

DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

A. J. PICKENS & CO., EDITORS.

LOUISIANA, MISSOURI.

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To the Citizens of North-Eastern Missouri.

With the present number my career as an editor and proprietor of the Democratic Banner is closed. How I have demeaned myself in that position; and whether my humble efforts as the conductor of an unpretending country journal, have been productive of good or of mischief to the great party to which I profess to belong, I leave for you to determine. For nearly five years I have freely and candidly conversed with you. All my thoughts and feelings—the convictions of my judgment and the emotions of my heart have been unreservedly given you. My whole conduct for that period, now passes in review before you:—It may at times have been wrong, for human nature is fallible, and we are all liable to err. My only purpose, however, has been by my feeble efforts, in an honest and straightforward manner, to contribute to the advancement of principles which I hold dear as the life-drops of my own heart. The great, the pure, unchangeable, eternal principles of democracy have been my chart. By it I have boldly directed my course straight on without turning to the right or to the left, at the bidding of this man, or that clique. And whenever I have seen those principles assailed, no matter by whom, whether by an individual in high or in humble station, as a solemn duty which I owed to you, to myself and to my country, I have fearlessly applied to him the lash, with all the power that my feeble arm could wield. If in the discharge of this duty I have unnecessarily inflicted a wound upon the feelings of a solitary individual, I can but regret it, and trust that it may be forgotten. Believe me, the writer of this, has had to bear and forbear much—no one knows how much, but he who may have occupied a similar position. In the heated discussion of political principle, by persons of nervous temperaments, strife is sometimes engendered, even when the parties themselves would wish to avoid it.

To every respectable brother of the press I have always desired to extend a liberal courtesy, which I have felt it my duty to demand at the hands of all. In the discussion of political questions, tart replies and rejoinders have passed between some of us savoring, perhaps at times, too much of a personal character. But they are past—they are with the things that were—there let them remain. I now cherish not one unkind feeling towards any brother editor, but can freely extend the parting *adieu* to all.

I cannot take my leave as an editor, without an expression of gratitude to some personal friends in Pike and Lincoln, who have stood steadfast and firmly by me from the first day of our acquaintance to the present hour. Not to political friends only but to those who from no selfish motives, (though they differed from me politically) have generously extended to me the warmest personal friendship. The sense of the obligation is for that reason the more lively, and believe me, though I cannot find words to express it, the impression which it has made upon my mind and my feelings, will never be effaced.

I have now only to say to the democratic party of this County, that I believe their press will be placed upon a firmer and better footing than it has ever had heretofore, and consequently that its usefulness will be increased—otherwise, it would not now pass from my hands. Messrs. PICKENS & ROBINSON, its new proprietors, are both practical printers, who have learned their trade in this office, both natives of Pike, well known to most of her citizens, and democrats devoted to principle. Under their management, with a liberal patronage, it must prosper. No one who knows them, will doubt but that the proprietors will do their duty, their whole duty, and that the Banner will still be the exponent of democratic principles. Its ability, however, to advocate those principles, will mainly depend upon the support, which it may receive at your hands. Let me then bespeak for them a generous patronage. Surely every good democrat in the county should feel an interest in the democratic paper of his County, sufficient to induce him to subscribe for it, and to pay for it too. County pride, if no higher motive, should prompt him to this. Let it be done, and you will soon see a large, handsome and well filled journal of your own, circulating amongst

you—a journal very different in appearance from the one now published in your midst. With my best wishes for the prosperity of the new proprietors and the success of democratic principles, I remain your humble servant,

S. F. MURRAY.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Our readers will see from this number of our paper, that the charge of the "Banner" has passed into our hands. In assuming the guidance of our democratic paper in this county, we keenly feel the responsibilities that rest upon us. But we will say to our friends, that we have embarked in this enterprise with a full knowledge of its cares and its trials, but with a settled determination to devote our means and our energies, to the task of making our paper a medium of correct information upon all subjects of interest—political and scientific, agricultural and commercial.

The "Banner" will be found, as heretofore, the uncompromising advocate of the cardinal principles of the democratic party, and to them must we chiefly look for encouragement and support in this our undertaking. But at the same time that we pledge our humble exertions, to an untiring and zealous support of those political principles, the success of which we sincerely believe will ever constitute the guaranty of our country's prosperity, we can also assure our friends who differ with us in sentiment, that our course will be marked with a proper regard for the opinions of others; and that our columns, devoid of abuse and scurrility, shall speak forth our views fearlessly, but with a becoming dignity that should not offend the reasonable man of any party.

We claim not for ourselves the experience and ability enjoyed by some for conducting a public journal, but we claim an honesty of purpose, a zeal in the support of principle and a willingness to labor in a good cause, which we hope will merit the liberal patronage of our friends in Pike and the surrounding counties.

