NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

THE ATTACK ON MATAMOROS.—[Continued.]

Valley of the Rio Grande, Feb. 8, 1852.

Soon after the occurrence of the passage of the river by an armed body of men, as related in our last, a piece of artillery arrived at Freeport, and was placed in position to command the ferry; and the steamer Corvette, after plying up and down the river till sunset, was anchored for the night in the middle of the stream, just below the same point. No other attempt was made to cross the river, and night soon closed over the scene, lulling every thing to quietness, as if to render more awful the storm which was to break on the morrow.

At three o'clock in the morning Carvajal's reveille sounded, and the still morning air resounded with the shrill blast of the cavalry bugles, while far away in a distant quarter of the town those of Gen. Avalos answered back in notes of defiance to the invaders, and awoke the inhabitants of the town to the realities of their fearful position. The scene reminded us more of those we read of as being presented in olden times than any we could think of—when a chief, with his adherents, sitting himself down before some old, time-honored castle, summoned its owner, with flourish of trumpets, to surrender to the powerful arm of the besieger. But in the *appearance* the analogy ends, for these men live in what is *called* a civilized age, and when such scenes should not be allowed to appear; and, moreover, half of those engaged knew not for what they were fighting, and the other half knew well enough that the end for which they strove was not an honorable one.

The men appeared low-spirited, and very little of the enthusiasm of the night before was exhibited. They moved listlessly through the camp, preparing their morning meal, and, with the exception of firing, soon after daylight, a few shots, (from a 4-pounder brass gun,) which went whistling and crashing through the tops of the houses, no movement of importance was made until about 10 o'clock, when nearly the whole of the force mounted and paraded in a field above the fort. As they passed along their number could be distinctly estimated. All told, there were not more than four hundred, three hundred at least of whom were Americans; and, although grossly exaggerated statements were industriously circulated with respect to the immense force Carvajal had on the other side of the town, and the large reinforcements he was hourly expecting, we do not believe that his whole force at any one time during the siege of Matamoros exceeded four hundred men.

As if still hesitating whether to commence the unholy struggle, the force remained inactive for an hour or more, when it moved down the bank of the river, and at a rapid pace approached the lower ferry, opposite Brownsville, where any idea they might have had with reference to seizing the ferry, or crossing the river, was quickly dispelled by seeing two guns brought to bear upon that point from Fort Brown. While in this position, several shots were fired from the town, which, although they did no damage, came close enough to render the position any thing but a comfortable one, and quickly caused a retreat back to the vicinity of Fort Paredes, with the loss of one horse. Here the whole force dismounted, and proceeded into the town on foot, and very soon a scattering fire of small-arms was heard, mingled at short intervals with the deep boom of the heavy guns and sharp volleys of musketry. This continued, with but slight intermissions, during the whole day; and, of course, the most exaggerated statements of the success of the assailants were received from time to time by Carvajal, who, remaining in the fort, received every few minutes a courier from the forces actively engaged. Now, his men were in the grand plaza, and rapidly gaining ground towards the entrenchments of Gen. Avalos. The custom-house was taken; and now the guns had been gallantly stormed, taken, and the General himself was suing for a suspension of hostilities, that negotiations might be entered into for surrendering up the place to his victorious assailants. These reports were industriously repeated on this side of the river, with all the exaggerations and accompaniments incident to rumors in times of excitement, and the faces of those who were to make fortunes by this traffic in blood looked smiling and complacent at the prospect of the *dollars;* while the friends of law and order looked serious and anxious, well knowing (and the love of "filthy lucre" could not blind *them* to the fact) that if these people succeeded, the Mexicans would be greater and more abject slaves than ever under their new masters; and that the people on this side of the river would not be altogether free from the evil effects of the success of unprincipled and undisciplined men.

Night closed over the scene while yet the sounds of deadly strife were echoing through the town; but at length they ceased, and every thing became quiet, while Carvajal withdrew the whole of his force from their strong foothold in the town, which rumor said they had gained with so much gallantry and hard fighting. This movement, it is said, created some discontent among the men; and it certainly was a strange one for a victorious General, if he had gained the strong position stated, which a great many doubted. During the night one dead man and eight or nine wounded were brought across the river, and an hospital for the latter was established on American soil, the articles for its use supplied from Brownsville, and provisions from the same place sent across the river to supply the wants of the invaders! Where were the United States Marshal and other proper United States officers, whose province it was to prevent these open violations of our neutrality laws? Let them be made to answer to the proper authority. One thing is positive, they were absent when a decent regard for their duties would have placed them upon the ground.

