



CLINTON, LOUISIANA: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1855.

[Special Correspondence of the Patriot.] BARON ROTON, March 5, 1855.

The Democracy held a caucus last Thursday, for the purpose of appointing a time for holding their convention to nominate candidates for the State offices. Sometime in June—perhaps the first Monday—was selected. Thus you see the Old Fogies are determined to make one grand effort, which will all be in vain, and no doubt will be the death struggle of that party. The new order of things is destined to sweep all parties into non-existence, and resistance is perfectly useless. But the great political fabric reared by the democracy will remain sound and untouched, and the true Democrats—those who love the principles of their party better than their party men—need not be afraid that the result of their labors will be wrecked in the great revolution which is now working out.

The great political system which now maintains in the country has been thoroughly tried, and the fruit proves good. The intelligence of the people will not tear it away, but the evils sought to be cured exist in the practices and not the policy of the democracy. Some points new and interesting have been raised; the moulding anew the naturalization laws—the prohibition of the importation of criminals into our country—the exclusion of foreign paupers—and the total disunion of church and State—these are to be acted upon, and will be arranged when the new party assumes the helm of State in conformity with the best interests of our beloved country.

The wisecracks of the old Fogies—shutting their eyes to the painful truth, they see all about them—are working on, unconscious of that mine which is now beneath their feet, and which, in the next general election, will blow them to the skies. Defeat inevitable and disastrous is to be their portion, and there is no help for it. We love the tenets of the democratic faith, and will continue to adhere to them in spite of any influence which may be calculated to throw us off at a tangent, but we cannot abide every hideous dogma the usurping leaders of the party may see fit to fix upon us. Israel has gone astray after strange Gods, and for his purification, has been given over for a season to the enemy.

The interest of our country we love much better than that of any party, and right lustily do we intend to battle in this cause. We are already in the field—our colors are flying; we have but to choose our commanders and commence the war in good earnest. Let our watchword be onward, and our arms are directed against all who oppose our creed.

AFFAIRS AT BATON ROUGE.

Business at the capitol is going on bravely. On Friday and Saturday last, not less than one hundred and fifty of the revised statutes were passed by the lower House. This thrifty dispatch, we imagine, may be accounted for on the ground that several quibblers about words were absent, who ever hang as a clog on the wheels of legislation, and no useless discussion was had. The revision of the statutes is a huge undertaking, and time will not admit the finishing of them this session, unless the Governor calls an extra session for this particular purpose. This, it is said, he will do. Many of the members are already heartily tired of their stay at the capitol, and wish to return to their homes. The extra session, if called, will not be very agreeable to some.

Much work is done by the Legislature which properly belongs to the courts—the emancipation of minors and slaves. The process by which these emancipations are obtained in the courts are so cumbersome and expensive, that the applicant prefers throwing the burthen upon the State than to shoulder the trouble himself. A reformation is much required in this particular. If all this kind of business was confined to the courts, it would save much time and money to the State, which should be devoted to matters of greater moment.

NEW LIFE BOAT.—The New York Evening Post learns that a new life boat has been invented by H. Verden, Esq., which is capable of being folded up into a small compass, so that vessels can take an adequate number of them, sufficient for saving from shipwreck the crew and passengers of the largest ships. It is made chiefly of India-rubber, and the boat so constructed as to have the capability of righting itself immediately on the water if accidentally capsized. The plan has been patented by the inventor.

There is a rumor in New York, that the U. S. Government is negotiating with Mr. Burton, for the purchase of his theatre in Chambers street, for the purpose of a General Postoffice. It is also rumored that Mr. Burton has secured the lease of the Metropolitan Theatre.

A Whig State Convention for the purpose of nominating State officers was to be held in Hartford, Conn., on the 28th ult.