A good newspaper is well worthy the support and liberal encouragement of every community. It is the forerunner of civilization, the promoter of good morals, the medium of knowledge, and the safeguard of republican institutions. It gives tone, character and importance to the country in which it is located, and no one desirous of advancing the prosperity of his own town and country, will refuse the trifling sum that is asked in return for the labors of the printer.

A good cause, though a great incentive to industry and active exertion, will not of itself sustain a paper. We need means, and our location in one of the first counties of the State, and in a section of country which is destined from its natural advantages to become one of the most flourishing regions of the Mississippi valley, encourages us to believe they will be readily supplied by the willing patronage of our fellow-citizens.

Louisiana, too, was but a short time since a village, it was afterwards a town, but now is a city, well worthy of the name—a place of business and trade, and marching on in improvement with unparalleled strides. We have every thing necessary to make a useful and interesting paper, if our friends will take an interest and exert themselves in our behalf. With a larger subscription, we can still improve our paper, and we hope our friends will send in their names as soon possible.

Those who have paid the Messrs. Murray their subscription in advance, will of course receive our paper till the time for which they have subscribed shall expire.—We hope that our political course may please them, and we shall endeavor to make the paper as acceptable to them as we can.

In the last Washington papers quite an interesting correspondence appears, between the Hon. Henry S. Foote, Senator from the State of Mississippi, and the Hon. T. L. Clingman, member of Congress from the State of North Carolina.

Mr. Foote addressed inquiries to Mr. Clingman upon the subject of the *Wilnot Provision*, and desired to know of him, as a prominent member of the whig party of the South, the feelings and views of the citizens of his State, and "the South generally;" and also the "probable action of his political associates, should the present sectional contest be pushed to extremities." Mr. Clingman replies in a short but able letter, taking strong grounds against interference in the slavery question by Congress. After arguing briefly the unconstitutionality of the exercise of the power to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia and to prohibit it in the Territories, he writes as follows:

"You ask, in the second place, what I believe likely to be the course of the south should such a contingency occur? There was but one of the States having any considerable number of slaves in relation to which I had any doubts. From her frontier position, and the powerful influences brought to bear on her, I had some fears as to what might be the action of Kentucky. But I have been gratified beyond expression by the gallant stand which that noble State has recently taken. She has thereby shown that she will not abandon her sisters in the hour of danger, but that she will, if necessary, take the front rank in the struggle for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the white race of the south.—The union of both parties in Mississippi is a type of what will occur elsewhere. The Southern States ought to have but one feeling on this question, as they can have but one destiny. I

have no doubt but that over the entire south there would be a vastly greater unanimity than existed in the old thirteen slave States when they decided to resist British aggression. If a few individuals should attempt to take a different course they would be swept away in the general current. Long before the struggle should come to the worst the south would present an unbroken front."

He then concludes by saying that he had submitted his letter to his colleague, the Hon. Willie P. Mangum, whig senator from that State, and "that he concurred fully in all its general conclusions," and will at an early day make known his views at length.

The *Washington Union*, after speaking of the means resorted to in securing the election of Gen. Taylor to the Presidency—the violated promises of himself and his friends, that he would recognize no distinctions of party among his admiring countrymen—that he would scorn the baseness of political intrigue and put an end to the violence of party warfare: that he would take the constitution and the will of the people as his political chart—would remove no man from office for opinion's sake, but would "proscribe proscription, and restore to the country the friendly feelings of brotherly love, by refusing to 'punish his enemies or reward his friends,'" uses the following just and appropriate language:

"He came into power. He took the oath of fidelity to the constitution, and the oath of office; and under the solemn influences of those oaths, which had just ascended from his lips to be registered on the record of a higher than earthly tribunal, he, in substance, in his address to the people on that occasion, reiterated those sacred pledges which he made previous to his election, in order to gain the confidence and support of his countrymen.

What did this man, thus honored by and thus pledged to the people, then do? The story is briefly told. By his acts he violated all those pledges. He proved to the people that he had a party; and, to the mortification & disgust of every patriot, that party was the same which sympathized with the enemies of his country against whom he fought and conquered. He proved to the people that all his pledges was as naught; that he had friends to reward and enemies to punish; that, instead of being the enemy of proscription, he was its stern advocate; and that he was the friend of those who were most ruthless in their proscriptions of his political opponents. In short, this man, who was to injure nobody for opinion's sake, permitted those under him to make more removals for that cause alone than had been made under all previous administrations, from the beginning of the government.—Instead of making "honesty and fidelity" the chief qualifications for office, as he had promised, he allowed those acting in his name to make partisan services the principal claim for preferment. Instead of acting in a manner which would soften down the asperities of party warfare, and give peace and quiet to the country, he has acted in a manner the best calculated to foment party bitterness and strife. In short, all his promises, and those of his friends and partisans, have been broken and disregarded, and thus he stands forth before the American people as the violator of the faith which he pledged to them.

