close of his address, offered the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we greet with joy and enthusiasm the recent intelligence from the island of Cuba as indicative of the heroic resolution and devotion of that people, and of their purpose to make every sacrifice to achieve their independence.

Resolved, That the Cubans having given an earnest of their sincerity and constancy in the struggle for liberty, it is our duty, as brother republicans and men, to aid by all means in our power, their efforts until they are crowned with success.

Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to draft an address to the citizens of Louisiana and the United States in behalf of the Cuban revolution.

Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed by the Chair, to be called the Committee for the Promotion of Cuban Liberty, whose duty it shall be to collect contributions from our citizens to aid the Cuban patriots, and to forward the same as speedily as possible.

The President put the question on the adoption of these resolutions, and a unanimous vote was given in their favor.

At the last address he was at Ciudad de Los Angeles, while his family were at San Francisco, some five hundred miles further up the coast. His immense land claim has been disposed of. The estate, or rather district of country embraced in this claim, lies in the gold region; and besides its rich mineral wealth, is said to be highly productive in agricultural products. The agent of Fremont has disposed of his claim of forty-five thousand acres of gold washings, mines and arable lands to a London company, for some \$22 per acre, or an aggregate of nearly one million of dollars, and this in the face of the alleged insufficiency of Fremont's title, and of the Board of Commissioners who have to pass upon it. The sale is subject to the ratification of Fremont, of which there is no reason to doubt.

One object in disposing of his lands is to get rid of the trouble of their management, so that the owner may turn his attention more directly to the completion of his geography of the United States, between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, a portion of the continent which, until his explorations in 1843-45, was as much a terra incognita as the heart of Africa. Several scientific societies of Belgium and Germany have written to him that they are waiting and still expecting something more at his hands.

All these things we state on the authority of the Herald's correspondent, who, moreover, adds that Mrs. Fremont has introduced a fine, vigorous young Californian into the family, who gives already considerable promise of noise in the world, and that mother and child are doing remarkably well. It is said that the happy event was on the night of the disastrous fire in San Francisco; and that the family were making preparations to move, to escape the flames, when the conflagration took a favorable turn, and they escaped the wide-spread devastation of that fearful night.

The same writer says there is no information from California justifying the idea that Fremont intends to abandon the contest for the Senate. On the other hand, it is his intention to fight it out.

New Orleans Picayune.

A talking match, lately "come off" at New Orleans, for five hundred dollars a side. It continued, according to the Advertiser, for thirteen hours, the rival being a Frenchman and a Kentuckian. The bystanders and judges were all asleep, and when they awoke in the morning, they found the Frenchman dead, and the Kentuckian whispering in his ear.

Why is a restless man in bed like a dishonest lawyer? because he lies on all sides.

The Cuban Revolution.

The arrival of the steamer Isabel, at Savannah, brings four days later news from Havana, and that of a very interesting nature. The Isabel left Havana on the 22d inst. The revolution was progressing favorably to the cause of the patriots. The N. O. Picayune states, that the *Faro Industrial* gives a report of the commander of the cavalry regiment of the centre, Don Joaquin Aguerro, in which he says that he encountered and defeated the insurgents on the 5th inst. Letters received, state on the contrary, that twenty-one of the Spaniards were killed and the remainder fled, and that the patriots lost three killed and five wounded. The letters also state that pronouncements have been made at Holguin and Tunus.

Gen. Conti was attacked while crossing the river Najaza, and defeated, with the loss of 100 men killed and fifty drowned.

The *Gazeta*, in noticing the first action says that the patriots defeated the Government troops.

Fears of a revolt in Matanzas are entertained.

The Delta has the following dispatch from Savannah. It says in publishing it, that 'the capture of Brig. Gen. Conti and nine Spanish officers can be explained only by assuming that the regiment of Cantabria had gone over in a body to the Patriots. Our knowledge of the spirit and disposition of that regiment enables us to say that it is almost certain that such has been the case.'

Here is the dispatch: SAVANNAH, July 25, 1851.

To the Editor of the Delta:

The passengers by the Isabel, arrived today, confirm the news received previously of the revolution in the Central and Eastern Department. The numbers of the Patriots were daily increasing, and several engagements had taken place. In one of them, Brig. Gen. Conti and nine other Spanish officers had been made prisoners; in another, three hundred Spanish soldiers had been destroyed by the Patriot Army.

The Governor of Matanzas had informed the Captain-General that the people of Matanzas were preparing to strike, and that an outbreak was hourly expected. The Captain-General was sending troops to reinforce the garrison of Matanzas.

The Patriots look for Gen. Lopez promptly.

Other telegraphic reports published in the Picayune say that the accounts from Cuba are contradictory.

Letters received from credible quarters assert positively that many towns are in arms, and that the insurgents have organized their forces to the number of 5000. It is also stated that in several actions the Queen's troops had suffered severe loss, and that the insurgents were about to declare a Provisional Government. So great is the alarm of the Spanish authorities that they open all letters passing through the mail.