The New York Herald of the 20th says: The progress of the Know-Nothings in this State, notwithstanding the draw-backs of Sewardism and his spurious affiliation with this new party is most extraordinary and remarkable. In October last the total number of enrolled members in good standing was sixty-six thousand. In November, with the aid of the Democratic Hard-Shells they polled for Ullman, for Governor, one hundred and twenty-five thousand votes. Now, according to our returns from the Syracuse State Council, the "tested" members of the nine hundred and ten councils represented amount to one hundred and forty-two thousand! At anything like this ratio of increase they will be able to command in this State by November next an overwhelming majority over all the outside parties and factions, Whig and Democratic, Free-Soil and Agrarian combined.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The act as reported by the Joint Committee, providing for the administration of the Louisiana Penitentiary, has finally passed both Houses of the Legislature. "It provides that the lessee shall be elected by joint ballot of the General Assembly, at its present session, and every five years thereafter, for the term of five years, commencing on the 1st of May next; that said lessee shall pay the State the annual rent of seven thousand dollars—that he shall keep a register in which shall be entered the names of all convicts, with the date of their imprisonment, and the date of their discharge or death, also a record of all punishments, and furnish the same monthly to the Board of Control, which record shall be open to the inspection of the public. The bill further provides that the Board of Control shall consist of five persons, freeholders and citizens, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall have a general superintendance of the Penitentiary, and report to the Governor, at least once a year, the condition of the institution—that the lessee shall have the power to appoint annually one physician, whose salary shall be six hundred dollars—three chaplains at a salary of one hundred dollars each, and all other officers, except the Board of Control, otherwise provided for in the act. It is further provided that the convicts shall be employed in the manufacture of cotton and woollen goods, bagging and rope, coarse negro shoes and bricks, railroad cars, waggons, carts, wheelbarrows, plows, barrels, hogheads, and such wrought iron and wood work as may be needed to accompany castings."

In addition to the various provisions as above set forth, would it not have been in keeping with the business in hand, to have provided also that the present lessee, who have made very handsome fortunes out of the institution according to their own showing, should be re-elected; for, from the first budding of the subject to its present maturity, we have been led to the belief that the influence which certainly would be brought about would accomplish such a result.

And what strange circumstances have transpired in connection with the deliberations on the subject before the Legislature. At one time and previous to the passage of this act, we see a responsible party approaching the Legislature, and making a public announcement within the walls of the Senate chamber, that he is disposed to assume the control of the Penitentiary, and pay the State for the same the sum of \$12,000 per annum. At another time we behold the passage of act requiring only \$7,000 per annum from the lessee of the institution. A wise system of financing is thus presented—to be admired by all who may choose to do so.

As to whether the Governor will veto the act or not, remains to be seen.

LATER FROM FLORIDA.—The Mobile Tribune of the 24th publishes a letter from Warrington, dated the 23d, in which it states: "It is privately rumored about town that a large body of men are concentrating at the east end of St. Rosa Island, supposed to be a portion of the Kinney expedition or filibusters. Rumor says that the four steamers lately arrived here have something to do with the transportation of this large force. A better location could not have been selected."

A few days ago the sword of General Jackson used at New Orleans, passed through Chattanooga, Tenn., en route for the national archives at Washington. It was broken in two pieces.

It is said that Minister Dodge has engaged Professor Dimitry, of New Orleans, to go to Madrid and speak Spanish for him as Secretary of Legation.

THE LIEUTENANT-GENERALSHIP.—An intelligent correspondent of the National Intelligencer says:

"General Washington was not expected by any member of Congress, to accept (as he did) the Lieutenant-Generalcy; but when it was found that he could be brought back into the public service, Congress was in haste to revive his old revolutionary rank, GENERAL or full General, and the Lieutenantcy was abolished, at the instance of President Adams, to prevent the promotion of the next in rank (Hamilton) thereto. The quarrel had commenced some time before."

The Intelligencer remarks upon the above as follows: "It thus appears that the rank of Lieutenant-General was a grade between the rank General (Washington's revolutionary rank)—and the grade Major-General; so that we have had in our army (and militia too, we believe,) every rank but that of Field Marshal."

