CONGRESSIONAL.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1848.

The bill to grant bounty lands to certain officers in the Mexican war, with an amendment pending to extend the grant to the officers and soldiers of the Indian wars and the late war with Great Britain, being under consideration—

Mr. EMBREE said: Mr. CHAIRMAN, I am in favor of the amendment of the gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. THOMPSON,) and trust that it will receive the sanction of this committee and the sanction of Congress. I was preparing one of the same import at the time he intimated his intention to offer the one now under consideration.

All the soldiers of the Mexican war have already been granted land, except in the case of a few officers who were promoted after their enlistment; and we have now before us four bills to grant land to officers thus situated. To this I shall interpose no objection. No member of this House can feel less disposition to undervalue the merits of those who, at the call of their Government, have assumed arms in the war with Mexico, whatever want of confidence I may have in the conduct of those at the head of affairs at this capital. I will, now and hereafter, distinguish between the want of capacity of those who involved us in the war, and the gallant men who have so gloriously brought it to a close. These services I am prepared to reward, at all times and on all occasions, while honored with a seat on this floor. While doing so, however, let us not forget the brave men of other times and other fields—those who, in days long since elapsed, have covered themselves with glory, and their country with renown. The officers and soldiers of the war of 1812, and the Indian wars which preceded it, performed services equally meritorious and equally deserving of reward. We are too apt, Mr. Chairman, to forget the *old* friend, to bask in the sunlight of some *new* face; but I trust *this* American Congress will not set an example so unworthy of itself. The recollection of the men of 1812, and of the pioneers of Western civilization, forms one of the brightest eras in the history of our country. Were they not as brave as others? Were they less patriotic, devoted? What fields of contest witnessed more noble daring, more unflinching courage? What epoch was signalized by more self-denial, hardships, and sacrifice? The Indian wars on our extreme frontiers, and the triumphant contests from 1812 to 1815, exhibited the highest traits of gallantry and the highest devotion to the claims of our common country. Those wars were *forced* upon us: the former ones by the indiscriminate slaughter of the early pioneers of civilization; the latter, by the injustice, insult, and taunts of the first maritime and military Power of modern times. We had sought no contest with the hordes of savages which then infested our Western borders, nor yet with the insolent power of Britain, whose flag floated in every sea and waved over the battlements of a thousand fortifications. These wars were wars of defence—the defence of border rights and the freedom of commerce—against untutored barbarism and unjust aggression.

I have said, Mr. Chairman, that the war of 1812 was a *defensive* war, and history so writes it upon her pages. It was a war waged against us by the first military Power of christendom, in support of which it was the duty of the whole country to unite as one man. Those who did unite—those who performed actual service—those who exposed life and limb in the conflicts of that period, are entitled to recompense from the abundant fulness of the nation's resources. The war of 1812 was waged against a Power full of the "sinews" for a mighty struggle—a nation equipped with a navy which had been for years the scourge of the seas, and an army commanded by experienced generals, not by officers furnished her by "*confidential passports*" from a belligerent, as in a recent and quite notorious case. Our armies in that war, in addition, had to contend against a foe more savage and equally brave—the "allies" of our great rival—and quite as inhumane as our present Mexican foes. With such foes, and with such odds against us, the gallant men of that day triumphed most signally. Their victories I need not recount, their exploits I will not recapitulate. The history of these achievements is yet fresh in the remembrance of this people, and have been eloquently portrayed by the gentleman who has just taken his seat, (Mr. MCCLERNAND.) It is enough for me to say that our rights, and the rights of all commercial nations, were amply vindicated by our gallant army and navy, and that a lasting and honorable peace was the result of their heroic deeds. That war and the present one with Mexico, so far as mere military glory is involved, has added enough to satisfy any nation, however ambitious in the pursuit of that renown which follows the contest of arms.

But why is it that some gentlemen are not willing that the claims of the soldiers in the war with Great Britain should be considered with those of the present war? They say it will create delay. Indeed, sir! If this objection is sincere, let them come up and help us to pass *all* together; and that time, so precious in their sight, will be saved to the country in the deliberations of this House. Let one bill contain justice to the present, and long-deferred justice to the men of other times. Why postpone any longer the just claims of those fast passing away from the scenes of earth? If you ever intend to do any thing for the soldiers of the Indian and British wars, *now* is the time to do it, after thirty-six years of neglect and coldness. Yes, Mr. Chairman, if the opponents of this amendment are sincere, and wish to save time, let them give its friends their support, and the soldiers of the *past* and *present* will have ample justice done them. I fear there are reasons operating against this amendment not avowed—reasons which will not bear the light of day nor the scrutiny of the people.

I will endeavor to solve the difficulty, Mr. Chairman. The war of 1812 was a war of *patriotism*, brought about by the aggressions of a foreign Power upon our maritime rights, and aroused the indignation of the American people. It was a war in which the feelings, the judgment, and the high-toned patriotism of our citizens were enlisted. The present war, it is believed, has none of these attributes to dignify it. It is a war of passion, of ill-judgment, and party cupidity, entered into hastily, and prosecuted (except in the field) with blundering blindness and wasteful extravagance. It is a war of invasion and conquest, in opposition to the wishes and against the desires and interest of the great body of the people—a war, sir, of the President, and those of his party who expect to profit by it as individuals, and who control the public funds and public lands for their own aggrandizement. It is a war which is to swallow up every thing for the *present*, leaving nothing to pay for *old* services, rendered in the Indian or British wars. Party has taken possession of every inheritance, and even the lands which belong to the people are made "spoils" of to prop up the fabric of party extravagance. In these evil days justice is forgotten, and the poor soldier of the frontier and the gallant combatant of 1812 must eke out a miserable existence, because the national treasure is wanted to prosecute a war which owes its origin to the ambition of party schemes and the perpetuation of party domination. To sustain it, the general policy of this Administration has been to seize upon, annex, and acquire territory that did not belong to us; and to effect that object of getting land five different schemes were hatched up, (all of them having the same tendency—the curse of a large national debt, and the extension of Executive patronage,) viz:

1. The claim to the whole of Oregon.
2. The annexation of Texas.
3. The extension of Texas from the Nueces to the Rio Grande.
4. The seizing upon and holding New Mexico and California.
5. "To swallow up" the whole of Mexico—according to the classic language of a Democratic Senator.

