

The Progressive Republican.

F. G. BALDWIN, Editor & Proprietor.
"Error may be safely tolerated, when truth is left free to combat it."—JEFFERSON.
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April 1851. 4-1f.

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F. G. BALDWIN, Proprietor.

SKETCH OF HON. MR. SOULE.

A very graphic and able sketch of this distinguished Senator says the New York Home Journal appeared in a late number of the Democratic Review. We should like to copy it all; but have room only for the first portion, which is an early biography of very unusual interest.

On the 22d of February, 1847, the Senate Chamber at Washington indicated some approaching event of unusual interest.—There was the rustling of silks, the waving of fans and feathers, and the hum of low voices from the fair crowd in the galleries, while below, the space unoccupied by the persons of distinction admitted to the floor, was filled by the most eminent members of the House. Pierre Soule, the new Senator from Louisiana, appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Barrow, was to-day to make his maiden speech. Having already acquired a brilliant local reputation in Louisiana, he was now for the first time to take part in the legislative councils of the country, and the result might determine whether this local reputation was hereafter to expand into a national one. The moment of making such a debut is one of the most important in the life of a public man, and a moment in which many gifted with great genius, have utterly failed.—Thoughts elaborated in the silence of the closet, and given to the world in the form of books, are to those that fall upon the hearts of the multitude from the lips of an impassioned speaker, what a painted portrait is to the living face it represents, and the ability to write eloquently by no means implies the power to speak eloquently. The power of oratory differs from all other intellectual powers in this, that its highest charm is in a certain subtle influence or fascination which lies beyond the thoughts, and which can only be communicated by the orator himself. It may not consist alone in the grace of his gestures, the music of his voice, or the magnificence of his eye, yet certain it is that he alone can "strike the electric chain" which we're darkly bound; and hence all records of eloquence can give us only its shadow. The secret of this power that gives to one man such control over multitudes, is one of the unexplained mysteries of our nature, and the possession of it is one of its highest gifts.

In regarding Mr. Soule, even before he rose, the casual observer could not fail to predict his success, possessed, as he is, of all the external requisites to attract attention and interest. His head is one of delight to the eye of a sculptor. His massive and symmetrical proportions, his noble mien, and all the superior faculties, and even his hair, in picturesque luxuriance, his long jet black hair, his rich Spanish complexion; his piercing eyes, whose scintillations fire that can kindle and melt; his strictly classical features, that would be severe but for the smile of great sweetness that occasionally irradiates them; all that dignity and elegant repose of manner, the result of a consciousness of power—all rendered Mr. Soule one of the most striking and distinguished persons in appearance in the Senate.

On seeing this adopted son of our country, a foreigner both by birth and education, a stranger to our language even until after he had reached the age of manhood, occupying a distinguished place in the Senate of the United States, a desire naturally arises to know something of the past history of a life so identified with the sentiments and interests of the country.

Pierre Soule was born at Castellan, in the Pyrenean Mountains, during the first Consulate of Napoleon. His father had served in the republican ranks, and rose, by his merit alone, to the rank of Lieutenant-General. He afterwards laid aside the sword, and returned to his native mountains, where he became the judge or administrator of justice, among the simple and patriarchal people who still retained their ancient manners and habits. This office had been hereditary in his family for many generations, the head or chief occupying a position somewhat similar to that of the Schalk among the Arabs, and being by his wise counsels, and controlling by his paternal authority, the inhabitants of the little community in which he lived. Thoughtful beyond his years, the young Soule, was often the companion of his father while engaged in discharging the duties of this primitive government; and it was here that the great principles of justice and equality were presented to his mind, and early formed the basis of his serious and elevated character.