But little was done on the 22d, Carvajal's men appearing disheartened and unwilling to renew a contest in which they found themselves but too well matched, in the citizens of Matamoros, armed with the close-shooting and well-handled Mississippi rifle. In the morning a message by the hands of an officer was received from Gen. Avalos, the purport of which was not disclosed. Carvajal kept small parties scouting around the town, and rumors of strong reinforcements to be received during the day were circulated. But none came, and night put an end to the firing, which had become pretty brisk towards the close of the day, but with no definite result, and the men were all again ordered to be withdrawn to Fort Paredes. The discontent among them increased at their want of success; complaints were made of their officers; personal conflicts are said to have taken place, and several of the men deserted the party and came to this side, declaring their intention not to return, while a portion positively refused to retire from the town, and kept up a scattering fire during a portion of the night.

Early on the morning of the 23d a heavy rain fell, and, being totally without shelter, Carvajal's party fared but badly; and, knowing that another such shower would defeat him even quicker than the guns of his adversary, whose forces were well sheltered and fed, he prepared to take up his quarters in the town, and during the morning took possession of the market plaza, unoccupied by Gen. Avalos, and distant from his position some three or four squares, and every thing remained comparatively quiet during the day.

During the 24th but little firing was heard in the town, but towards night it became much brisker, until after dark, when the rattle of small-arms and the roar of the artillery were incessant. In the midst of this the town was suddenly illuminated by a bright light, and the fearful fact was revealed that the houses in the vicinity of the main plaza had been set on fire. There exists no doubt that this was done by Carvajal's men, and by means (tow and spirits of turpentine) sent from this side of the river for the express purpose. In order not to exasperate the citizens of Matamoros and the owners of the property against Carvajal and his cause, the act was attributed to Gen. Avalos by the friends and supporters of Carvajal, some of whom, less cautious than others, openly advocated his *right* to burn Gen. Avalos out of his position.

If any further proof of the authors of this fire is necessary, it may be found by simply viewing the relative positions and circumstances of the two parties. At this fire a singular spectacle was presented. A large amount of the property destroyed belonged to American citizens. The American consul, ever faithful and energetic in the discharge of his duties, and zealous in giving every assistance in his power to his fellow-citizens, repaired to the spot and endeavored, with his flag, to cover and protect the property in danger. A company of the National Guard of Matamoros, with a generosity of spirit not to be expected under the circumstances, laid aside their arms, and used every endeavor to save from the flames property belonging to the citizens of the very country which furnished a great majority of the very men against whom they were then fighting. We may well doubt if an instance of such perfectly disinterested generosity has ever been shown under like circumstances. While thus *unarmed* and occupied these men were fired upon by a portion of Carvajal's force, and several of them, together with the American consul, holding his country's flag in his hand, were wounded. Such acts as these are enough to stamp with its true character an expedition made up of men who would be guilty of perpetrating them. The darkness of night was neither a cover nor an excuse for the transaction; for the burning houses illuminated the spot with the brightness of noon-day.

It was a fearful sight to witness that midnight scene. High over the devoted city rose the flames of its burning houses, lighting up the country for miles around, while the air resounded with the sounds of the deadly strife which was raging in her streets. The assailants were desperate from ill success, and the assailed fought for their honor and their homes. Shouts of triumph and yells of defiance or despair rang through the air as one or the other gained a temporary advantage, and the uproar seemed more like that of incarnate fiends than the work of human beings. Thus the battle fearfully raged for hours without its being known which side had gained the advantage; but about twelve o'clock repeated cheers of "Viva Avalos!" "Vayan Gringos!" long, loud, and hearty from Gen. Avalos's troops announced to the expectant crowds on both sides of the river that the righteous cause had prevailed, and the assailants disastrously repulsed. Men whose whole souls were wrapped up in the contest, and who foresaw the consequences of a different result, now breathed more freely, and felt that all fears for the success of the Government troops were at an end.

The firing gradually slackened till towards morning, when the town sank into a degree of quietness strikingly contrasted with the fearful strife which had raged a few hours before. The houses burnt were those next to the custom-house, some of the finest in town, and a little more than two squares from Gen. Avalos's headquarters. The assailants at no time gained a footing on the main plaza, the object of their greatest efforts.

