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# DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

MINOR & MURRAY, Editors.

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## THE BANNER.

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It is singular to observe the change which has come over the minds of our opponents in regard to the construction of the constitution. We take as an example the Texas bill, which has lately passed the lower house. We discover that all who oppose it in Congress, and the whole whig editorial corps throughout the country, base their opposition to it upon constitutional ground. We are glad to see that they as a party, begin to understand that there is such a thing as a constitution, and that it has certain definite boundaries beyond which no one can safely pass. Whenever the subject of annexation is mentioned, they tell us that we have no right to annex her to this government. For a moment, let us contrast the present position of the whig party in 1845, and ten years preceding. This very party who are now making protestations of love for the constitution, were the party who have ever been the advocates of a great monied aristocracy—the would-be builders up of a mammoth bank, whose power would ultimately overshadow the very body which created it—they have ever been the friends of an unjust and iniquitous tariff, which is grinding the Southern population to the dust to enrich the nabobs of the North—they have steadily contended, and did actually consummate a law, where by the federal government might arrogantly command state sovereignties to do this and so; the constitution was broad enough to cover the distribution act with them, and a portion of the party have even advocated the doctrine of assumption by the general government of the debts of the states; this, though we believe to be confined to a small portion of the party.

For the support of these various plans, they rely upon two clauses to be found in the constitution of the United States, viz: regulating the currency and that which the general welfare requires. Now, if Congress have the right to pass any law which the good of the country may require, we ask of what force is the restraining clauses which may be found in that article? Where is the beginning and where the end of the powers vested in Congress? There is no doctrine more dangerous to the salvation of the country than this. If Congress may do any thing for the public weal, where does federal power end, and state-rights commence. In the language of one of our most gifted statesmen it is a "wilderness of powers to which fancy in her wildest flight can assign no definite boundary." Yet with these wild and loose doctrines not yet cold upon their lips, the whigs contend that we have no right to add another star to the American galaxy—that we violate the sacred constitution in admitting a new state—and that when the Southern breeze wafts to our ears the wail of our children groaning beneath the iron heel of oppression, we must say to them, suffer on, the general welfare clause cannot protect you. Shame upon such a cold-blooded and selfish doctrine. But, fortunately, they can suit their notions of the constitution to the circumstances of their case, like the shoe of Indian rubber, they can enlarge or contract it at pleasure.

The Boston Post is down "like a thousand of brick" upon John P. Hale, the recreant member of Congress from New Hampshire. He closes his remarks in this language: "We have no fear that the sterling Democracy of N. Hampshire will be misled by such wilful perversions or shallow reasonings, as we have exposed."

As we expected.—L. D. Slamm, editor of the New York Plebeian, is out in the Madisonian disapproving all connection with the McNulty defalcation.

The Centenary church of St. Louis has resolved to take no part in the schism of the northern and southern parties of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Union.

## OREGON.

From our exchange papers we gather the following particulars from Oregon, and publish them because every thing connected with it, will doubtless be interesting:

A Legislature composed of nine persons, elected by the people, has been in session. Among the acts passed, we note the following: Any person who shall make, sell or give away any ardent spirits, shall be subject to a fine of \$100. The officers of the territory are three Governors, called the Executive Committee, a Supreme Judge and a Legislative council.

The laws of Iowa Territory have been adopted. Several priests and nuns have lately been sent out by the church of Rome, and a Methodist Episcopal church lately organized under the charge of the Rev. Mr. Gray.

Memorials are being extensively circulated and signed in the State of Michigan, for the annexation of the Canidas to the United States.

Com. Elliott, suspended some time since from duty, has been again restored to command by the Executive.

Hubbard, the abolition incendiary, commissioned by the Legislature of Massachusetts to see to the rights of free persons of colour in the State of Louisiana, has given it up in despair and returned home. Not long since one of the same stripe from the same State was expelled from South Carolina. This interference will soon become intolerable.

We never laugh so long or so loud, as when we would conceal our grief, says the proverb.

There are at the present time, one hundred and twenty towns in Massachusetts destitute of a grog shop.

Over one million of books are now in the District School Libraries of New York; 700,000 children are taught in these schools, which is 50,000 more than last year.

The following nominations by the President have been confirmed by the Senate:

John G. Cameron, to be receiver of public moneys at Edwardsville, Illinois.

Richard Dennis, to be register of the land office at Greensburg, Louisiana.

"Young Ireland."—An Irish woman near one of the railroad buildings in Pennsylvania recently increased her husband's family by giving birth to three hearty boys. The fortunate couple have now seventeen children in all, and the eldest is scarcely sixteen years of age.