It is still the custom, in the south of France, for the father to select from among his children the most intelligent and promising, and devote him to the service of the Church. In this case the choice fell upon the young Soule, and in 1816 he was sent to the Jesuits College, at Toulouse. The fathers did not fail to remark and appreciate the abilities of the young student, and to hold out to him high hopes of distinction and preferment; but the mountaineer had breathed the air of freedom too long, and resisting the allurements of sacerdotal power, and braving the anger of his father, he withdrew from college. He was afterwards sent to Bordeaux to complete his studies; but here, reading of the heroes of Homer and Virgil did not satisfy the aspirations of him who felt the power to become one himself; and accordingly, at the age of fifteen years, we find him taking part in a conspiracy to overthrow the newly reinstated Bourbons. The plot was discovered, and the young conspirator was obliged to fly. Disguised, and on foot, after a series of adventures, he at length found refuge in a little village of Navarre, where, concealed for more than a year, he followed the quiet occupation of a shepherd. He rose with the dawn of day and led his flock to pasture; and while they roamed quietly around him, he studied the trees, the flowers and the minerals; or abandoned to poetic reverie, he gave himself up with enthusiasm to the emotions inspired by the magnificence of the Pyrenees, with only the rustling and ever-changing sky above him, and nature, in her wildest and grandest forms, around him, he listened to those voices that are only audible in the silence of such solitudes, and which, when once heard, are never afterwards wholly stifled, even in the whirl and confusion of active life. In this communion, with the beautiful and sublime forces of Nature, the soul is elevated to higher regions; it approaches God and the invisible world more nearly; and having once

reached this elevation, it can never again sink to its original level. After a year thus passed in intimate companionship with Nature, though exiled from the world, Mr. Soule was permitted to return to Bordeaux, where he became professor in one of the institutions of that city. Endowed with the rare faculty of instructing his pupils, and although of their own age, commanding at once their respect and affection, the professorial chair of a provincial city was too quiet a position for one so eager to take his place in the arena of active life; for one who would

"In the world's broad field of battle
Be a hero in the strife."

For such a spirit, Paris was the only theatre. Thither he went, and while he was here able to secure an honorable independence by another professorship, he found time, amid all the gayeties of the capital and attraction of society, to devote himself to the higher studies, of science, philosophy, and law.

In 1824, he published many articles in the leading journals of Paris, which attracted the attention and gained him the esteem and favor of the most distinguished leaders of the liberal party. It was about this time, in conjunction with Bartholome and Mery, who have since gained such celebrity, that he engaged in the publication of a paper which advocated the most liberal republican sentiments, and fearlessly hurled its sarcasms at the throne and the Church. His attacks on the course of the government, and his exposition of the principles and designs of the Jesuits, took effect, and the ministry required that the offender should be given up. His friend, Charles Ledru, undertook the defence, and appealed to the clemency of the court in behalf of the prisoner, in consideration of his youth. The proud and fiery spirit of Soule burned with indignation at this attempt on the part of his advocate to mitigate the impending sentence by the implied abandonment of the principles he had so boldly adopted, and so fearlessly maintained.—He instinctively rose from his seat, and in a burst of the most impassioned eloquence, he denied the criminality of his opinions, while, at the same time, he assumed their responsibility; and, defending the rectitude of his conduct, and the truth of his sentiments, he displayed, for the first time, to his friends as well as to himself, the possession of those qualities which go to make the orator. This speech was reported next day in all the leading papers, with such comments as were calculated somewhat to console the author in the cells of St. Pelagie, to which he had been sentenced. By the aid of Bartholome, he at length succeeded in making his escape to England, whence he intended to take passage in a ship bound to the republic of Chili, where the situation of private secretary to the President had been offered to him.—Scarcely had he landed in England, however, when he learned that the ship had been forced to depart to retry had been filled by another. Alone in a strange country, and wholly ignorant of the language, he resolutely resolved that the young exile should prefer the risk of his prison in Paris to the sombre skies of England; he, therefore, resolved to return, saying, perhaps, with Oscar—

"My native earth
Will take me as a mother to her arms—
I ask no more than a Venetian grave,
A dungeon, what they will, will be there."

The dungeon, however, was not to be his destiny. On landing at Havre, he was startled by the salutation of a friendly voice, the first that had fallen upon his ear since he left France; and on turning, he found himself beside his friend Baudin, then captain, and since admiral in the French navy. Advised of his intention to return to St. Pelagie, the good captain remonstrated, reminding his young friend that England was not the only free country, and earnestly advising him to seek a temporary asylum in the U. States, from which he would return not the less devoted to liberty, and with an experience that would make him more useful to the good cause.