Out of this grasping policy, this lust of conquest, this war has been brought upon us; and to it every thing else is made to bend. How long it is to last, and *where* it is to stop, the American people must shortly decide.

The suggestion was made by a head of an important department, (the Secretary of State,) that it would not answer for Texas to go into the hands of such as would exclude slavery from it; and thereupon a change came over the Democratic politicians. Mr. Van Buren's administration had opposed the annexation of Texas, and the lamented Silas Wright (now no more) opposed it to the moment when the deed was consummated, and regretted it to the day of his death. Both of these Democratic statesmen, together with the whole Whig party, resisted the fatal deed, upon the ground that, at the time, and under the circumstances, it was calculated to bring on war. These opinions of Mr. Van Buren, entertained and promulgated, were the means of defeating his nomination at Baltimore in 1844, though a large majority of the delegates to the convention were previously friendly to him, and were chosen by the people on account of such preference. Mr. Polk (not thought of by any one when the delegates were chosen) was put before the country, and resolutions favorable to our claim to the *whole* of Oregon and the annexation of Texas passed with great unanimity, and made part and parcel of the new Democratic creed. The electoral candidates of this party, their candidates for Governors, members of Congress, and every smaller luminary, preached this new political faith, and, aided by the usual amount of falsehood, convinced a small majority of the people that the election of Mr. Polk would secure "the *whole*" of Oregon and give us Texas without war or bloodshed—without the loss of even the treasure of the country, or the sacrifice of a single life. By these promises, falsely and hypocritically made, the American people were induced to elect the incumbent of the Presidential chair, and to send to both Houses of Congress decided majorities of his friends, in order to have carried out, beyond peradventure, the sublime measures of the Baltimore Convention. I have designated these promises hypocritical, and I beg that the country may be informed on this subject, and that in all future time we may be saved from the repetition of such scandalous deception.

Let me, Mr. Chairman, exhibit a single instance of this gross political fraud—*this getting votes under false pretences*—during the canvass of 1844. At the Baltimore Convention, on the nomination of Mr. Polk, the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That our title to the WHOLE *of the territory of Oregon* is clear and unquestionable; that NO PORTION of the same ought to be ceded to England or any other Power."

Here was a pledge as broad as language could convey, and made by a convention of delegates selected to give effect to the principles of the party. It was made in open day—after consultation and reflection—and was *one* of the great measures upon which it entered the campaign of 1844. This is not all. The orators and pamphleteers spoke and wrote the same language, and pretended to enforce the same doctrines. I will read an extract from a pamphlet headed "OREGON," *published by the Democratic Association of Washington, D. C.*, as follows:

"3. Mr. Polk, by his letter of the 23d of April, 1844, before quoted, stands pledged to the occupancy of the *whole of Oregon*, and against the surrender of 'any portion' of it to 'Great Britain or any other foreign Power.'

"4. The Democratic Convention which nominated Mr. Polk as their candidate for the Presidency, adopted unanimously the resolution before quoted in favor of the occupancy of Oregon, and against the surrender of any portion of it.

"The issue, then, is clearly presented, as a *British and American question*—Clay and England on the one side, Polk and America on the other. Shall the stars and stripes of the Union, or the red cross of St. George, wave forever over the territory of Oregon? Shall a republic or a monarchy be established within its limits, and our children, and our children's children, or those of Great Britain, cultivate its soil, supply its markets, and control its destiny? The question is momentous, and let every freeman reflect that a single vote may decide the issue, *now and forever*, for or against his country."

Well, Mr. Chairman, "James K. Polk and America" succeeded over "Clay and England;" and what has been the result? The "pledge" candidate, the 54° 40'-ite, the "whole or none" man, succeeded, and what *has* happened? Does the "red cross of St. George wave" over "*any portion*" of Oregon? "Oh, tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon," this identical James K. Polk gave up 54° 40', and came down to 49°, made a treaty, and signed it with his own name, *knocked under* to the "red cross of St. George," (dragon, teeth and all!) and sent it to the United States Senate for ratification! In the language of that pamphlet, "from 49° to 54° 40' is three hundred and sixty miles in a straight line, but nearly five hundred by the indentures of the coast, making in all 216,000 square miles of territory, *or more than five times as large as the State of Ohio*;" and all this mighty empire was surrendered to plant a "monarchy," and for England "to control its destiny." Mr. Polk forgot his pledges, forgot the edicts of the Baltimore Convention, forgot his "American" feeling, crouched down before the first roar of the British lion, and quietly gave up the ghost. Discretion became the better part of valor, and all the gasconade of the Executive and the swagger of Senators sunk down into the most abject surrender of asserted rights. The "whole or none" humbug elected Mr. Polk, and that was enough. It served its turn in this "age of bronze," and was speedily kicked to the receptacle of cast-off political trumpery. The people should never forget this lesson of party duplicity, or the men who practiced upon their patriotic feelings only to betray and insult them.

This Oregon farce ended so disreputably that a fuss in another quarter was indispensable to the establishment of Democratic valor, and the appetite for acquisition must have a successful vent in some quarter. The country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande was the pretext; and, though Thomas H. Benton declared that the claim set up for that country was an unparalleled outrage upon Mexico, yet the claim was not only set up, but the country taken possession of by sending our army to the Rio Grande, and then by bringing the armies of the two nations in conflict. The decisive victories of Palo Alto and Resaca compelled the retirement of the Mexican forces from the country in dispute, and *then*, if the Administration *could* be satisfied with any thing reasonable, was the time to rest upon the conquered rights of the nation. But no; lured on in the career of conquest, our victorious little army marched into the enemy's country, and, still advancing, found rest on that line of operations only on the ensanguined field of Buena Vista, where Taylor and his gallant volunteers covered themselves with unfading glory.