An express received on the 22d by the Captain-General, in Havana, from Puerto Principe, the 16th, reiterates the statement that a party of insurgents had been beaten and dispersed by the Governor of the Eastern Department, with the loss of five killed. The same Spanish accounts state that five of the insurgents were killed, that many horses and arms were captured, that numbers of the patriots had surrendered, and others were waiting to do so on receiving assurance of pardon. Another letter, from a Spanish source, says that Havana and the rest of the island were quiet, and that the rumors to the contrary are circulated only for the purpose of creating excitement in the United States.

WASHINGTON, July 28.

We learn by a gentleman just arrived here from Havana, that the city at the time of his leaving (the 25th inst.) was filled with rumors of revolt against the provinces in the eastern part of the island. The report was that at Puerto Principe three companies of the regiment of Cantabria had thrown down arms and gone over to the rebel insurgents.

The remainder of that regiment had been publicly disbanded at Havana. Another report was that the people of San Juan de los Remedios were in open insurrection, and had already established a provisional government. Another insurrection had broken out at Tonis. A detachment of Spanish troops had been defeated while pursuing the insurgents with a loss of from two to three hundred men.

Horrible Death of a Little Boy.

We do not know when our feelings have been more moved, than they were on yesterday upon hearing of the death of a son of Mr. James C. Wright. As the burden train was passing out on yesterday morning, the children of James C. Wright, Esq., of our county, were in the act of crossing the Railroad on their way to school, two of the larger boys succeeded in crossing before the engine came up, but the third one, Franklin, about 10 years of age, was caught up by the locomotive, and carried some fifteen or twenty feet, and thrown upon the track—the engine passing over him, crushing his head, body and legs. The death was clear and the Engineer saw the children at the distance of some 50 or 60 yards before him, but says that he hesitated, because the younger ones would not attempt to cross, and therefore did not stop the engine.

We will not undertake to prejudge the Engineer, but we hope the most rigid scrutiny will be made, and if he is not excusable, that he may receive the severest punishment.

The poignancy of grief is rendered more distressing, from the fact that Mr. Wright is now absent on the sea shore for his health, and the lifeless and mangled body of the child had to be taken to the bed, where the mother lay prostrate from sickness. It is much feared that the mother will not be able to survive the sudden shock.

Vechnary, Whig, July 29.

Senator Berrien.

Extracts from the speech of Senator Berrien, of Georgia, on the slavery question, delivered in the Senate of the United States, Feb. 11th and 12th 1850.

"The South says to you, we are a portion of the American people; we have equal rights with you in this Territory; we require that in the regulations which you make for it, you shall do nothing which will embarrass those rights—nothing which will prevent us from the full exercise and enjoyment of them."

"The North says, you cannot be permitted to enter those Territories, unless you divest yourselves of certain rights which, within the limits of the United States you possess. This is the bone of contention."

"If it could be shown—and if I have strength I hope to be able to show—that the South has, with the North equal rights under this constitution; that the inalienable result of that equality, is an equality of right to participate in all the acquisitions which are made by this government, and that no incidental circumstances attending the condition of any one of the parties to the constitution, can, in the exercise of an implied power, destroy the right which is founded upon that elementary principle of equality—if it be demonstrated, there would result an obligation on the part of Congress, supporting them to be invested with the power of legislation upon the subject of slavery; not merely not to prohibit the citizen of the United States from the enjoyment of a right to participate in the common territory of the Union, but to remove if it were necessary, any obstruction which existed to the enjoyment of that right. If Congress possessed a power to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the Territories of California and New Mexico, and there existed any obstruction to the exercise of this right of the citizens of the South, they might with confidence appeal to them to exercise this legislative power for the purpose of removing these obstructions. But we make no such appeal. And I desire Senators to observe the policy upon which, so far as I understand it, the South claim rests. We make no claim to your interference. We do not invoke the exercise of your legislative power. We deny that you possess such powers. We say to Congress, exercise the power which you possess, from whatever source this may be derived, of instituting governments for these Territories. Abstain from legislating upon the subject of slavery. You assert one principle and we another. Leave that principle to be decided by the constitutional arbiter between us. We do not ask your legislative aid. What we deprecate is, your legislative interference. Organize the governments of these Territories as you may see fit. No southern man will interfere to oppose your progress. But abstain from the use of the power which you affirm and we deny, and give us the privilege of referring the question of difficulty between us, to the common arbiter established by the constitution.—Organize your Territories as you will; but abstain from any act of legislation calculated to abridge the enjoyment of a right which we assert. Abstain from legislation which will interfere with the enjoyment of that right."