It would be an interesting incident if the commission of Gen. Scott as a Lieutenant general of the Army of the United States should bear date on the 22d of February. The honor of being one which only the father of his country held, it would be most appropriately conferred on the birthday of the great chieftain. It is an occasion which draws out our fine military companies, and they would feel a peculiar pleasure in saluting the General-in-Chief on the day of his well-deserved promotion."

The on dit has been current in the capitol for a day or two, that Mr. Buchanan, Minister to the Court of St. James, was about to come home, and that Mr. Silldell was to succeed him. This is said to be based on private dispatches from Washington. It is intended, in fact, that Mr. Buchanan's resignation is already in the President's hands, and that Mr. Silldell's resignation as Senator and his appointment to succeed Mr. Buchanan, are hourly expected. We know not how true or proximate to truth this may be.

A Western paper, speaking of a newly elected Senator, says his ignorance is so dense that the auger of common sense will be longer in boring through it than it would take a boiled carrot to bore through the Hoosac Mountain.

California Items.

In the Legislature, on the 31st ult. the thirty-fifth ballot for United States Senator resulted as follows: Gwin, 89; Edwards, 85; Broderick, 13; Whitesides, 10; McCorkle, 8; McDougall, 3; scattering, 1. Whole number of votes cast, 108.

Three more ballots were taken, and on the last Gwin received only 83 votes. A despatch from Sacramento, dated at 9 o'clock p. m. on the 31st says:

The native Californians were endeavoring to bring about a general migration of that class of citizens to Sonora, they not liking the taxes to which they are subjected.

The last Grand Jury of San Francisco, mentioned in their report that it had been a custom to introduce liquor, cigars, and all sorts of luxuries into the Grand Jury room, and that the county had been called upon to pay bills amounting to \$2,000 for a single term. The Jury making the report, say that their expenses will not exceed \$50.

The work in the new Customhouse in San Francisco was progressing rapidly.

The Chinese merchants of San Francisco are expecting consignments of Chinamen to the number of two thousand, to arrive in the month of May.

The water was greatly retarding operations in the mines.

We take the following summary from the Alta Californian of the 9th. Since the sailing of the mail steamer on the 1st inst., no very startling events have transpired within the limits of our state. The Legislature assemblies daily in convention, and daily goes through the form of voting for a Senator. Dr. Gwin's vote is gradually dwindling down, and his chance is regarded as hopeless by all shrewd politicians. The whigs have a powerful minority—somewhere near forty votes—and unless they coalesce with some faction of the democracy there can be no election at this session. So far they have stuck to their candidate with remarkable pertinacity, and exhibit no signs of breaking up their organization. The candidates are "thick as leaves in Vallambrosos," and every day brings forth one or two fresh ones.

Both branches of the Legislature have passed the bill appropriating \$1000 to each member, notwithstanding the Governor's veto. The only trouble is to get the money, the Treasury being incapable of sustaining such a draft. A bill has been introduced providing for a calling of a convention of the people to make some amendments to the State Constitution.

The full particulars of the wreck of the steamer Southern were received on the 1st. The passengers and crew remained near the wreck for fourteen days and were then taken off by the steamer Major Tompkins.

Chino Sanchez who was tried for murder and in whose case the Jury could not agree has been passing back and forth between Judges Lake and Freelon in a manner quite amusing to outsiders. Judge Lake commits him without bail, and Judge Freelon, on habeas corpus, admits him to bail; the fifth order of court was made yesterday by Judge Lake, when Sanchez was re-committed without bail.

Lynch law is prevailing to an extent hitherto unknown in this State. As many as twenty men have been hung by mobs since the 1st of January. The most recent instances are: the hanging of Sheldon, at Oakland, on a charge of horse stealing; a young man at Red Bluffs, suspected of stealing a mule, but subsequently ascertained to be innocent; and James Morgan, for murder, at Sawyer's Bar, Salmon River.

The two lines of steamers running on the Sacramento and Yuba rivers, have combined and raised the rates of freight and passage. Some singular developments relative to the suit brought in the name of the United States Government, for the "Reserve," have been published. It now turns out that the suit originated in political spite, and was brought contrary to the instruction of the Treasury Department.