The acquisition of Texas, instead of proving (as the Baltimore Convention adherents predicted) a bloodless acquisition, has caused rivers of crimsoned liquid to flow along the desolating march of our victorious armies. It has filled the land with wo; it has made thousands of widows, thousands of orphans, and sent up the lamentations of distress from unnumbered hearths and firesides. In battle, and by the desolations of disease contracted in this "bloodless" pursuit of territory, it is said nearly twenty thousand American citizens have perished; while the shattered limb and no less shattered constitution present living memorials of its desolating effects. Santa Anna (the same who had some one's "pass" to return to Mexico) boasts, in his farewell address to his countrymen, that "the blood of the invaders [Americans] and their corpses, which remain piled in heaps on the field of battle, will be so many titles of glory for my country and for my children." This passage in Santa Anna's address must be wormwood to the *wise* Executive who sent him back to Mexico to deal death on our gallant army.

But, sir, this acquisition of Texas was to cost, in treasure, comparatively nothing. And how have these promises been realized? "Let facts be submitted to a candid world." Many estimate the cost of this war at two hundred millions of dollars. But let us modify these figures. Deduct one-fourth, and we have one hundred and fifty millions; and "to that complexion it will come at last." Add to this the sum of twenty millions for California and New Mexico, and we have one hundred and seventy millions of dollars in round numbers. This twenty millions, I verily believe, is poorly spent, if the worthless territory in question forms the sole consideration. No other Power on earth would pay half the money for such a wilderness, consisting of shrubs, bushes, and rocks, pent up between barren mountains, where it scarcely ever rains from April till December, and where the cultivator of the soil is compelled to conduct the water over his grounds by drains and ditches, *when water can be had* even with this labor. Instead of getting indemnity for the war, *we purchase peace*, and at a price so exorbitant as to shock every feeling of justice and fair dealing, *if territory be alone the object*. If these one hundred and seventy millions were in silver, and placed in two-horse wagons, at one thousand pounds to each wagon, it would make ten thousand six hundred and twenty-five wagon loads; and if these wagons were put in one continuous line, as close as they could run, it would require a space of sixty-six miles to contain them.

Sir, if you would divide the money expended in this war amongst my constituents or your own, it would give nearly one wagon load to every family in your district or mine. If it had been judiciously expended in educational purposes, it would have educated all the children of the country, and blessed every cottage in the land with the benign influence of literature and science. It would have paid all the debts of the several States, and given to those confederated commonwealths the priceless boon of re-established credit. It would have improved all our harbors and rivers, and dotted the country over with railroads, and made many a western "wilderness blossom as the rose." Yes, sir, it would have sent the self-denying missionary to the islands of the sea, and

"From Greenland's icy mountains
To India's coral strand,"

spread the gospel of the Redeemer to millions of the benighted sons and daughters of men. All this it *might* have accomplished if directed in the channel of an enlightened policy. But what has it produced? What objects have been attained? Absolutely but little of practical value. It has enabled the President to appoint a few thousands of his partisans to office, and to distribute amongst them the spoils wrung from the incomes of an honest people. It has loaded this nation down with an enormous public debt, which, for years to come, will weigh upon our citizens like an incubus. It has engendered a love of conquest, and diverted the minds of the people from the quiet pursuits of peace to the rough and uneven clamor of war. It has implicated the Government in the extension of slavery over a vast country, and made the blood and treasure of our people the cement to rivet the chains of African servitude. It has again, in the most frightful form, aroused the question of domestic slavery over free territory, which threatens to uproot the very foundations of our political system, and all this for the merest party purpose.

To show the reckless manner in which debts are heaped upon the people by borrowing money, and the gross mismanagement of it, I have time to refer to but one circumstance. The Secretary of the Treasury, in making his report to this Congress, gave an account of about seven millions of dollars less than the means he had on hand, and, of course, desired that amount to be added to the enormous loans to be made for the war. This failure to give a return of seven millions is a very curious mistake, and shows how reckless things are managed by this Administration. I do not, Mr. Chairman, design to impute any dishonest intention to that functionary in this gross blunder; but it will strike the mind of every one, that "Uncle Sam's" pockets must be quite capacious to leave such a sum in one corner, leaving its discovery to accident by the vigilance of a Congressional committee. It is a cutting satire on the financial skill of the Treasury Department, and a deep reproach to all concerned.

But, sir, as has been stated, this war was not commenced for any good purpose, nor with any honorable intent. Its whole history is full of evidences of this undeniable fact. It is a war to acquire more land, more territory, to sustain a party faithless to our domestic policy, in the hope that this faithlessness will be forgotten in a contest with a foreign Power, and that the patriotism of the people, *in war*, will sanctify and overlook treachery to the other great interests of the nation. It has been carried on at every step for the same purpose and with an eye to the same object. Let us refer to facts, notorious and unquestioned. Santa Anna, the "Napoleon of Mexico," had been banished, and was in a foreign land when the war commenced; the Mexican ports were blockaded by our fleet; that brave and gallant soldier, Gen. Taylor, had defeated the Mexican Generals in several engagements on the line of the Rio Grande; the enemy was flying before him, and declaring for Santa Anna, their favorite commander. At this critical moment, contrary to all the *seeming* proprieties of an honorable contest, our fleet was instructed to give General Santa Anna a *free pass*—a prompt entrance to the soil of Mexico; and he landed amongst his countrymen, with the connivance and permission of the American Government! His presence in Mexico gave spirit and confidence to the nation; the enemy rallied, and immense armies flocked to the returned exile, prepared to deal death under his sanguinary lead. This "aid and comfort" to the Mexican nation might have been well meant; but what can be thought of sagacity so dull and policy so stupid?

The Major Generals of the American forces commanding in Mexico were both Whigs, and the hero of the Rio Grande (Taylor) was increasing in popularity faster than the Administration party desired, and he threw a shade over the persons regarded as prominent for the Presidency on the Democratic side. Though occupying an extended line of operations between the Rio Grande and San Luis Potosi, and in the face of a formidable foe, the regulars of his little army were withdrawn, while hundreds of miles in the enemy's country, cut off from all succor. Thus circumstanced, and, like Uriah, placed in the front of battle, the President's general, Santa Anna, with some twenty-one thousand troops, advanced to the gorge of Angostura, where Taylor, with four thousand seven hundred volunteers, awaited his approach. The result was the overthrow of the legions of our enemy, and the complete triumph of the gallant army, led on by the invincible SOLDIER OF THE RIO GRANDE. That day decided the fate of the war, and gave a prestige to the American name in the field of battle never to be lost in the lapse of years. Neither treachery at home, nor yet the formidable numbers of the Mexicans, presented to the mind of Zachary Taylor any obstacle to success. He was placed there with a force inadequate to his position, but he resolved to "defend it at all hazards;" and nobly did he meet the expectations of his country. Mr. Polk left him weak before the enemy, but that day's work made him strong in the evidences of true patriotism and in the affections of his native land.