Ste. Genevieve Democrat—We are in receipt of the first number of a new paper of the foregoing title, just started by P. G. Furgurson, Esq., at Ste. Genevieve, in this State. The *Democrat* is a good sized sheet, making a neat appearance, and promises, judging from the present number, to render yeoman service in the great cause, democracy. In defining his position, the editor uses the following plain and manly talk:

"Our course, therefore, will be firm, but mild; bold, but persuasive; fearless, but respectful; and while we shall assail error, tyranny and falsehood with an unsparing lash, we shall always endeavor to be courteous to all men and to do justice to friends and foes.

With regard to our political opinions, we deem it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail at present: our principles are those of the great Democratic party of the Union, which are known to all. But of late there has arisen a temporary division in the ranks of the Democratic party in our State, and it is necessary that we should state to which wing or branch of the party we belong.—This division was created by our oldest public servant, in the Senate of the United States, and the grounds of his alienation from the main body of the party are too well known to require repetition in this place. We believe that Senator to be decidedly wrong in the position he at present occupies before the people of Missouri; we believe it to be adverse to the great principles of Democracy; we further believe that his recent course is but the first step towards a change which he has determined to make—a desertion from the ranks of the Democratic party, and a union with the Whigs. This is the conclusion we have arrived at, after mature deliberation: we know of but one plea that can be urged in his behalf, and that is the plea of *insanity*."

There are no changes to note in the market this week from our last. The weather has again become clear and delightful. The Autumn has so far been pleasant and warm. The river for the last week has been falling very rapidly. Business active.

TRICKS DISCLOSED.

BENNETT, of the New York Herald, it seems, has recently published a series of letters, written to him from Washington during last spring and summer, disclosing the policy of Taylor's administration and giving the substance of various interviews with the Cabinet. It produces some stir among the official gentlemen, and the only satisfaction they have is in denouncing Bennett as a betrayer of confidence and a base violator of pledges. A certain George W. Brega, avows himself the writer of the letters, but declares they were not for publication, but written under the most solemn pledge of confidence.—He also charges that Bennett has added to them and perverted their meaning. A correspondent of the *St. Louis Republican* says, that "the course which the *Herald* has pursued for some time past, so completely disgusted Mr. Brega that he refused, some time since, to continue his correspondence, and hence the malevolence of Bennett in violating his pledge and publishing his private letters, (full of interpolations and additions written by himself) for the double purpose of injuring the administration and endeavoring to ruin Mr. Brega."

There is certainly great distrust and want of confidence in the whig ranks, when their leaders turn treacherous to each other and publish all the secrets they know because they can't know more. But from this thing we learn an important fact that no one, perhaps, had any idea of before, that Taylor's administration have at least been thinking of pursuing a settled policy, and that the Cabinet actually had some ideas worth communicating to others.

The *Washington correspondent* of the *Missouri Republican* writes, under date of November 16th, as follows:

"The rumor that a difficulty still existed between this Government and France, on account of the position taken by M. de Tocqueville, is, I believe, correct. The news received this morning, however, or the dismissal of the French Ministry, will doubtless remove the only impediment in the way of an amicable adjustment of the points in dispute."

Much sensation has been produced in France, by the bold act of Louis Napoleon in dissolving his cabinet and forming a new one.—The President communicated his intentions to the Assembly in a letter of a strong and determined character, in which he puts himself, as some other great men, who believe all other men inferior to themselves, and that their possession of power and government is a right divine. He says: "the name of Napoleon is a complete programme in itself. It means at home, order, authority, religion and the welfare of the people; abroad, national dignity." Various conjectures are made in regard to the matter; some supposing it an act tending to the good of the people, whilst others denounce it as a base usurpation of power, to further the objects of his ambition and override the liberties of his people. The last is quite probable, from his egotistical and domineering tone.

Since the election of Gen. Taylor, we can but wonder at the remarkable change that has come over the dream of the country. With overwhelming majorities the whigs triumphed in States from which the voice of hope could not reasonably have cheered their efforts. The House of Representatives was largely whig, and the President sustained by the animating confidence of the people, fully manifested in his triumphant election over one of the purest and best men of the nation. He commenced his administration under the most favorable auspices, and had only to redeem his pledges to the people to add to his own renown and strengthen the generous confidence of his fellow-citizens. But that confidence has been forfeited, and a great change has been brought about. Since the 4th of March, elections have been held in almost every State, the people have spoken out, whig majorities have vanished, and left a condemnation upon their own acts and measures.

Upon this subject, we find the following remarks in the *Washington Union*:

"In every State which gave its vote to General Cass, large and increased majorities have been given for the democratic candidates. In States decidedly whig, the Taylor majorities have been greatly diminished; while Connecticut, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Georgia and Louisiana—States which gave their votes to Gen. Taylor, and thus secured his election—have repudiated him and the party with whom he has allied himself. And in New York the result under the untoward circumstances in which the democratic party went into the battle, may be regarded as a democratic victory.