He offered him a passage in his ship, about to sail for St. Domingo, from which he could easily reach the United States, and urged his immediate departure. This was one of those decisive moments in life which determine the future destiny. Casting his eyes along the western horizon, young Soule seemed to see rising in the dim and uncertain distance, a new star in his horizon; a new future, a new world; he suddenly before him, and four hours after saw him sailing towards it, and watching from the deck of the vessel the receding shores of France. He arrived at Port-au-Prince in September, 1825, and was received with great distinction by President Boyer, to whom the famous Abbe Gregoire had recommended him. Finding here no field for his enterprising spirit, he took passage for Baltimore, where, soon after landing, he became acquainted with some gentlemen from New Orleans, who interested themselves in his plans and fortunes, and advised him to make that city his future residence. He arrived there late in the autumn of 1825, with his slender resources exhausted, and with his energy, courage and enthusiasm impaired. Finding a knowledge of English essential to his advancement in the legal profession, he resolved to go into the interior of the country for the greater facilities of acquiring it; and, furnished with letters of introduction to Gen. Jackson, he was for some time his guest; "and it was under the hospitable roof of the hermitage," says the writer of a sketch of Mr. Soule, "in the house of the great leader and champion of democracy, that the most eloquent orator of that party in Louisiana uttered his first words of English." On parting with his venerable friend, he went to Bardston for the purpose of continuing his studies in English; here a dangerous illness overtook him, under which he languished for many weeks. As he slowly recovered, finding his resources again exhausted, and unwilling to avail himself of the professed kindness of his friends, even during the period of his convalescence, he sought refuge in the convent at Bardston, on condition that the brothers should permit him to take part in their labors. Accordingly, during many hours of the day he devoted himself to the cultivation of the garden that supplied them with fruits, vegetables and flowers; and during those that remained, he was occupied in the study of English. On returning to New Orleans, he underwent his examination for the bar in that language, and was admitted.

His first appearance in public, as a lawyer, was on the occasion of a celebrated trial, which, although opposed by the most distin-

guished counsellors of the State, he succeeded in gaining the case. This was the beginning of a career of the most brilliant success and the highest honors. His marriage with a beautiful and accomplished young Creole, and the birth of a son, attached him still more strongly to Louisiana, and fame and fortune soon crowned the exercise of those talents that had been nursed in solitude and strengthened by adversity. It would seem that those whom Providence destined to play any conspicuous part in the events of the world, it prepares beforehand by a long novitiate in the school of misfortune. Here, those latent energies of character are forced into action, that otherwise might remain dormant, and the fortitude to endure becomes equal to the courage to dare.

The Polar Region.

From some memoranda of the late expedition of the *Advance* and *Rescue*, made up for the New York Times, the following extracts are taken:

The race of people who inhabit the country adjacent to Baffin's Bay and its tributaries are so little known, that any thing in relation to them is caught up with avidity.—This arrival furnishes us with a sight of some of their distinctive characteristics, in dress and otherwise. The dress of a married lady is composed of a pair of short seal-skin pants, far outside, extending nearly to the knee joint, where it meets the legs of the boots, made of the same material, or of deer-skin. The upper part of the person is covered with a "jumper," or a kind of sack with a hood for the head, and sleeves made whole with the exception of a place for the face and arms. This also is made of seal-skin or deer-skin, and in the warmer weather is covered with a fancy colored cotton-cloth sack. In the coldest and wet weather the cloth sack is removed and a seal-skin covering, without fur, placed in its stead. This composes their whole dress. The dress of an unmarried lady is distinguished by a broad band of fancy-colored seal-skin about two and a half inches wide, sewed to each side of the front of their pants, extending nearly the whole length of them. A married woman can also be distinguished from an unmarried one by the hair, which in both cases is tied upon the top of the head, and the ends of that of the married are colored blue, and of the unmarried red. This enables a gallant to act the amiable wit, and avoid the danger of making advances to some one already married, and getting a stray shot from an injured husband. The boots are made very neatly, slender and well proportioned. The upper leather is colored. They tan deerskins with urine, and their seal-skins are dressed in a beautiful manner, simply by drying and rubbing them with a smooth stone. A pair of slippers completes the wardrobe of a lady in the Esquimaux country; these are made of deer-skin, and neatly fringed round the tops with white rabbit's fur. The clothing which is used in the interior of the country is made of the sinews of the deer, and of coarse very durable. The dresses of the males are very similar to the married ladies, with the exception that they are longer and rather heavier. The Dances are scattered about among the Esquimaux, and furnish them with work for their limited articles they may want, which are limited to steel for their spears, and some few ornaments for their dresses, and coloring for their hair and ladies' boots. The seal furnishes them with almost every thing they seem to require—food, clothing, and even fuel.