The next movement of this Administration, in this war for party purposes, was the attempt made to *manufacture* a general, with *lieutenant* prefixed to that title, and to supersede both Taylor and Scott in Mexico as the commanders of our forces there. This notable scheme could never find *any* favor in the purer days of the republic; but, amongst the "latter-day saints" of the great Democratic temple no imposture was thought too bold for a Democratic Congress then assembled in this Capitol. The jealousy with which Gen. Taylor was viewed knew no moderation, and stopped at no barrier in its attempts to arrest his brilliant and successful career. That modest old soldier, grown gray in upholding the flag of his country, was not of the household of their political faith, and his brilliant exploits were not likely to redound to the credit of the party which plunged us into this unfortunate war. A *new* commander of our army—some man who would act the double part of an executioner and a pander—seemed necessary to give effect to the *original designs* of the Administration. For this purpose, there were men then in Congress who would stop at nothing, and who meanly undervalued the qualifications of the glorious old veteran, who never surrendered or capitulated to a domestic traitor or a foreign foe. Congress could not, and would not, execute the fell designs of the Cabinet, and the scheme for a military dictator, under the pleasing guise of a lieutenant general, was hurled back with disgust and contempt. There was too much honesty in the masses to permit such a violation of all decency, and General Taylor was permitted to hold his triumphant march while an enemy could stand before him. The President found out to his cost that, though he could *give the Mexicans a leader*, he dared not deprive the American army of one of its invincible commanders.

On a par with this attempt was the cowardly amendment proposed to a resolution of thanks to the old general, disapproving the terms of the capitulation at Monterey. This was the third attack made upon General Taylor's rear while he had the *President's general* (Santa Anna) and the hosts of Mexico thundering in his front. These "allied powers," Mr. Chairman—thanks to the American people, the Senate, and the gallant volunteers at Buena Vista—have all been vanquished; and impartial history, and the voice of posterity will consign them both to the same dishonorable graves.

But, Mr. Chairman, sufficient political capital has not yet been made out of this war, and the work still goes on. I think that this Administration will find, about the "ides" of November, that it has "run this thing into the ground," as we say out west. There are now some forty thousand soldiers in the field, and hostilities suspended, awaiting the action of Mexico upon the treaty. These troops are idle, at an enormous daily expense. Notwithstanding this, and immediately after the ratification of the treaty, the Senate, by a vote of a strictly party character, passed a bill calling ten thousand additional regulars into the field. This bill had been hanging in the Senate for three months without the action of that body, and *all at once* became immensely important. The exigencies of the service did not require this force—the prospect of peace did not make them necessary—but, sir, the *good of the party* did! Thousands of expectants had been hanging round the portals of the Executive mansion, asking for the five hundred offices that this bill would place at the disposal of the President. This is the secret of the effort to saddle this nation with an additional million of war expenses, under the guise of patriotism and devotion to the public interest. We have witnessed the same spirit in this hall in the anxiety to hurry that bill through the forms of legislation here. Warriors in embryo have beset members on every hand, urging its prompt passage; they have stalked around these halls; they have denounced the tardy action of the popular branch of the Legislature, and, aided by their friends in either House of Congress, clamor for the "spoils" wrung from the labor of the country. These people have reason to know that the country will not need their services, should the treaty receive the sanction of the Mexican Congress; but they want the offices—the epaulets; and in that alone consists their windy love of country. Sir, it is heart-sickening to witness the prostitution of Executive patronage in this war, and to think of the stupendous public debt incurred to build up and perpetuate the reign of a proscriptive party. Honest industry must pay all these enormous expenses, and this glittering pomp of the few will have to be sustained and borne by the "toiling millions" of our native land. As one representative on this floor, I will vote all necessary supplies to bring this war to an honorable issue, but I never will arm the President with money to squander upon partisan favorites, and to build up a military power dangerous to the liberties of a free people. Never! never!

For myself, Mr. Chairman, I have no fear of the cry of "moral treason," raised against those who resist the encroachments of the American Executive (in his blundering war movements) since he has been in office. I for one have no love for his mode of conducting our national affairs, and the American people, as a body, are just as tired of him as I am. He may be a good party President, and no doubt answers the purpose for which the managers at Baltimore selected him; but I must be allowed to say that, in my opinion, he has grossly mismanaged the affairs of the country. Believing so, it is not my intention to vote for every measure recommended by him, unless, in my poor judgment, it is necessary for the well-being and safety of the Government. My constituents did not send me here to register his decrees, but to co-operate in the councils which the constitution have established. There is another kind of "moral treason," more dangerous than opposition to the "one-man power," and the country will soon learn it—has learnt it. It is a "moral treason" against the peace of the nation; "moral treason" against law; "moral treason" against economy; "moral treason" against the constitution; aye, sir, "moral treason" against the union of these States! Neither the President nor his presses can drive me into this kind of "treason," nor deter me from denouncing those who practice it. As the representative of a free people, I neither fear the frowns of the President nor the denunciations of his parasites!

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will say, in conclusion, that the claims of the soldiers of this existing war with Mexico will always find in me a friend, and that I will give to them my best services. The particular bill now under discussion meets my entire approbation, and will have my cordial support. But we should go further. We should provide for the soldiers of the Indian wars and the war of 1812. We should go back to "other men and other times," and pay up the long arrearages of national gratitude due to the gallant and long-forgotten brave. There are but few of them now surviving, for death has been performing its office during the lapse of years. Let us do it now in this bill—at this hour—before a few succeeding suns shall go down upon them, upon the last remnant of this little band, forever!