The total number of lives lost by the explosion of the steamer Pearl, is ascertained to be sixty-seven.

The Supreme court have settled an important suit, that of *Baymays vs. The City of San Francisco*, which has been decided adverse to the plaintiff. By this decision the county is absolved from the payment of about \$350,000, for which amount the suit was brought.

Two fatal shooting cases occurred at Benicia on the 4th inst. One of the men shot was named Cook.

A bloody tragedy was recently enacted at Yreka, Siskiyou county, which resulted in the death of a man named Leroy C. Rogers, at the hands of Jacob Williams. Roger commenced the attack with a revolver, putting three balls through the body of Williams before the latter could reach him. When he succeeded in doing so, however, he stabbed him four times in and about the chest, killing him almost instantly. Williams lies almost without a possibility of recovery.

A desperate fight occurred among a party of Chinamen in San Francisco on the night of the 6th inst. One was killed and several others wounded.

Disclosures are daily being made of money extortions by Chinese secret societies. The Herald says that the Chinese are daily becoming a nuisance in San Francisco.

THE INDIAN DIFFICULTY ON THE KLAMATH.—By the arrival of the brig J. S. Cabot, Captain West, says the San Francisco Herald, from Humboldt bay, we are put in possession of further intelligence respecting the late Indian disturbance on the Klamath river. We obtain our information from Mr. Francis Campbell, a passenger on the above vessel, who was an eyewitness to the whole transaction, and one of those who escaped from the Indians. His two partners were slaughtered before his eyes. The cause of the disturbance is as follows: It appears that a portion of the whites had traded off some fire-arms, to which some of the others were opposed, and afterwards endeavored to recover the possession of them. A part of the Indians at once gave up their arms, and those who did not comply with the demand were ordered to do so before the expiration of four days, or else their camps would be set on fire. The specified time having transpired, and as there were from forty to fifty of the Indians who would not give up their arms the whites proceeded to carry their threat into execution, when they were attacked by the Indians, who killed five and wounded two of their opponents. The following is a list of the killed—Chas. K. Proctor, of Proctorsville, Va.

Chandler H. Dunham, of Plymouth, Mass.; Wm. Wheeler, Wadsworth county, Wis.; Thos. O'Neil of New Orleans; John Smith of St. Domingo. Wm. Lamb of Oregon, and Mr. Johnson of Mississippi, were mortally wounded.

Speaking of the Indian disturbance in the north the Yreka Herald says: "The Indians on the Klamath river, from Happy Camp to the ocean, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, including those in Trinity Valley on the Bald Hills and Red Wood Creek, numbering in all about one thousand warriors, have taken the war path against the whites, and unless timely aid is immediately extended, the Trinity Valley must be entirely abandoned by the whites. It is thought that the Indians have been preparing for this outbreak for the past two years. The commander of Fort Jones has so few men at the post that he is unable to render any assistance in this emergency."

FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

The Southern Californian gives the most startling accounts of the extraordinary richness of the Kern River mines, and there was an immense rush of miners to the rich diggings. The San Francisco Herald has the following: There are at present from 1500 to 2000 men at work. The diggings at present being worked, are on the surface, and they find it easy work, averaging fifteen dollars a day to the man, and in the gulches taking out from fifty to sixty dollars per day to the man. The distance from Los Angeles to Kern river is one hundred and fifty miles.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE STEAMER PEARL.

The Sacramento and Marysville packet Pearl, Captain Davis, exploded as she was approaching her landing place at Sacramento, on the 27th ult., causing a terrible destruction of life. The Pearl had been racing with a boat of another line called the Enterprise, and the explosion is supposed to have been caused by forcing a heavier head of steam than her boilers could stand. The crew and passengers numbered about 140, including some thirty or forty Chinese, and it was ascertained that sixty persons were either killed outright by the explosion or drowned after being blown overboard. A Mr. David Monroe, who escaped serious injury, gives it as his opinion that the water in the boilers, which was of the kind commonly known as locomotive boilers, had got low, and that the explosion was caused by the sudden introduction of a large quantity of cold water. There were also rumors that the engineer was known to be incompetent. He was arrested.