"Kyaes" are a kind of boat used by this people, and are certainly very curious affairs, four of which were brought in the *Advance*. They are made by stretching seal-skins over a light frame-work of wood shaped very much like a flattened cigar, both ends being very sharp, with a hole in the top of fourteen inches in diameter. The whole length of a boat is about twelve feet by fourteen inches in width, and eight inches deep at the centre. The boatman slides his legs and hips through the aperture in the top of the boat, and pushes his body forward with his hips and arms outside. This part of the body is covered with a seal-skin, made the same as a "jumper," and lashed, with drawing strings at the bottom, to a rim round the aperture in the boat. The boatman propels his craft with a double-bladed paddle, about seven feet in length, made of light wood and slightly made, the main part but about one and a half or two inches in diameter, and the blades four inches wide and ornamented with ivory. With this he moves his boat through the water at a very rapid rate. By a dexterous movement with his oar an expert boatman will completely turn his boat over and come upon the other side, still retaining his accustomed situation. In this fragile vessel he pursues his avocation of spearing seals in the roughest weather, for which purpose has a barbed spear several inches long, made of steel; and very sharp which is attached to an ivory point about eight inches in length, the whole to a staff seven or eight feet in length and two and a half inches in diameter; to the steel is attached a line, forty feet in length, made of the hide of the walrus and this is fastened to a bladder made of the skin of the seal and filled with air, laying on the after part of the boat. When the spear enters the seal it is arranged that it disengages itself from the ivory point, by the point slipping at the same instant from the staff, but is attached by a string and floats with it, while at the same time the bladder to which the line is attached is thrown overboard, preventing the seal from sinking further than the length of the line; the staff and seal are then recovered at his leisure. For killing water fowl, of which there are but few, a sharp round spear is used, attached to a staff seven feet in length. These spears are thrown with astonishing accuracy, rarely, if ever, missing their mark. Another manner, and the easiest by far of spearing the seal, is by doing it through a hole in the ice; the spear is thrown through the hole, and which turns out to be a very narrow ice foot thick, to get fresh air; the natives are accustomed to the noise made by searching, and will hear them a long distance and watch for them, and as soon as they make their appearance they are at once killed and secured. The officers of the *Advance* also brought with them several Esquimaux dogs. These animals are very docile and manageable in their disposition, allowing any one to handle them familiarly, but they may have changed somewhat in their disposition by be-

ing confined so long on board a vessel filled with civilized people; their appetites are voracious, eating at one meal as much as would satisfy three common American dogs. Their appearance at first sight reminds one of the wolf, having a similar head, mouth and ears; their feet and tail are also similar to a prairie wolf, but the eyes are brighter (if the term may be used) than the wolf or any other animal of the kind. Their size is nearly that of a small, well-set bull-dog, and very heavy. One of them on board the *Advance* (a female) has long straight hair, of a brownish white, tail the same another (male) on the back and sides, and head, is black, and the other parts the same as the female, but the hair is shorter. They are very strong, and we witnessed one of them break a good sized cord which he was tied with without appearing to exert himself much in the effort.

A horn of a north whale presents quite a novel feature in the collection. These whales have horns extending from the top of their heads forward, varying in length from one to twelve feet, are very straight, and grooved as if by art in spiral form. The groove is raised about the point of an inch, winding towards the tip, and it is a very remarkable means of defence. The one brought home is about five feet in length, and two inches in diameter at the butt end, and running to a point at the other. These whales, which are very plenty, are spotted, and about the size of a humpbacked whale. A white whale with green back were seen in large numbers, thousands in a school.

Many whaling ships were seen near Melville's Bay. In this bay many whale-ships were wrecked every season. One captain was seen who had been wrecked three times in one day. 75° 30' north latitude; in the first place losing his own vessel, and barely escaping with his life to another, and another, which were successively wrecked the same day.