I would be much gratified if I had time and opportunity to say something more in relation to the treatment of General Scott; to show that after he had accomplished one of the most brilliant campaigns that time records; after he and his brave men had taken the city of Mexico, subdued the enemy, and forced them to propose terms of peace which they had previously rejected; that, after all this, in the enemy's country and capital, his epaulets were torn from his shoulders, his command taken from him, and he forced to appear for trial before an inferior tribunal, composed of inferior officers, to answer to a charge so ridiculous as to induce the man who made it to withdraw the complaint. But, sir, my hour has expired, and I must yield the floor to those who can interest you much more than one who is not in the habit of speaking.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS.
Attorney at Law,
Boonville, Cooper County, Missouri.

ANY business entrusted to him in this or any of the adjacent counties will be promptly attended to.

REFER TO—
John F. Clarke, No. 13, Old Slip, New York.
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mar 4—ep3m

LAW PARTNERSHIP.
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THE undersigned will practice law in partnership in the several Courts of the counties of Marengo, Sumter, and Greene, and in the Supreme Court of the State. Office at Demopolis, Alabama.
F. S. LYON,
O. H. PRINCE.
aug 7—1y

A TEACHER WANTED.—A young man, well qualified to teach the Languages, Mathematics, and various English branches, who can come highly recommended as to moral character, may do well to address E. J. W., Barboursville, Orange county, Virginia, at as early a day as possible.
may 16—3w

THE PEACE NEWS AT NEW ORLEANS.

FROM THE NEW ORLEANS DELTA OF MAY 31.

The importance of the news brought by the Edith yesterday induced us to issue an extra at an early hour, by which our citizens were placed in possession of the Peace News in advance of our regular edition. The eager demand for our extra, the edition of which was very soon exhausted, shows the deep and warm interest felt by our citizens in the consummation of this peace movement. At noon the big guns of our battalion of artillery saluted the agreeable announcement with their loudest thunders. This is a little too fast, perhaps, as the treaty is yet to be acted upon by the Senate ere it becomes a law. There is little doubt, however, of its passage through that body. The great difficulty has been overcome, and the final ratification of the treaty was expected every moment in the city of Mexico.

We find in the *Moniteur Republicano* of the 21st instant a long exposition or report by the Mexican Commissioners, Senors B. COUTO, M. ATRISTAIN, and L. G. CUEVAS, who negotiated with Mr. TRIST the treaty of peace which is now, no doubt, by the concurrence of the Senate, happily consummated between the two republics. This report is addressed to the Government, and categorically reviews the immediate and remote advantages and disadvantages which in their opinion would result to the Mexican nation by its speedy ratification. It is an able document as may be expected, coming as it does from the hands of the ablest jurists among that people, but it is altogether too long to admit of its being wholly transcribed into our columns. The conclusion is, however, too remarkable not to merit a record here. After speaking of the diminution of territory which the ratification of the treaty will cause to Mexico—an evil which they declare is inevitable—they state that sufficient remains to satisfy any ordinary ambition:

"If Mexico do not become one day a *happier* nation, and even a *great* nation, the cause will not certainly proceed from a want of territory. May it please the Almighty that the hard lesson which we have just learned induce us into wiser counsels, and lead to a cure of our old vices. Without that our ruin is certain, for the road we have hitherto followed will always lead to the point at which we have recently arrived, and will not always afford us the means of extricating us from our difficulties; Mexico will fall, and perhaps will fall speedily and ignominiously. If this language appears rude, we have made it our duty to avoid all flattery, and to tell the nation the real truth, without concealment. *Adulators of the people have done more injury in the world than the adulators of kings.*"

They conclude with high compliments to the diplomatic skill and high probity of Mr. TRIST, and declare that he leaves in Mexico the most grateful and honorable recollections.

It appears that during the debate on the treaty the greatest anxiety reigned among the inhabitants of Queretaro, degenerating into positive consternation at each reported triumph of the speakers in the Chamber of Deputies who opposed the ratification. Correspondence from Queretaro from the 16th to the 19th, inserted in the Monitor, shows this most unequivocally. The military members were almost to a man in favor of peace. The Monitor has this paragraph in relation thereto:

"NOTABLE.—The first two Deputies who spoke in advocacy of the ratification of the treaty were two generals. The principal advocates of a continuation of the war were Senors Prieto, Pacheco, Navarro, Lafragua, Villanueva, and Cuevas, a cousin of one of the negotiators of the treaty. Those in favor were numerous; the most conspicuous were Gen. Michel-torena, Adjutant General of Santa Anna at Buena Vista, Payno, and the Secretary De la Rosa."

CITY OF MEXICO, SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1848.

This morning, on the arrival of my courier, at one or two o'clock, from Queretaro, I dispatched an express to Vera Cruz with the important news of the passage of the treaty in the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress. The treaty passed at a quarter past six o'clock, on the evening of the 19th, by a vote of 51 in favor and 35 against.

This vote, beyond doubt, fixes the question of war or peace. The action of the Senate will be with little or no delay; we are momentarily looking for the intelligence. There is no doubt or question about the Senate; they will pass it by a large majority. I enclose you my Queretaro correspondence. Messrs. SEVIER and CLIFFORD start for Queretaro to-morrow morning.

Gen. BUTLER is about to order in all the outposts, and prepare for an immediate march. Gen. SMITH starts for Vera Cruz on Wednesday next to take charge of embarking the army—the most fitting man that can be sent. His military knowledge, and the manner he does business, will be worth to us hundreds of lives. I expect the army to be marching between the 1st and 5th of June.

I send you the sentence of the officers and others charged with the murder and burglary at Calle de la Palma No. 5, in this city. It is shocking to read it, but still we cannot grumble at the stern sentence of justice. The court who tried them was the ablest military court I ever saw organized, embracing not only men of high legal attainments, but of the strictest integrity; and although we must all regret that officers of the American army have to be executed in the capital of the enemy, which has been subdued by the aid of their prowess and skill, still it is the only way in which we can wipe out the stain they have cast upon the honor of their country. The original sentence has been approved by the Commanding General, and I do not see any chance for their pardon, as they have been tried by their peers. MUSTANG.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF MEXICO,
Mexico, May 17, 1848.

ORDERS No. 95.

I.—Before a Military Commission convened at the National Palace, city of Mexico, by virtue of Orders No. 55, of April 9, 1848, and of which Col. M. V. THOMPSON, 3d regiment Kentucky Volunteers, is President, were tried:

First. Lieutenant ISAAC HARE, 2d regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

Charge 1st—"Murder." *Specification*—In this, that the said Lieutenant Isaac Hare, of the 2d regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, did, on the 5th of April, in the year of Christ 1848, in the city of Mexico, commit murder upon Manuel Zorriza, a citizen of Mexico, by shooting him in the head.