Collector Van Ness of New York has been so bothered with applications for office as seriously to retard the transaction of public business, and he has been obliged to post up a notice warning all office seekers to stay away for one month at least.

The receipts on the canals of New York for the season just closed reached \$2,560,00.

Bad.—Author Tappan and other N. York Abolitionists, are said to have issued a proclamation for a day of fasting, because they say Texas is about to be annexed to this Union.

They have taken five or six thousand dollars' worth of bass in Rhode Island at a single haul of the sein. At this rate their waters will soon be depopulated.

The late fair of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association was visited by such numbers of receipts for admittance exceeded \$15,000.

American hemp now begins to vie in quality, and very nearly in prices, with that of Russia.

Texas can produce Cotton enough to supply all the factories in Europe, and produced more last year than the United States did fifty years ago.

McNulty's trial commenced on the 29th. Eight witnesses were examined.

## "GOING HOME."

The Columbia (Tennessee) Democrat of the 30th ult. says:

"The President elect, James K. Polk, and family left his residence in this place on Tuesday last for Washington. Col. J. Knox Walker (the private Secretary of the President) and several other of the President's friends will accompany him to the Federal city. A large number of the citizens of old Maury and the President's neighbor's convened on the occasion to take their affectionate leave of the man whom they, together with their fellow-citizens of the Union, have selected as their Chief Magistrate for the next four years. The meetings and partings on the occasion presented an affecting scene."

## BIG THUNDER.

This notorious leader of the anti-renters in New York has been released on bail for \$2,000. At the examination before the Supreme Court Commissioner, a general row took place, and after his discharge he was escorted by a procession to Sand Lake.

The Devil Married.—This is no joke; it is a stubborn fact. In Milton, Penn., on Christmas day, by the Rev. Mr. Stoever, Mr. John Devil was joined in holy matrimony to Miss Elizabeth Shad, all of Milton. He must have been married before last December, for his impa have been about for some time, if not longer.

At Nashville (Tenn.) recently, the keeper of a liquor shop caused two little brothers to drink raw whiskey for a trifling wager, the consequence of which was the death of one, and the stupefaction of the other, on the spot.

A pair of boots has been manufactured in Columbia, S. C., to be presented to Governor Polk, and to be worn on the day of his inauguration as President of the United States. They are to be every way worthy of the august occasion! "Go it, boots!"

The Legislature of Vermont have determined that there shall be no more militia training in that state, unless in case of insurrection or invasion.

The New York Herald of January 28, contained Bishop Onderdonk's statement, in full. A card from the publisher, a son of the Bishop, appears in the afternoon papers of that day, announcing the commencement of a suit.

The Madisonian doubts whether Texas will accept the Housso proposition.

Shall the priests marry? is now a question among the Catholics in Germany.

The Rev. Mr. Hewkley, rector of St. John's Church, Washington City, died on Thursday morning week.

An Agricultural College is about to be established near Nashville, Tennessee, designed to combine intellectual and moral culture with physical improvement.

There is a firm on Pearl street New York, called "Lock & Keese," and another on Division street, known as "Trouwel & Moretar."

"It will rain yesterday," said one Frenchman to another, in English.—"Be Gar, it snowed to-morrow," replied his companion, equally well skilled in the language.

"Still gently o'er me stealing," is happily exemplified in the marriage of Ezra A. Still, to Rebecca Stealing, at Richmond Ohio.

A man named James Caesar, complained of his wife lately at Mobile, who it seems dislikes him and keeps out of his sight. He should alter his name now, since he never sees her.

We once heard of a young lady who said there were but two things which, in looking back over her past life, she regretted;—and one of these was, that she didn't eat more cake when her sister Fanny was married!

What tree is not known by its fruit? Answer A boot tree.

## From New's Saturday Gazette. Early Marriages.

BY MRS. CATHARINE ENFIELD.

There is no worldly subject of more importance to a woman than that of marriage. By it she determines her destiny for this life, and often for the one to come. Her ease of mind depends on its happiness infinitely more than does that of the man. If he finds himself incompatibly matched, the husband may seek relief in his own ambition or other sources of pleasure abroad; but her home once made unhappy, the wife has no refuge for her sorrowing heart. Her griefs must be buried in her own bosom. She must weep alone.

It is consequently of great importance that a woman should seriously consider the step she is about to take before entering the married state.—She may be united to a very worthy man, and yet be unhappy, for there is everything in the fitness of the mutual dispositions of the married pair; or she may pledge her faith to one, who, though in outward appearance everything that could be wished, has a character unworthy of her love. To guard against such an evil, requires a serious and careful scrutiny in the selection of a partner for life.