But little firing was heard on the 25th after daylight, and all hoped that a speedy end might be put to the contest. The unfortunate inhabitants of Matamoros, however, finding that this was a very different affair from what a revolution in their country generally is, flocked, with white flags in their hands, to this side of the river, and hundreds of poor and destitute families were thrown into Brownsville with nothing but what they could seize upon in their hasty flight, and suffering for the want of necessaries of life. Those who fanatically persuaded themselves that they could see the "finger of God" in this manner of propagating civil and religious liberty, had not the effrontery to assert that it was made manifest in this phase of the crusade, for certainly the sight was enough to melt a heart of stone.

During the 26th every thing remained comparatively quiet, and the friends and supporters of Carvajal were doing every thing in their power to reanimate the sinking spirits of his men, many of whom deserted to this side, declaring their firm determination never to return. The plundering of that part of the town occupied by Carvajal now commenced, and the stolen property exhibited publicly in the streets of Brownsville. Such conduct was well calculated to disgust men of honest feelings, and at least one instance is known of an officer who left declaring he would not command a band of thieves. Exaggerated statements of the large reinforcements received by Carvajal, and the intention of the National Guard to go over to him, were industriously circulated, and a grand effort was evidently being made for a final assault. Every thing that could be done was done to deceive the public mind. Carvajal's letter to the commanding officer of Fort Brown, (which we do him the justice to believe he never wrote,) defining, as he terms it, his position before the civilized world, and filled with misrepresentations with respect to facts, was published on the 27th by the only public journal published in Brownsville, prudently withholding, however, the reply of Capt. Phelps, which placed Carvajal and his adherents in no very enviable light; and that night, as if to make a last desperate effort, and show that the ends he aimed at were not "too weighty for his means," he made a desperate assault on Gen. Avalos, which, like the former ones, was repulsed, and, if they had any doubt before, fully convinced them that they had no alternative but to retreat.

During the 28th and 29th but little besides light skirmishing was done; and on the afternoon of the latter day, Gen. Avalos having moved a part of his force out of the town, threatening Carvajal's flank, a large number of his men hastily retreated to Fort Paredes, and took possession of it, and he found it necessary to place a guard at the ferry to prevent his men from crossing over. No attack was made on them, however, and during the night the whole force was concentrated in the fort, and early on the morning of the 30th commenced to move off, in good order, up the river, in retreat. This, however, soon became a perfect route, and the valiant *liberating* army of Northern Mexico, with its leader at its head, fled like a flock of sheep from a foe who did not start in pursuit till three hours after they had started! abandoning in their haste their colors, and throwing their piece of artillery into the river. Some of the men immediately passed to this side of the river, while others fled towards Reynosa, and the pursuing Mexican force was fired upon from the *American side* of the river by those who first passed over. The fire was not returned.

Thus ended the siege of Matamoros, and in a way most devoutly wished for by all honest lovers of law and order. The fugitives carried off every thing valuable they could lay their hands on, robbing even one of the chapels; and what they could not take with them they destroyed. A part of this plunder, however, they were obliged to disgorge during their flight. Matamoros presented a woful appearance; marks of shot met the eye at every corner; houses were riddled through and through, and, on going into those occupied by Carvajal's men, every thing inside was found broken to pieces and destroyed. It is estimated that the town lost in property over two millions of dollars. A high price for *freedom!*

It is impossible to state, with any degree of accuracy, the number of killed and wounded. There is no doubt, however, that Carvajal's force was decreased during the siege by about one hundred men. They acknowledged to have lost about four killed and thirty wounded; but when it is remembered that these men had no organization, and it was impossible for any one to know who was present and who absent, and that fourteen dead were taken out of the custom-house alone, in which the assailants at one time gained a footing for a few moments, a more correct result can be obtained, and we should say their loss was about thirty killed, and not a much larger number than that wounded. Gen. Avalos's loss was about eight killed and thirty wounded. The party assailed had a great advantage over the assailants. They were well protected behind houses and breastworks, and a portion of the infantry were armed with the Mississippi rifles, which they handled well.

GREAT FLOODS IN YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

Huddersfield, Thursday, February 5.—This morning a most dreadful occurrence, attended with a fearful loss of life and destruction of property, happened in the Holmfirth Valley, about six miles south of this town. Holmfirth is situated at the foot of a range of hills which form a portion of what is termed the "Backbone of England." The valley between that village and Huddersfield is studded with woollen mills, advantage having been taken of the many excellent sites which the rapid fall of water from the hills to the lowlands presents.