Charge 2d—"Burglary." *Specification*—In this, that the said Lieutenant Isaac Hare, of the 2d regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, did, on the 5th day of April, in the year of Christ 1848, forcibly, and with a felonious intent, break into and enter a house in the city of Mexico, situate on the street de la Palma, and numbered five.

To all which the accused pleaded "Not Guilty."

Sentence—The Commission, after mature deliberation on the evidence adduced, found the accused *guilty* as charged, and sentence him, Lieutenant Isaac Hare, of the 2d regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, to be hanged by the neck until he is dead, dead, dead; two-thirds of the members of the Court concurring therein.

[Here follow similar charges and sentences against Lieut. B. F. DUTTON, of the 2d regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers; Lieut. B. P. TILDEN, of the 2d regiment Infantry; JOHN LAVERTY; Sergeant B. F. WRAGG; Sergeant STEWART; and Private JOHN WALL.]

II.—The Major General Commanding approves the proceedings, findings, and sentences of the Military Commission in the foregoing cases.

Lieuts. Isaac Hare and B. F. Dutton, 2d regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, and B. P. Tilden, 2d regiment Infantry, and John Laverty, will be executed on the 25th instant, between the hours of 8 and 11 o'clock A. M., under the direction of the Military and Civil Governor of the city of Mexico.

Upon the recommendation of the Court, the sentences in the cases of Sergeants B. F. Wragg and Stewart and Private John Wall, of the 7th infantry, are respectively remitted. They will be kept in close confinement until the close of the war, when they will each be dishonorably discharged from the service.

Upon the like recommendation of the Court, no further proceedings will be taken against the prisoners Jesse Armstrong and J. A. Hollister, who appeared as witnesses for the prosecution. They will be kept in close confinement until the close of the war, and then set at liberty.

III.—The Military Commission of which Col. M. V. THOMSON, 3d regiment Kentucky Volunteers, is President, is hereby dissolved.

By order of Major General BUTLER.
L. THOMAS, Asst. Adjt. General.

WONASQUATUCKET WORKS.—This establishment has just been sold at auction for $60,200. It comprises six machines, with a full inventory of all the preparatory machinery and a variety of buildings of stone, wood, and brick, covering a superficial area of over fifty-five thousand square feet of ground. The land connected with the works contains about nine and three quarter acres, and a lot of half an acre in North Providence was included in the sale. The establishment was in complete order, and must have cost three times the sum which it brought.—*Providence Journal.*

"FIRE, MURDER, AND THUNDER."—Under this head a Western editor holds forth as follows:

"O you tarnal sapheads, you green-tailed lizards, why don't you come along up and pay for your paper? Do you suspect that I am such a consummate blockhead, such a short-sighted, white-livered numskull, such an infernal fool, as to stay here and print, right in the midst of a swampy country, where the air is so dense with ague that you have to cut your way through with a broad-axe; where it SHAKES the hair off the back and the teeth out of the mouth of the very wild hog itself, unless you pay for it? If you do, you're sucked, that's all."

THE DEAD SEA EXPEDITION.

FROM THE NORFOLK HERALD.

The expedition under Lieut. W. F. LYNCH, of the United States navy, authorized by Government to explore the Dead Sea, had reached its destination on the 23d of April, and was afloat on that sea, with boats launched, the weather mild, and all the party safe and well.

CHATEAUBRIAND, in his admirable narrative of his travels in Greece, Palestine, &c. gives us an interesting though provokingly brief account of this great curiosity. His visit to it was about forty years ago, when a strong guard was necessary to protect him from the Arabs who infested its borders. He says: "Should the Turks ever again give permission, and 'should it be found practicable to convey a vessel from Jaffa '[or Joppa] to the Dead Sea, some curious discoveries would 'certainly be made in this lake."

Lieut. Lynch, we believe, is the first to visit it under the authority of a foreign Government; and, being provided with all things necessary for a thorough investigation, we reasonably expect that he will realize M. Chateaubriand's promise of curious discoveries to the utmost degree of possibility, and inscribe his name at the head of the long list of philosophers and tourists, ancient and modern, who have written upon the subject.

We subjoin a few extracts from the narrative of M. Chateaubriand, by way of whetting the public curiosity for the report which is expected from Lieut. Lynch on his return to the United States. In his approach to the lake he says:

"We marched two hours with pistols in our hands, as in 'an enemy's country. We followed the fissures formed be'tween the sand-hills, in mud baked by the rays of the sun. 'A crust of salt covered the surface, and resembled a snowy 'plain, from which a few stunted shrubs reared their heads. 'We arrived all at once at the lake; I say all at once, be'cause I thought we were yet a considerable distance from it. 'No murmur, no cooling breeze announced the approach to 'its margin. The strand, bestrewed with stones, was hot; 'the waters of the lake were motionless, and absolutely dead 'along the shore.

"The first thing I did on alighting was to walk into the 'lake up to my knees, and to taste the water. I found it im'possible to keep it in my mouth. It far exceeds that of the 'sea in saltness, and produces upon the lips the effect of a 'strong solution of alum. Before my boots were completely 'dry they were covered with salt; our clothes, our hats, our 'hands, were in less than three hours impregnated with this 'mineral."

Legions of small fish leaped about the shore at night, which contradicts the opinion generally entertained that the Dead Sea produces no living creature.

In 1778 the water was analyzed by Lavoisier and others, who proved that one hundred pounds of it contained forty-five pounds six ounces of salt; that is, six pounds four ounces of common marine salt, and thirty-eight pounds two ounces of marine salt with an earthy base. Malte Brun ascertained the specific gravity to be 1,211, that of fresh water being 1,000. "It is (says he) perfectly transparent. Reagents demonstrate in it the presence of marine and sulphuric acid; it does not change colors, such as the turnsol and violet. It holds in solution the following substances, and in the undermentioned proportions:

Muriate of lime	3.920
Magnesia	10.246
Soda	10.360
Sulphate of lime	.054
	24.580 in 100.