To learn the character and disposition of a gentleman, we admit is no easy task. A woman may have been acquainted with her lover for months, and yet, really know very little about his temper and general conduct. The stronger sex possesses a great advantage over ours, as society is now constituted; for while a suitor may call upon the lady whenever he is in the mood to be agreeable, she is forced to receive him, unless actually engaged in some household occupation, no matter how unfit she feels to entertain him. A gentleman thus has the chance of always showing to the best advantage; & this increases the difficulty on the part of the lady, of learning his true disposition.—Nevertheless, hard as the task is, there is no impossibility in it. There are continually occurring in social intercourse, hundreds of little things, which, like arrows that show from what point the wind blows, reveal to a careful observer the temper and principles of the acquaintance. A hasty word, a sudden frown, a peevish look, a scornful toss of the head, illiberal remarks on persons absent, a tendency to decry everybody but themselves, disregard of the comfort of others in trivial affairs, and numerous such indications will be seized on by persons conversant with character as unerring signs of the disposition of the object of their scrutiny; and it is because parents are better judges of the force of these little things, that they so often form a different, and generally more accurate estimate of the real character of their visitors than their children do. On the other hand, because women are generally keener observers than men, our sex possesses considerable advantage over the other—sufficient, indeed, to counterbalance the privilege which gentlemen have of visiting at their pleasure, to which we have before alluded. Thus much for temper. The character of a suitor may be left to be decided on by a father, brother or other male relative, who have always superior means of obtaining information on this point. We think it undeniable, that very few marry unhappily, who may not lay the blame of it to themselves. But how comes it, the reader will ask, that so many unions are unhappy? We answer, because they are contracted before a sufficient knowledge of each other has been obtained by the parties. And a fruitful cause of this ignorance is the early age at which our sex generally, in this country, enters into the married state—an age so early that the character is scarcely formed, and the judgment too immature to decide on the compatibility of the suitor, even if the observation is practised enough to discover his disposition and character. Probably the average age at which females marry in the United States, is eighteen years. It is certainly not beyond that.

There are many causes for this, some of which, it is true, are irremediable. The beauty of American women is greatest at that age. Comparatively very few remain beautiful at twenty-five; and it is rare, indeed, to see a really handsome female at forty.—But when we speak thus, we allude merely to what is called physical beauty. There is a loveliness of

face, distinct from that of feature—a loveliness which consists wholly in expression, and which is the index on the countenance of all the sweet emotions of the soul; and this loveliness is enduring, growing even brighter with age, and shining with a glorious lustre, like a saintly halo, around the face of a mother or wife in old age. This beauty unhappily is not that which is generally sought for by suitors; but where it is, be sure that the lover is one of a hundred, for he seeks that pearl of great price—a beauty of the soul, which shall not fade away, but begun here will be completed in Heaven. How much is it to be regretted that man does not think more of this moral and mental beauty, than of that mere loveliness of feature and complexion which is all of the "earth earthly," and which is too often accompanied by vanity, heartlessness, ill-temper and a selfish character!

But after all the evil lies with our sex. It has become so much a matter of course for girls to be married at eighteen, that few care to pass beyond that age, and many show a silly eagerness to secure a husband in time.

Let, however, our sex set their faces against these early marriages; and then the lover, who has been first attracted by a pretty face, will be retained by an admiration of your good qualities. This will be the only way to secure your happiness; for, after all, unless you are loved for your qualities of mind and heart, and not for those of person, the affection of your husband will wear away, sooner or later. The little discomforts of real life are like drops of water falling on a rock, which, however hard, yields at last to constant attrition; and a beautiful wife, with an ill regulated mind, is certain to lose her husband's respect, even before she loses his love.

We repeat, at eighteen few women are competent to enter the married state. Their characters are generally unformed; the first novelty of society has not worn off, and they are usually attracted by qualities of person and manner, rather than of heart and intellect. Let any woman, who has lived beyond that age look back, and call to mind the sort of individuals she liked at sixteen, and those she admired at twenty, and, in nine cases out of ten, it will be found that a radical change has come over her notions on the subject, and that what pleased at the earlier age is positively distasteful at the latter one. And yet how many women marry from impressions formed at sixteen! Happiness in unions arising under such circumstances, comes by chance, if it comes at all; and even content is only acquired by long and bitter schooling of the heart, to adapt itself to its ill chosen lot.—At that early age the sterling qualities of the man are too often overlooked; a gilt bauble pleases, when real ore is overlooked.