"But Congress possesses, in many instances, the power of affirmative legislation over an object, without having the power to legislate over it negatively. You can pass no laws abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, deny to no accused person the right of trial by jury, or any person in the common law courts, where the matter is over twenty dollars. Now, it is not to be doubted that, to facilitate to citizens the enjoyment of those rights, Congress may legislate affirmatively, although the power to legislate negatively is expressly denied by the constitution. This may serve to illustrate the position for which I contend. First, that the power of the power to establish a government which includes the idea of legislative power, does not necessarily extend to the power which is asserted in this discussion, that is, to unlimited power. Second, that Congress may have the power to legislate affirmatively, and might, to facilitate the exercise of a constitutional right—the right to carry our slaves into these Territories—be legitimately called upon for such legislation, for the purpose of removing any obstruction which may exist to the enjoyment of it, while the power so to legislate as to create obstructions to the enjoyment of it, would be denied to that body.

Now, I submit to the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Clay) that here is the true equivalent of which he is in search: In a compromise each party may retain the opinion which he had originally formed. He is not required to sacrifice it, but he is required, retaining that opinion, to yield some portion of the claim which he asserts under it, in consideration of some similar concession by his opponent, and that is the precise state of things to which we are brought at this stage of the discussion. We demand admission into these Territories with our property of every description. We assert our right to go there. The North denies this right; resist this claim. What then is the next step? The North asks you to legislate for the purpose of enforcing their opinion. We assert our right to ask you to legislate for the purpose of enforcing ours. Now the true spirit of compromise would suggest that the North should withdraw her demand for prohibition, and that the South should recede from her claim to protective legislation. Each party will stand upon his rights as he asserts them, leaving their decision to the common judicial arbiter of the Union.—I repeat to the Senator from Kentucky that in these mutual concessions it is to be found the true spirit of compromise; that it is the equivalent of which he has been in search.

NEW WAY TO COLLECT AN OLD DEBT.

A young man, having a small bill of five dollars against a firm, whose place of business is near the head of Long Wharf, and which he had tried repeatedly to collect and failed, finally hit upon the following plan to produce the money he so much wanted: He walked deliberately up stairs into the counting room, and placed to one of the firm that he wanted the money, were much indebted, as his sister was very sick with the small pox, and that he had set up with her all the night previous. This was enough—the money was handed to him immediately, with a request that he would leave instantly, and not touch a single thing on his way out.

Who is She? Who can she be?

The Paris correspondent of the N. York Herald thus chronicles the advent of a beautiful American woman in the gay French capital.

Quite an *emule* recently took place on the Boulevard, at the corner of the Rue de Choiseul, occasioned by the appearance, in a *recherche* costume, of the most magnificent lady ever seen in our city, which, *not dit en passant*, is nevertheless renowned for beauty. This young fairy had arrived on the preceding day from the United States, her country, and stopped at the Hotel des Italiens. Her husband, with a courteous eagerness, had called upon the milliners and dress-makers, and furnished her with the newest fashionable articles; also, when she appeared outside the doors of her hotel, her own beauty, so well adorned with the *fanfriches* of the toilette, attracted the eyes of all those who passed by her. In consequence, she was surrounded by a crowd, who, in the most gallant style, uttered three hurrahs to her honor. As a matter of course, when the cause of the enthusiasm was explained, Mr. and Mrs. — (I am begged not to mention their name) returned into the hotel, and thought they would soon be free from the oration. Alas! for about three hours the crowd was standing in front of the door, and Mrs. — was obliged to postpone her visits in Paris. I am told that she has taken the resolution to wear a thick veil on her face in order to avoid another *rassemblement*. What a pity!

From the American Citizen.

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE.—That Gov. Quitman convened the Legislature in extraordinary session, at great expense to the people without waiting to know whether they approved or disapproved the compromise measures, thereby treating the public will with scornful contempt.

That he failed and refused to unfurl the star spangled banner of our country during the session, though it had been customary, to unfurl it, and in this he was aided by a complying majority in the Legislature.

That the House of Representatives refused to permit the farewell address of the Father of his country to be published as an accompanying document with the Governor's extraordinary session Message.

That they refused to permit the people to vote upon the question of "Convention or no Convention," thereby usurping all power to themselves.

That they refused to let the people say whether they were resolved to acquiesce in the compromise measures, or whether they were determined to resist them.

That they refused to require of the members of the Convention to take the usual oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Mississippi, thereby giving them unlimited power.

That the Legislature appropriated \$20,000 of your money to pay legislative delegates to the Nashville Convention without your consent.

That they set apart \$200,000 of your money for emergencies, without your knowledge or consent.

That the Governor urged upon the Legislature to repeal or suspend the act appropriating \$200,000 of your money to common schools, "in view of the grave subjects which occupied the attention of the Legislature."

That the Legislature voted down resolutions declaring there was no cause for a dissolution of the Union on account of past acts of Congress, thereby declaring that there was cause for its dissolution.

That Gov. Quitman advised the appointment of a committee of safety, possessing "adequate powers, absolute or contingent," and thus to establish a despotism in this land of freedom, and giving to it the power of life and death.

He advised the Legislature to prepare the State for any probable emergencies; and to carry out this recommendation he urged upon it the passage of an onerous and expensive army bill, in time of profound peace, to arm the people, and to eat out their substance.