And what has been the success of the administration, even in the very strongholds of the whig party? It has hardly sustained itself, and has entirely failed to restore the reign of the whig party in its former vigor and potency. In Vermont, where it has always maintained its ascendancy, it has failed to elect a governor by the people. In Massachusetts the result is similar, except that it is more adverse to Taylorism than when the General was elected. We believe that in Rhode Island, where federalism has long trampled upon popular rights and public liberty, the whig party has succeeded in maintaining its ascendancy, and electing its governor by the people.

The administration, therefore, stands before the country condemned and repudiated by the people. It has lost the confidence of

the people, and is, in every respect, a minority administration. It is so far in a minority that it may be regarded as a faction holding power and office against the wishes of the people. The breach of solemn pledges made by General Taylor and his supporters previous to his election; the ruthless proscription practised by the cabinet in his name; the weak and imbecile policy of the cabinet, both foreign and domestic, have all been passed upon and condemned by the people. Even Gen. Taylor's own State repudiates him, and proclaims, in a voice which should awaken him, to a sense of his true condition, that he has not redeemed his promises, and has not kept his faith with the people.

The result is, indeed, gratifying to the patriot. It proclaims that if the people can be temporarily misled by false promises and pledges, made to deceive them, they are quick to discover the cheat, and to expose and punish its perpetrators. It establishes a grand moral in politics worthy of the profound considerations of the party in power, viz: that *honesty is the best policy*."

CALIFORNIA.—A letter from Washington expresses the opinion that there will be some California disclosures in the reports of the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, accompanying the President's message. The despatches of Governor Riley and Commodore Jones will, no doubt be somewhat interesting if not too voluminous; but the main body of the real information from the gold diggings, it is expected, will be embraced in the statement of the Hon. Thomas Butler King, who has been spending the whole of the last season in California, in a semi-official capacity. By the last steamer we learn that one tract of land purchased by Lieut. Col. Fremont, a real vein of gold, running in a ledge of rocks, has been discovered, showing that gold exists in its original state in the valleys, and that it is not confined to the washings from the mountains.

We expect that the statement of Butler King, of the extent of the mineral, and of the general advantages of the territory, will confirm all our reports from California, as the most wonderful country in the world. At one time, (1842) Aaron Leggett of New York, had every inch of this country, bays, harbors, and all, ceded to him by contract with the Mexican Government, in payment of damages for the seizure of his ships &c., in the Tobacco trade. A revolution prevented the complete ratification of the contract, or, at this day, Aaron Leggett might have been richer than Croesus, the Rothschilds, and King Solomon, all put together. Of one thing, however, we feel certain—that the President's message, and accompanying documents, including Mr. King's statement, will embrace some astonishing information with regard to California.

THE MAIL ROBBERY.—We have but little additional information in regard to the robbery of the great Western mail due at this city on the 21st. It seems, that there were no passengers in the stage from St. Charles. After crossing the river, the driver determined to put the mails—two leather bags, with brass locks—in the boot, and this was done. The whole mail was still in the stage at the Prairie House, where the driver stopped to water his horses. There, he requested a man to hold his horses while he went into the house, but the bag which was opened was found some distance this side of the Prairie House, and it is supposed that it dropped out of the boot, and fell into the hands of the rogue who rifled it of all its contents. At a place in the road still nearer town, the other letter bag was found by a negro belonging to Mr. Wm. Glasgow, jr., who took it to his master, by whom it was immediately sent to the Post Office.—The rifled bag was not then missed, nor was it found until some days afterwards, when the mail bag and the letters were discovered covered over with some leaves, and information given to Mr. GAMBLE.—The bag robbed contained all the letters from the Post Offices on the Southern side for this city and for distribution, and there were a very large number. The loss has not been precisely ascertained, and as the rogue has several days the start of the officers, it is not probable that he will ever be found out.

Some remittances to ourselves are among the missing, but not to a large amount—and as the money is sent in this way at our own risk, we shall attend to the orders of our correspondents.—[Mo. Republican 1st inst.]

A rupture in the Methodist Church took place some time ago in Alexandria, Va.—The rupture related to the Northern and Southern question, and an appeal to the law was made to settle the difference between the separate boards of trustees to the property of the church. The case came before Judge Scott on the claims of two sets of trustees to the church property, the church edifice having been shut for some months, and the two congregations worshipping in different halls. The Judge speedily gave his decision, ruling out both boards of trustees, and directing that the property be placed in charge of three trustees of different denominations, until a compromise shall be effected, or the right of parties secured in due course of law.

Clayton has at last got into a quarrel with the government of Sweden. He seems determined to try all nations, in hopes of getting a fight out of some of them.