

liberty fled and found her only place of refuge among the Anglo-Americans of Texas.

Corresponding committees of safety and vigilance were now formed in all the municipalities of the province. With a single voice, they declared for the support of the constitution and an immediate appeal to arms. There was no alternative left them, and the people of Texas plunged into the contest for the protection of their liberties. On the 28th of September, 1835, they defeated a detachment of Mexicans at Gonzales. On the 9th of October, they stormed and took the strong fortress of Goliad. In the same month they invested the city of San Antonio de Bexar. On the 28th they fought the battle of Concepcion and with ninety-two men obtained a signal victory over four hundred Mexican regulars. On the 3d of November they captured the garrison at Sepantillan. Shortly after, they defeated the enemy at San Patricio. On the 8th the Mexicans were again discomfited in the vicinity of San Antonio. On the 26th they were once more routed with very considerable loss. On the 5th of December the town of San Antonio was stormed by three hundred Americans, under the gallant Milam and after five days incessant fighting, General Cos was forced to capitulate and thirteen hundred Mexicans were set at liberty, on their parole of honor "that they would not in any way, (thereafter,) oppose the re-establishment of the federal constitution of 1824." Thus ended the first campaign and the tricolor flag of the constitution still continued to wave in Texas—but of all Mexico, in Texas alone.

November 3, 1835. In the mean time the delegates of the people had assembled in "general consultation" at San Felipe de Austin. Their deliberations resulted in a solemn declaration that they had taken up arms in defence of the republican principles of the federal constitution of 1824; that they would continue faithful to the Mexican confederacy so long as it should be governed by the constitution and laws that were framed for the protection of their political rights; that they were no longer morally or civilly bound by the compact of union, but that stimulated by the generosity and sympathy common to a free people, they offered their support and assistance to such of the members of the confederacy as would take up arms against military despotism. This declaration met with no response from the interior and Texas was left alone and single-handed to carry on the war against the forces of the dictator.

Before the dissolution of the "consultation," a provisional government was organized and the 1st of March, 1836 appointed for the meeting of a new Convention.

In the month of February 1836, General Santa Anna appeared on the river San Antonio in Texas at the head of a well-appointed army of eight thousand men. On the 21st he entered the town of San Antonio de Bexar, and the Texian garrison one hundred and fifty in number retired within the walls of the Alamo. On the 6th of March after an incessant bombardment of several days the Alamo was taken by assault and Travis Bowie and Crockett with their little band of heroes were all put to the sword. The Mexican loss before this fort is killed and wounded amounted to near fifteen hundred. On the 18th of March near Goliad the Texians under Fannin were surrounded and attacked by a much superior force of Mexicans under Urrea in the middle of an open prairie.

The enemy were at first beaten off but the next morning receiving a strong reinforcement with artillery from Goliad the Texian troops being completely hemmed in and cut off entirely from water surrendered on condition of being released on parole, and transported to the United States. The terms of the capitulation were shamefully violated and Fannin and his comrades were treacherously massacred in cold blood.

Notwithstanding the near approach of the Mexican forces, reeking as they were from their recent victories in the interior, and headed by a leader whom they believed to be invincible, the newly-elected convention met at Washington at the appointed time, and, in conformity with their instructions, on the 2d day of March, 1836, made a formal and absolute declaration of independence. They then proceeded to frame a constitution, to be submitted to the people of independent Texas for adoption; and, after organizing a Government ad interim, composed of a President, and cabinet, they adjourned in time for many of their number to join the patriot army under General Houston before his meeting with the enemy. On the 21st of April Texian independence was sealed and consecrated by the blood of its enemies on the field of San Jacinto. The Mexican General and President was there met by General Houston, the division he commanded in person totally annihilated, he himself was made prisoner, and became a suppliant for the poor boon of his forfeited life, at the hands of a magnanimous victor. On the 24th of April the shattered remnant of the Mexican army, amounting in all to only four thousand worn out and dispirited wretches, commenced their retreat in the most miserable condition, and were permitted to leave the country with all possible celerity, in accordance with the terms of the armistice agreed upon with their captive leader and his next-in-command.

It is thus that Texian independence has been achieved. The justice of this Government has proclaimed to the world its acknowledgment of that independence and its recognition of Texas as one of the sovereignties of the earth. The undersigned feels emboldened by these high reflections and approaches with an anxious solicitude but a just confidence the proposition to unite the two people under one and the same Government.

Numerous examples of the amalgamation of sovereignties may be found in the history of nations but force and not a mutual affection and interest, has been the general inducement to the formation of such bonds, and it is, perhaps impossible to find in the annals of any age a complete precedent of the one now under discussion. Texas seeks to be annexed first and foremost because she is a nation of the same blood with the people of the United States. The history of this country is her history. She claims annexation by the kindred ties of blood language, institutions; by a common origin, by a common history and by a common freedom. Her gallant sons were born upon your soil, and they exult in the conviction that at Goliad San Antonio, Concepcion and San Jacinto, they attested the legitimacy of their Anglo-American blood; and appealing to victories in the cause of liberty they ask if the single star of Texas is not worthy to be added to the brilliant cluster on their mother flag.