It is so, too, with the other sex.—When fascinated by mere beauty of face or person, a gentleman chooses a girl of eighteen rather than a mature woman, he runs a great risk, through his own haste, of matching himself to one unfitted for happiness. It is a throw of the dice whether she makes a suitable partner or not.—Blinded by the glare of personal charms, he has married her, ignorant of or indifferent to her mind and heart; and when he wakes to a knowledge of her character, he too often finds her, not the perfect creature of his romantic dreams, but the spoiled child of fortune. And years of unhappiness to both ensue, until her character has been corrected by time. Happy is it for each if that day comes before all hope of mutual love has faded from their hearts. Alas! frequently, ere such a period arrives, the husband or wife, or both, have sought for happiness in the world; and then the domestic hearth is left desolate until the grave closes the sad story.

But even admitting that there may be some of our sex, fully competent in mind and heart at this early age, to assume the responsible duties of a wife and mother, yet, the time allowed to form an acquaintance with a lover is necessarily so short, in a marriage formed at this period of life, that there is little certainty of happiness. At most, the intimacy could not have extended for more than a year or two. This, indeed, would be sufficient in most cases, if the judgment of the lady was matured; but, at sixteen, how few can boast of this,

even if at eighteen they are so fortunate as to possess it!

We cannot but think, then, that early unions are a fruitful cause of unhappiness in the married life. If a gentleman truly loves a girl he will wait a year or two rather than lose her, and no woman will ever repent putting him to such a probation.—The acquaintance should be long before entering into so solemn a contract. A lady should think deeply and seriously on the matter, and not *hurry into an engagement* with childish eagerness, merely to boast of having a beau sooner than others of her age. Recollect, marriage is to endure for life. Father and mother, home and family, are to be deserted for the husband; you are to share his fortunes, and follow his footsteps, even if they lead you to distant lands; in poverty, in sorrow, even in disgrace you are to cling to him. Then, how important that you should really love him, and that your dispositions and tastes should be congenial. If you enter into the married state thoughtlessly and improperly, you weave your own doom of unhappiness. If you sow the storm, you shall reap the whirlwind.

OUTRAGE.—The same British papers received by the Cambria, which are so indignant at the exposure of England's hypocrisy, made by Mr. Calhoun in his masterly letter to Mr. King, are filled with accounts of the horrid condition of the poorer classes in that very philanthropic country.—All of these papers exclaim in concert, that the American Secretary has dared to question the sincerity, not of the British Government alone, but of the British people, by attributing the Abolition zeal of England to selfish and mercenary, instead of humane considerations—cunning political designs for the future aggrandizement of that nation, instead of motives of pure and disinterested philanthropy. Well, the sincerity of British philanthropy is certainly more than doubtful. It is known that England is actively engaged in the worst species of slave trade at the present time; that she has about 100,000,000 slaves in India; and that she is insensible to the sufferings of her own subjects at home. Whilst professing the greatest desire for the comfort of our slave population, she does nothing to remove the distresses of her own people. The following description of the present condition of the laboring population in England, taken from a British paper, furnishes a practical commentary on British philanthropy and sincerity.—[Reporter.

"Such is the extreme starvation point to which they are reduced, that their wives are to be seen begging from door to door, or gathering the disgusting offals that are to be met with in the streets. Meat and water are a luxury which few can boast of, and as for fire, whole houses are without a spark. Last week upwards of two hundred fresh men turned out for wages, and there is every reason to fear that, ere long, that number will be frightfully increased. The constant cry of the men is, 'Are we to die of starvation, or see our children fall before our faces from hunger, while plenty abounds in the land?' The situation of the female beggars is beyond all description—naked, shivering with cold, and faint from hunger, they are parading the streets, and imploring with tears and supplications, assistance for themselves and their famishing children."

The Rochester Democrat notices the prevalence of the epidemic called the black tongue, in that vicinity.—Much alarm has been caused by it.

The Emperor of Russia has issued a decree for the loan of two millions of roubles, for the construction of the railway between Moscow and St. Petersburg.

A Shocking Story.—The Milton (S. C.) Chronicle, of the 15th, says:

Turner Johnson, of Orange, was shockingly murdered by his daughter (about 12 years of age) on the night of the 6th inst. Report says that Johnson went home intoxicated; found no one about but this little girl; threatened to kill her if she did not kill him; laid himself down before the fire, whereupon his daughter approached him, axe in hand, and with one blow, split his skull open. The daughter has been committed to jail.

The expenses occasioned by the suit of Rhode Island against Massachusetts, were \$472,766.