"This celebrated lake, (says M. Chateaubriand,) which occupies the site of Sodom and Gomorrah, is called in Scripture the Dead or Salt Sea; by the Latins and Greeks, Asphaltites; Almotanah and Bahar Loths by the Arabs; and Ula Deguisi by the Turks. I cannot coincide in opinion with those who suppose the Dead Sea to be the crater of a volcano. I have seen Vesuvius, Solfatara, Monte Nuovo, in the Lake of Fusino, the peak of the Azores, the Mamelif opposite to Carthage, the extinguished volcanoes of Auvergne, and remarked in all of them the same characters; that is to say, mountains excavated in the form of a funnel, lava, and ashes, which exhibited incontestable proofs of the agency of fire. The Dead Sea, on the contrary, is a lake of great length, curved like a bow, placed between two ranges of mountains, which have no mutual coherence in form, no homogeneousness of soil. They do not meet at the two extremities of the lake, but continue, the one to bound the valley of Jordan and to run northward as far as the Lake of Tiberias; the other to stretch away to the south till lost in the sands of Yemen. Bitumen, warm springs, and phosphoric stones are found, it is true, in the mountains of Arabia; but I met with none of these in the opposite chain. But, then, the presence of hot springs, sulphur, and asphaltos is not sufficient to attest the anterior existence of a volcano. With respect to the engulphed cities, I adhere to the account given in Scripture without summoning physics to my aid. Besides, if we adopt the idea of Professor Michelis and the learned Büsching, in his Memoir on the Dead Sea, physics may be admitted in the catastrophe of the guilty cities without offence to religion. Sodom was built upon a mine of bitumen, as we know from the testimony of Moses and Josephus, who speak concerning wells of bitumen in the valley of Siddim. Lightning kindled the combustible mass and the cities sunk in the subterraneous conflagration. M. Malte Brun ingeniously suggests that Sodom and Gomorrah themselves might have been built of bituminous stones, and thus have been set in flames by the fire of Heaven."

"Several travellers, and among others Troilo and d'Arvieux, assert that they remarked fragments of walls and palaces in the Dead Sea. This statement seems to be confirmed by Maundrell and Father Nau. The ancients speak more positively on this subject: Josephus, who employs a poetic expression, says that he perceived on the banks of the lake the *shades* of the overwhelmed cities. Strabo gives a circumference of sixty stadia to the ruins of Sodom, which are mentioned also by Tacitus. I know not whether they still exist; but, as the lake rises and falls at certain seasons, it is possible that it may alternately cover and expose the skeletons of the reprobate cities."

A GENUINE LOCOFOCO.—An exchange paper tells a story of a gentleman in Berks county, a member of the Democratic party, whose attachment to regular nominations was happily illustrated. "The Convention have nominated Polk," said a wag to him, who had obtained possession of the real news. "Polk! just the man we want!" "No, no, I was mistaken," said the wag, "Woodbury, Woodbury is the nominee." "Woodbury! Good! Nobody can run so well as Woodbury; he is the best man in the party." "Well, after all, it is neither Polk nor Woodbury, but Cass." "Better still! Three cheers for Cass! Who can run so well as Cass!"—*Philadelphia News.*

CEMETERY FOR ODD FELLOWS.—The Odd Fellows of New Orleans have purchased and obtained leave to open a Cemetery for the burial of their deceased brethren in a most beautiful location, near Cypress Grove.

THE COLD WEATHER ACCOUNTED FOR.—The Rockville (Md.) Journal says: "We have had several days of cold northerly and westerly winds, owing no doubt *to the nomination of Gen. Cass*. Remember that John Van Buren said that if the Barnburners were not treated with respect by the Democratic Convention, *look out for heavy gales from the North and West.*"

MUNCHAUSEN OUTDONE.—We copy the following pleasant little effort of the imagination from a morning contemporary (the Sun) to which it was communicated, we presume, by the same reporter on whose authority it lately announced the arrival of LOUIS PHILIPPE in the steamship America:

"We yesterday ascertained, upon perfectly good authority, that not less than *twenty-one millions of dollars in specie* arrived at the quarantine ground on Saturday last, in one small vessel, the Swedish barque Scandia, Captain Eastman, from Amsterdam. Our reporter obtained information of this immense import of specie exclusively, and we immediately forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury a despatch containing this news, so important to the financial interests of the country.

"It was the property of only thirty-five of the one hundred and sixty-nine passengers on board, independently of the sums that many have deposited in the bank. It consisted of fifty-two million five hundred thousand guilders, mostly in ten guilder gold pieces, and thus averaged a million and a half of guilders to each of the thirty-five proprietors; and the value of a guilder being forty cents, it amounts to twenty-one millions, as the Sun has it. These wealthy emigrants were but rustic, sunburnt, and weather-beaten peasants, in complexion and in clothing, and even their children wore coarse leather caps and homespun garments."

Whew! Just think of that! Fifty tons of gold in one small vessel! Thirty-five rustic, weather-beaten Dutch peasants, in homespun garments, the worse for wear, worth six hundred thousand dollars apiece! It will be a hard matter to decide whose verdancy is of the greenest hue, that of the immigrants who risked so much in one frail barque, or of the reporter who vouches for the truth of his story, or the publishers who gravely forwarded this pretty little romance to the Treasury Department through the agency of the telegraph.
[*New York Com. Adv.*

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS.

The Cleveland Herald furnishes the following particulars respecting the Government Geological Surveys in the Northwest:

The Government [of the United States] has ordered, in addition to the usual lineal surveys of the public lands, a survey of all the region of Lake Superior and the waters of the Upper Mississippi, with *reference to minerals*.

This great work is carried on under the supervision of Dr. D. D. OWEN, of New Harmony, for the Chippewa land district, embracing Northern Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minesota, and of Dr. C. T. JACKSON, of Boston, for the Lake Superior land district, which includes the northern part of Michigan. The principal geologists have each a corps of assistants.

Dr. Owen has for 1st assistant Dr. J. G. Howard, of Madison, Indiana, and assistants, Dr. B. F. Schumorf, of Louisville, M. A. Randall, of Cincinnati, Col. Charles Whittlesey, of Cleveland, Dr. Litton, of St. Louis, and Dr. B. F. Macy, of New York; Mr. Evans, of Washington city, Secretary and assistant.