In the short period of two years Texas has revolted formed a provisional Government declared her independence achieved it by the sword, formed and adopted a civil constitu-

tion established a permanent Government and obtained at the hands of one of the most powerful Governments in the world an acknowledgment of her independence. She has a territory estimated at near two hundred thousand square miles; a population of one hundred thousand capable of promptly throwing into the field an army of eight thousand strong; and such is the fertility of her soil and the industry of her people that besides the productions necessary for the support of her population her exports of cotton will probably this year amount to fifty thousand bales. Her revenue arising from imposts and taxes under a law of the late Congress without reference to the income accruing from the sales of the public domain has been estimated at half a million of dollars. The great extent of her public domain capable of sustaining a population of ten millions embracing every variety of soil and blessed with a climate most propitious for agricultural pursuits justifies the assertion that Texas is for her population a nation of equal resources with any other on the globe. The undersigned, therefore, feels confident that the honorable the Secretary of State will at once perceive that the people of Texas in assigning their affection for the people of the United States as their principal reason for desiring annexation, are amply provided with all the resources to become of themselves a powerful nation.

Thus then it is that Texas in seeking to place herself among the States of the Union, is prompted mainly by a filial reverence for the constitution and the people of the United States. She has no expectation of an invasion much less of a reconquest at the hands of Mexico. The humiliating defeat and capture of General Santa Anna at San Jacinto is too fresh upon the memories of her soldiery to justify the indulgence of any such apprehensions. Nor does she seek annexation as a shield of protection against the interference of European monarchies. Since the recognition of her independence by the Government of this country she has too much reliance upon the wisdom and the justice of England and France to suppose that either of the crowned heads of these two nations will occupy any other than positions of the most decided neutrality with reference to the difficulties between Mexico and herself; and should this proposition of annexation not be acceded to by this Government she confidently expects at the hands of every civilized nation of Europe the honors of a recognition as a preliminary step to the formation of treaties of amity and commerce.

In reviewing the interest of the two republics involved in this question of annexation the undersigned cannot concede that the United States encounters an equal sacrifice with the people of Texas. Texas brings to this negotiation not only the resources already recapitulated but her sovereignty. She brings too that which in the eyes of the naval Powers of Europe will constitute the material ground for the formation of the most liberal commercial treaties viz: her immense forests of live oak, comprising according to the estimate of President Houston in his message of the 5th of May 1837, "four-fifths of all that species of timber now in the world." She brings too a market for all the various manufactures and for all the agricultural products of the United States, excepting those of cotton and sugar, and those she will contribute from her own soil to swell the already colossal amount of the exports of this nation. The territory and with it the enter-

prise of the country will be extended; her political power will be increased, and the undersigned trusts that he will not be considered intrusive in expressing his deep conviction that the Union of these States will be strengthened by the annexation of a people whose proudest impulse are for its continuance and glory.

What advantage the United States brings to this negotiation the undersigned will not presume to suggest. Her immense resources her splendid fleets her power to raise armies, her magnificent government her unexampled career of prosperity her incomparable administration of justice, and finally all her attributes of greatness a e sources of as much congratulation to the people of Texas as they can possibly bestow. What Texas wishes at the hands of the Government of this Union is simply annexation an amalgamation of flags; and the undersigned assures the honorable the Secretary of State that this is the solitary advantage which he seeks to gain in this negotiation but which he begs leave to say, he hopes to accomplish upon the high principle of a strict adherence to the just rights and dignity of the sovereignty of the Texian nation.

The undersigned will not conceal from the honorable the Secretary of State, his apprehensions that any delay in the conclusion of the treaty of annexation may be fatal to its ultimate accomplishment. Diplomatic relations with foreign Powers are now in the progress of being established, and the result of these interchanges will be commercial treaties, involving difficulties which may be insurmountable in any subsequent arrangement of the question, and, therefore, the undersigned is especially instructed to urge, with as little delay as possible, the immediate discussion and negotiation of a treaty of annexation. Texas is not disposed to yield to any foreign nation the privilege of her coast, involving the command of the Gulf of Mexico, nor can she concede them to the U. S., unless in a treaty of Union. As an independent Power, her interests would conflict with those of the United States, and without annexation, her struggle in the formation of commercial treaties would most naturally be directed to the establishment of the principle of a preference of her cotton and other products in foreign markets over those of the U. S., and such relations, when once established, would it will be at once perceived, very much embarrass if not render totally impracticable, a treaty of annexation.

It is a matter not to be disguised, that Texas must chiefly people her extensive domain from the U. States. With a better soil adapted to the cultivation of cotton and sugar than that of this country, and with all the benefits of commercial treaties concentrated upon the advancement of these two interests, she would present herself as a powerful rival to the agriculture of this Union. With the same political institutions, a cheaper soil, and superior advantages to the cotton and sugar planter, she would drain this country of much of its most valuable labor and population, but whether to such an extent as to seriously effect the interest of the U. S., the undersigned will not presume to suggest. Texas, too, as an independent nation, must, in the regulation of her land system, present, in the cheapness of her prices, the highest inducements to emigration; and will, no doubt, soon claim the attention of that trans-Atlantic enterprise and capital which now flow into the United States.

The undersigned begs leave most