FROM THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

Dates from Honolulu to January 13th, three weeks later, have been received.

The funeral of the late King, Kamehameha, took place on the 10th of January. The ceremonies were of the most imposing character. The procession was by far the largest ever witnessed in the Islands, extending upwards of half a mile, and composed of not less than five thousand persons. Upwards of fifteen thousand of the inhabitants of Oahu and the adjacent Islands were assembled to witness it. All the public bodies, and all in any manner connected with the Government participated in the ceremonies.

The next day Kamehameha IV, made his first public appearance as King in the large native church. The late King's will was read, and the new King then took the following oath, administered by Hon. Wm. L. Lee, Chancellor of the Kingdom: "I solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, to maintain the Constitution of the Kingdom whole and inviolate, and to govern in conformity with that and the laws."

Immediately afterwards, His Highness the Kuhina Nui repeated the words "God preserve the King" which were echoed through the church with loud cheers. His Majesty's royal standard and the National Ensign were hoisted, and a royal salute fired from the fort. Afterwards, the King made a solemn and eloquent address, in native, to his subjects, which was received by them with great enthusiasm.

In concluding this address he says "On my part, I shall endeavor to give you a mild and liberal government, but at the same time, one sufficiently vigorous to maintain the laws, secure you in all your rights of persons and property, and not too feeble to withstand the assaults of faction. On your part, I shall expect you to contribute your best endeavors to aid me in maintaining the constitution, supporting the laws and upholding our independence."

He afterwards made an animated address to the foreign-born citizens, in the course of which he said: "I cannot fail to heed the example of my ancestors, I therefore say to the foreigner that he is welcome—he is welcome to our shores—welcome as long as he comes with the laudable motive of promoting his own interests, and at the same time respecting those of his neighbor. But if he comes here with no more exalted motive than that of building up his own interests at the expense of the native—to seek our confidence only to betray it—with no higher ambition than that of overthrowing our Government, and introducing anarchy, confusion, and bloodshed—then is he most unwelcome!"

FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

News from Los Angeles represent that town in a flourishing condition. The miners on Kern River were doing well.

A tremendous wild boar, with tusks eight inches in length, was lassoed and captured near Los Angeles. Crime of all descriptions prevails to a great extent in San Bernardino. Mr. J. F. Chavis had arrived at Los Angeles, from New Mexico, with eighteen thousand sheep, nearly all of them in fine condition. At the recent Mexican Presidential election, Santa Anna's influence did not extend to Sonora. It is stated that His Serene Highness did not receive more than a score of votes in the whole Department.

From San Diego we learn that the surveying party sent out to survey a route for the Southern Pacific Railroad, had just returned from the Colorado desert. Their report is highly favorable.

A letter from San Diego says: A good deal of interest is excited by the report of the working of the gold and copper mines in the Gadsden purchase, and several citizens of this place are on their way to the diggings. The specimens we have seen are very beautiful, and will often yield a large percentage of the precious metals.

The United States Quartermaster's depot here is all alive in preparation for the despatching of supply trains to the escort of Lieut. Parkes' surveying party at the Mohave river. Lieut. Winder, of the garrison at the Mission, is to have charge of the escort. Major McKinstry, now at Fort Yuma, is

about to be relieved, and is ordered home, if removed, for some Western post of importance, either in Utah or Kansas.

Melendrex, the anti-filibuster, Commandant of Lower California, has been sojourning in San Diego for some time past, the guest of Don Juan Bandini. He has published a manifesto against all robbers and disturbers of the peace.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—Some weeks since, says the Philadelphia North American, we published an article relating to the probable interference of Great Britain and France with the interests of the United States in the Dominican Republic. In the course of the article the inhabitants were referred to, parenthetically, as mostly mulattoes. The article attracted attention on the island, and a correspondence objects to the phrase as at variance with the fact. He says that the population consists of whites, and a mixture of white and Indian blood, together with mulattoes, corresponding with that of all the Spanish American Republics. He further adds:

President Santana is a white man, as well as his secretaries. I know very well that the Dominican people have been misrepresented by some of the American newspapers, and hope you will use this notice in favor of the country which has many claims, both commercial and political, to a deep interest on the part of the Government of the United States.