Mr. Bartlett, of Cincinnati, accompanies Mr. Randall as naturalist. Mr. Henry Pratton, of Mount Vernon, Indiana, is the ornithologist. Mr. Parry, of Davenport, Iowa, goes out as botanist. Mr. Meeks, of Owenboro, Kentucky, and Mr. Haines, of Philadelphia, are attached as field explorers.

Five parties will be formed, who will travel partly by bark canoes along the streams, and in part by land. A reconnoissance of part of the region was made last year, and a report made by Dr. Owen to the Secretary of the Treasury, to whose department the survey belongs.

Departing from St. Anthony's Falls, one party will ascend the St. Peters, another the Mississippi, and a third Rum river. One is already on the Des Moines, approaching its source, and another on the tributaries of the Mississippi below the Falls on the west side.

It is a part of the duty of these parties to report upon the duties of the agricultural value of the country. If portions of it are found to be rich in minerals, by a law of Congress such sections when surveyed are to be reserved from sale, and when sold to bear a higher price. Where lands are so poor as not likely to be sold, they are not to be sectionized, and the expense of the line survey will be saved.

A general report upon the natural history of the Upper Mississippi will be required of the expedition. Their explorations will extend northward to the British line.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.—The entire work unabridged, in one volume crown quarto, containing all the matter of Dr. Webster's original work, his improvements up to the time of his death, and now thoroughly revised and greatly enlarged and improved by Professor C. A. GOODRICH, of Yale College. Price reduced to $6. This edition contains three times the amount of matter found in any other English Dictionary compiled in this country, or any abridgment of this work, yet it is sold at a trifling advance above the price of other and limited works.

"The definitions are models of condensation and purity."
[*Hon. W. B. Calhoun.*

TESTIMONIALS.

From the London Literary Gazette of April 1, 1848.

In the present edition Prof. Goodrich has been ably assisted by several eminent men, each distinguished in his own sphere of inquiry, and the result is in the highest degree satisfactory. The work is a noble monument of erudition and indefatigable research, and the style and accuracy of its typography would do honor to the press of any country in Europe. This volume must find its way into all our public and good private libraries, for it provides the English student with a mass of the most valuable information which he would in vain seek for elsewhere."

"The new edition of Webster's Dictionary, in crown quarto, seems to us deserving of general patronage."

"We recommend it to all who desire to possess the most complete, accurate, and reliable dictionary of the language."

Signed by the following gentlemen, March, 1848:

Theodore Frelinghuysen, Chancellor of University of N. York.
William H. Campbell, editor N. Y. District School Journal.
Daniel Webster, U. S. Senator.
Thomas H. Benton, do
John Davis, do
Jefferson Davis, do
S. A. Douglas, do
George N. Briggs, Governor of Massachusetts.
William B. Calhoun, Secretary of State of Massachusetts.
Richard S. Rust, Commissioner of Common Schools in New Hampshire.
Theodore F. King, Superintendent of Schools in New Jersey.
Robert C. Winthrop, Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives.
Edmund Burke, Commissioner of Patents.
John Young, Governor of New York.
Christopher Morgan, Secretary of State and Superintendent of Common Schools in New York.
Alvah Hunt, Treasurer of New York.
Millard Fillmore, Comptroller.
Rev. Samuel H. Cox, D D.
Lyman Beecher, D.D., President of Lane Seminary.
Calvin E. Stowe, D.D., } Professors in do.
D. H. Allen, }
Rev. Heman Humphrey, D.D., late President of Amherst College.
Rev. Ezra Keller, D.D., President of Wittenberg College, O.
M. A. Diehl, } Professors in do.
N. A. Geiger, }
Benjamin Larrabee, D.D., President of Middlebury College, and other distinguished gentlemen.

The previous edition of Webster's Quarto Dictionary received the following recommendation from Daniel Webster, Levi Woodbury, Theodore Frelinghuysen, and one hundred and other members of Congress:

"It is very desirable that one standard dictionary should be used by the numerous millions of people who are to inhabit the vast extent of territory belonging to the United States, as the use of such a standard may prevent the formation of dialects in States remote from each other, and impress upon the language uniformity and stability. It is desirable, also, that the acquisition of the language should be rendered easy, not only to our own citizens, but to foreigners who wish to gain access to the rich stores of science which it contains. We rejoice that the American Dictionary bids fair to become such a standard."

Published by G. & C. Merriam, Springfield, Massachusetts, and for sale for them by FRANCK TAYLOR, Washington, and by booksellers generally throughout the United States.
june 7

SALE OF VALUABLE LANDS IN THE LAKE REGION OF INDIANA.—Pursuant to a deed of trust from John B. Steenbergen to the subscribers, duly recorded in the counties where the lands lie, we will proceed to sell, on Thursday, the 20th day of July next, at Laporte, in the county of Laporte, Indiana, at public sale, a quantity of valuable tracts of land, by said deed conveyed to us, lying in the counties of Laporte, Porter, Fulton, Jasper, Marshall, Lagrange, Wabash, and Kosciusko, in said State.

David G. Rose, Esq., of Laporte county, will show any of the lands to persons desiring to see them; and particular descriptions will be found in handbills.

The terms will be one-third in cash and the residue in one and two years, secured on the land.

The sale will be continued from day to day if necessary.
ROBERT Y. CONRAD,
JAMES MARSHALL, Jr.
RHESA ALLEN.
june 6—cp4w

☞ State Journal and State Sentinel, at Indianapolis, copy until sale.

LIVER COMPLAINTS of bilious climates arise from the same causes which produce Fever and Ague, and are cured with the same certainty by Dr. Osgood's India Cholagogue. Even after the liver has become much enlarged and tender upon pressure, it is in a few weeks restored to its natural size, soreness and pain in the side relieved, with such general improvement as denotes returning health.

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GRAND SCHEMES FOR JUNE, 1848.

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1 do	5,000	100 do	500
&c.		&c.	

66 Number Lottery—11 Ballots.
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For endowing Leesburg Academy, and for other purposes.
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1 do	20,000	1 do	1,000
1 do	10,000	1 do	300
1 do	5,000	1 do	200

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