SNOW WATER.—This remarkable production was actually discovered on Grimson's Cliff, Beverly, Greenland, lat. 70° 3'. At a distance the tops of the cliffs appeared to be a deep red color, as though the whole surface of the snow was the same, but upon a nearer approach it was discovered to be scattered about to mere drops, and was only a light snow. When melted it still retained its color, as it does at the present time. There seems to be no accounting for this singular phenomenon.

An iceberg was ascended, and the height measured by the dropping of a lead ball, (not a very accurate way, however,) which was timed, and the height judged to be three hundred feet above water. If this is correct, it must have extended under water a great distance. It was ascended with great difficulty, being very steep, and necessary to climb a foot hold for every step. If the ascent had been held down, caused by a mishap, about one hundred feet, and when the picked himself up found that he was considerably bruised by the operation.

During the time that the *Advance* was frozen up in the ice, the men and officers practised every day in drawing the sledges, as they were expecting every hour almost to have their vessel crushed and their only means of escape was to travel by ice across Baffin's Bay to the nearest port. Upon seeing a distance of between two and three hundred miles. Two sledges of provisions, enough for thirty days full rations, were all that could be taken along, and these were kept loaded and in readiness the whole time, to start at a moment's warning. The men also had their knapsacks packed ready for a move. Ten miles a day is all the distance that can be made in a day with a sledge—the ice being very uneven, and covered in many places with deep snow and frightful crevices.

For the amusement of the men, and to occupy their time, a theatrical company was formed, and performed nightly to large audiences, using the deck of the *Advance* as a theatre, being housed in. One evening, on the day of the performance, the scenery stood at 40° below zero, and the average during the day was 21°. Yet they did not suffer from the cold.

A CLAIRVOYANT PROPHECY ABOUT SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

In turning over the exchange papers this morning, our eyes fell upon the following paragraph, which purports to have been cut from a paper called the *Edinburgh Advertiser*, but of what date it is not said:

"On the 17th of February last, a clairvoyant, whose revelations are given in Dr. Gregory's late work, stated that Captain Austin was at that moment in lon. 95 deg. 45 min. west, which corresponds exactly with the actual position of the place where he is now found to have passed the winter. According to her statement, Sir John Franklin was at the same time in lon. 101 deg. 45 min. or about 400 miles to the westward; he had been previously relieved, and a third ship was then frozen up along with his two."

Happening to have the work of Dr. Gregory, which is here alluded to on our table, we turned to it, and found sure enough that on page 306 of the American edition, it is recorded that a female in the magnetic state, while examining certain letters said to have been written by Sir John Franklin and Capt. Austin, declared that they were at that moment (Feb. 17th, 1851), in the longitudes above given. The book itself was published several months since, and long before the return of Captain Austin's expedition.

We next turned to our files of the *London Times*, and found the report of Captain Austin published at length, in that paper of September 12th, stating, in the course of it, that, from the 14th February, 1851, until after the 18th, he was fast to the fixed ice, between Cape Martyr and Griffith Island. Now, this point, according to our rude measurements, on Johnson's map of the Arctic Zones, is just about 95° 45' west longitude from Greenwich.

Here then we have a prophecy verified in precise numbers, and distinctly recorded previous to the time when any knowledge of the events referred to could have been had, and which turns out to be a very exact one. The clairvoyant, which has been getting some what into the public eye, will probably be looking up hereafter. It is never before known that we are aware of an decided and signal success.—*New York Post.*

On the 13th ult. not less than 240,000 pounds of butter were received in New York by the Erie Railroad. There were also 100,000 of other market articles.

The Wizard and the Duchess.