Cuba is by no means preferable to the island of St. Domingo. On the contrary, it is much richer than the former, having silver, gold, coal, copper and quicksilver mines, different kinds of wood suitable for vessels besides, being the country for the mahogany and several other precious woods. If Cuba, the key of the Mexican Gulf, the bay of Matanzas, in the Dominican Republic, is not lost, the key of the Caribbean Sea.

Senator Wilson of Massachusetts.

For the convenience of some of our Old Fogey friends, who have been letting off a great deal of gas about the election of Henry Wilson, by the Massachusetts Legislature, we publish below his letter, in answer to the following pointed inquiries made by Vespasian Ellis, the Editor of the American Organ:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17, 1855.

DEAR SIR: Referring you to my editorials of the last two weeks, I have to ask you how I have correctly represented your views in my comments upon your letter of 20th January and the articles in the Boston Bee, which have copied? In other words, do you or do you not recognize the doctrine of state rights, so far as to permit the several states to regulate the question of slavery in their own mode with their state limits? Do you or do you not entertain the opinion that Congress has power to interfere with slavery in the States? Do you or do you not recognize that "higher law" doctrine, which permits you as a Senator to disregard the binding obligations of the constitution? Does the "American organization" in Massachusetts, embrace the question of slavery amongst the for the regulation of which that organization was formed?

Your answer at your earliest convenience will oblige your obedient servant,

VESPASIAN ELLIS, Editor American Organ.

HON. HENRY WILSON, United States Senator.

SENATE CHAMBER, Feb. 19, 1855.

DEAR SIR: My answer to your inquiries will be brief and explicit.

1st. I fully recognize the doctrine of State rights in its application to slavery, as well as to any other matters of public concern. The Virginia and Kentucky resolutions of 1798, in the main, as I think, correctly set forth that doctrine.

2d. My response to your second question included in my answer to your first. I do not entertain the opinion that Congress has power to interfere with slavery as it exists in the States.

3d. Every man who believes in a God, must necessarily believe that there is a law, more or less, to all human law, and that this law is obeyed by men in public and private life. But I see nothing in the Constitution of the United States, as I understand the Constitution of the United States, which requires me, as Senator from Massachusetts, to do anything in conflict with the law of God. If I thought otherwise, I would not take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States.

4th. The American Organization in Massachusetts does not embrace the question of slavery among those for the regulation of which it was formed.

The people of Massachusetts have fixed opinions, in which most of the members of the organization fully concur, against the support or allowance of slavery by national legislation.

They entertain the most profound conviction that the harmony and repose of the country, and the highest interest of the master and the slave demand that the national government should be relieved from all connection with responsibility for slavery, and that this disturbing question should be left to the people of the States where it exists.

While they do not seek to impose the convictions and opinions upon their fellow-citizens of other States, or to proscribe them, they do not fully concurring in those convictions and opinions, they will submit to no dictation or proscription from any body of men, or section of the country.

I, as a Senator from Massachusetts, shall claim for the opinions of her people, all the freedom of utterance, and all the influence on the action of Congress, and the administration of the Government, which a Senator from Virginia can claim for the opinions of the people of the ancient Dominion.

Yours truly, HENRY WILSON, VESPASIAN ELLIS Esq.

On Friday last, says the Boston Traveler, while several persons were standing upon one of the piers at Spicket Falls, Methuen, watching the progress of the ice, four men were accidentally thrown into the river, and went down the falls. Daniel Gleason, Henry Hatch, and John Johnson, escaped by clinging to the roots of some trees, but the fourth, Thomas O. Crummett, was drowned, and his body was not recovered.

During the last six weeks, 150 deaths from scarlet fever have occurred in New York city.

Mr. J. E. Murdock was to appear at Hamlet, in the National Theatre, Washington, on the evening of the 22d ult.