The following anecdote of Professor Anderson, the "Great Wizard" who is now performing in New York, will repay perusal particularly as it so fully bears out the high reputation he enjoys as a professor of magic:—

During the Professor's career in Europe, especially in England, his time was very much occupied, and he often was called upon to attend soirees of the nobility, after his usual performances at his public saloon. It was one such occasion that the Wizard received commands from his late Majesty King William the Fourth (who was an adept in the mystic art) to visit him in his studio, for the purpose of being instructed in Mr. Anderson's extensive mysteries; and after the death of the King several very interesting secrets in natural magic were found in his private bureau, addressed to Mr. Anderson, the great and talented Professor of New York, the hand-writing of the King—

The Duchess of S—, who was present, was of a very nervous temperament, and, on the Wizard entering the room, evinced a slight disposition of fear, as did also Louis Philippe, who was then a guest at the Court of England. The Professor saw this, and determined to take advantage of it, and received from the Queen a request to perform the Magic Filtration. Two large glass vases were brought by one of the pages, and Prince Albert filled one with ink, and Lord Jocelyn filled the other with water. The Professor borrowed the Duchess's handkerchief, and covered the ink, when, by some mishap, it slipped in and was almost saturated with black ink. Her Majesty covered the water with her own handkerchief, and the Wizard sought the hand of the Prince, from whom he borrowed a ring which he placed in the hand of Louis Philippe, and desired him to close it, and carefully retain it. The Wizard then gave the Duchess the ink vase to hold, who, though trembling, resolved to be brave; and in an instant, as he waved his hand, the two handkerchiefs were removed, when the vase that had contained the ink was now filled with water, and the water in the other vase had contained the ink, and the ink was now filled with water.

"What of my ring?" asked the Prince.
"Oh," replied the King of the French, "I have that safe here; but I cannot open my hand."
"Indeed," said the Wizard, "My experiment works well," and again waved his baton, and Louis Philippe opened his hand, but the Wizard had fled.

"That I had it, I am certain," said the King; "it is very extraordinary."
"But where is the ring?" demanded the Prince who was anxious for its safety.
"It is in that fish's mouth," answered the Wizard, pointing to the vase, "will four Royal Highness favor me by extracting it!"

He did, and the professor received the warmest approbation from all present at the extraordinary powers he had displayed.

The Professor afterwards introduced his famous Oriental Petal the Magic Vegetation, from a seed, which he placed on the floor, and exhibited the vegetation of a fruit-tree in all its stages, to the perfect growth of fruit and served the fruit (oranges) to the royal party, who pronounced it delicious. This is considered one of the greatest feats in natural magic, and is recognized by the Eastern world as such.

The professor was requested by her Majesty to, if possible, perform the famous chemical experiment imparted to him by her late uncle, William the fourth, that of freezing water in a red-hot crucible. The Professor, expecting such a command, had prepared a ring which he placed in the hand of Louis Philippe, and was tested and sealed up by the Prince, and was retained for a short time by the Duke of Leeds, who had been much interested by the wonders already worked by the Professor. The Wizard, purposing to conclude his exhibition with this experiment, took the Duchess's ink stained handkerchief, and to the utter astonishment and alarm of all present, threw it into the glaring crucible and it, of course, was immediately consumed.

Mag. A. then took the bottle of water from His Grace, and, breaking off the neck, poured the water into the red-hot vessel, and immediately threw upon the carpet from the vessel a large piece of ice, which was examined by them all, and to the most overwhelming surprise of the Queen, the Duchess, and every one, there was the destroyed handkerchief in the middle of the piece of ice. The ice was broken, the cambrie taken out and restored without a stain to the excited Duchess.

The Wizard's fame spread rapidly, and his houses were filled to overflowing for several months in London. He being engaged to leave for the continent, where General Grant awaited him; for in St. Petersburg he was in equal favor, and was introduced at once to the Emperor, which was of great service to him; and he lost nothing of the nervous Duchess, whose curiosity to know how the Professor extracted the stains restored her handkerchief in such a singular place and manner, led to a lively and even friendly correspondence. He was introduced into her Grace's family, where the Wizard always finds a welcome and a home.

An advertisement appears in a western paper which reads as follows: Ran away, a hired man named John; his nose turned up the Erie Railroad, and had on a pair of ordinary socks much worn.

The Captain-General of Cuba.

The N. Y. Courier and Enquirer has a letter from Havana, giving a long and interesting history of the high dignitary who now holds the reins of power in Cuba. From this account we learn that Don Jose de la Concha, Captain-General of Cuba, is the son of a Brazilian General who was killed in the struggle for freedom in that country, and who is indebted for his present elevation, partly to the influence which his brother has acquired at the Court of Spain, and partly to his own talents, which have been displayed to great advantage since his attainment to the position which he at present occupies. It is long since Cuba has had so efficient and popular a Viceroy. Shortly after his assumption of the reins of government in Cuba, his attention was directed by an official to the licenses which had been granted by the last government, which should be exchanged for those bearing his signature.

"And how much," said the Captain-General, "will this produce me?" "About one hundred thousand dollars, may it please your Excellency." "And how much will it produce you?" "About ten thousand, if it please your Excellency." "But it does not please your Excellency. I shall give you my hundred thousand dollars, and you, of course, cannot complain of giving up ten. Let the license stand good."

Though laws have been enacted in Spain for the suppression of the slave trade, yet it is well known that it is at present carried on in Cuba extensively, but at the same time secretly. It would not do for any Capt-General to attempt putting a stop to it altogether, and former Viceroys were in the habit of receiving large *doveces* in consideration of their winking at the illegal traffic. The following story is related of Gen. Concha:

Shortly after his arrival, the owners of two slaves, which had just put into port, presented themselves at the palace, and having succeeded in obtaining an interview with His Excellency, each offered a bag of golden ounces.

"What does this mean, gentlemen?" "May it please your Excellency, we have two cargoes of slaves just arrived, and in a casual compliment we have paid your predecessors on such occasions." "Impossible, gentlemen! No Spanish General could have received money in such a manner. Impossible! Take away your gold immediately, and never let me hear such slander again.—And hark ye, gentlemen, I am content that what I have heard should remain private with Don Jose de la Concha; but take care that no official information reaches the Captain-General upon such matters, or you will lose your slaves, every black of them."

Don Jose is about 45 years of age—slightly built, with a severe and rigid expression of countenance, occasionally relieved by a sweet but fleeting smile around the corners of his mouth. He is about the middle height, well made, and his appearance dignified and graceful. He speaks French fluently but with a strong Spanish accent, and his conversation in private has an earnestness approaching to excitement. The self-possessed graciousness of his manner is instanced by the following anecdote:

It is the custom when he appears in public for all within his sight to uncover. An American, with whom I have a slight acquaintance, was near the palace one morning, when he descended, accompanied by several officers, but flitting smile around the corners of his mouth. He is about the middle height, well made, and his appearance dignified and graceful. He speaks French fluently but with a strong Spanish accent, and his conversation in private has an earnestness approaching to excitement. The self-possessed graciousness of his manner is instanced by the following anecdote:

Railroads.

A writer in the *Vicksburg Sentinel* is urging the State of Mississippi to give active aid to railroads within her limits. There are four leading lines that have been canvassed in that State and approved. Three of these are partly within the State; the fourth, which is the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, will run almost entirely through the State of Tennessee. Of the other three, one, the Vicksburg, Jackson and Montgomery Road, crosses the State from east to west, and the other two are intended to traverse the State from north to south. One of these is the Mobile and Ohio Road; and the other is the Jackson and New-Orleans Road. The writer proposes that the public lands given by the General Government for internal improvements should be appropriated to the purchase of railroad iron, to be laid down in portions of these roads which lie within the State. He calculated that the State will, by the end of this fiscal year, have accumulated a surplus of one million of dollars in the treasury, derived from the appropriation to her own use of the five hundred thousand acres of land derived from the Federal Government; and that being a trust fund for purposes of internal improvement, the State is under an obligation to apply it to such uses. The plan suggested is that the State should furnish the iron to all these roads, as fast as the grading and superstructure is ready for putting it down; requiring that private capital shall bring the work up to that degree of progress. The contribution of the State to be treated as a donation, or stock subscription or loan, as may be decided on when the principle is settled; with precautions to enable the State to avoid imposition and reclaim the sum in case the enterprise should fail.

The project is a bold one, and will, if adopted, have a very decided influence in favor of railroad improvements—some of which are of great direct interest to the city of New Orleans.—*New-Orleans Picayune.*

An Acknowledgment.—A late number of the *London Times* says that "Great Britain has received more useful ideas and more ingenious inventions from the United States, through the Exhibition, than from all other sources." The *Times* is the paper which, early in the season, ridiculed so unparagonably the American department of the Exhibition.

Then can't you joke an enemy into a friend, but thou may'st a friend into an enemy.