Upon the many streamlets which flow from the hills above Holmfirth the same characteristic is presented, and the several valleys and hillsides teem with a busy and enterprising population, a very considerable portion of the woollen cloths for which the West Riding is so celebrated being manufactured in this locality. As in summer time the mills often had to stand for want of water, there being but little from the hills in dry weather, but more than enough in wet, a company was formed some years ago, and a number of gentlemen were incorporated by an act of Parliament, and empowered to construct large reservoirs for the storage of water in winter, to be let down the rivulets in summer, as it might be required for the use of the mills, power being also given to rate the several mill properties for the benefits thus conferred.

Amongst others the Holmfirth reservoir commissioners constructed a reservoir called the Bilberry reservoir, situated about three miles and a half above Holmfirth, to the west. During the last week there have been very continuous falls of rain, and the water has overflowed the embankment of the reservoir for several days. Indeed fears were previously entertained of its safety by parties who resided near it, and who were aware that it had never been accounted as a work of first-rate quality. Wednesday was a day of incessant rain, and the rivulets and streams in the neighborhood were much swollen.

About one this morning (Thursday) the embankment of this large reservoir was swept away, and an immense volume of water suddenly liberated. The torrent rushed onward with devastating force; some mills were swept down; others were gutted, machinery and materials, both wrought and unwrought, being either rendered worthless or carried away by the flood. Dwellings shared the same fate. With a suddenness that rendered all alarm impossible, the buildings with their sleeping inmates were swept along the engulphing torrent. At Holmfirth a whole street of houses was thus carried away, with the inhabitants, to the number of sixty. Hundreds of other dwellings were flooded, and the escape of many of the inmates from death has been most wonderful. The destruction of property has been enormous. The stocks of the shopkeepers who lined the streets on each side of the Holm are wholly destroyed, or damaged so as to be all but worthless. The furniture and clothing of private dwelling-houses are also destroyed.

One of the most beautiful valleys in the world has been rendered a scene of awful devastation. Bridges have been carried away, and large steam-engine boilers lifted from their seats and borne along by the overwhelming torrent, and then left in the fields; trees torn up, and the soil washed away from the lands adjoining the course of the main stream. More than seventy lives have been lost. At the time we write it is impossible to tell the exact number, or even approximate to it correctly. Whole families are swept away, and there are none left to tell the number. Upwards of fifty bodies have been recovered. They are deposited at the various public houses along the line of devastation; and the mangled appearance of many of them testify to the force of the torrent which had swept them before it.

Mill-owners, shopkeepers, and work-people have met with a common fate. The calamity is most frightful; likely to be the ruin of one of our most spirited manufacturing districts. Some of the bodies recovered were found fourteen miles from the place where the reservoir (the cause of this awful havoc) was situated.

POLITICS OF THE DAY.

LETTER FROM Mr. STEPHENS.

FROM THE AUGUSTA (GEORGIA) CHRONICLE AND SENTINEL.

We need scarcely remark that the subjoined letter from the Hon. A. H. Stephens, in reply to one from a gentleman in the interior of the State, and which we are authorized to publish, affords us sincere gratification.

It is just such a letter as we expected from him, on the questions which it discusses with so much point, force, and ability, and cannot fail to command the respect of, if it should not carry conviction to, all classes of readers.

Washington, February 7, 1852.

My Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of the 2d instant was received yesterday. You ask what I think of the late movement of our friends in Milledgeville. In reply I say, briefly and plainly, that so far as it may be considered as indicating the expression of an opinion in favor of sending delegates to the Baltimore Convention, *I am utterly opposed to it.*

The first and second of the resolutions of that meeting have my cordial approval. The first re-affirms the principles of the Constitutional Union party, and reiterates a determination to adhere to them. The second provides for the call of a Convention in the State at some suitable time hereafter, to take into consideration the subject of the Presidential election, and to adopt such course in relation to it as duty and patriotism may then dictate as proper. This is all right. And while I cannot concur with some in believing that the third resolution was intended by those who adopted it to bear the construction which has been put upon it, to wit, that its object was to commit the party, in advance, to send delegates to the Baltimore Convention, still I mean simply to say, that if such was the intention, *I am unqualifiedly opposed to it.*

The new organization in Georgia was called into existence upon an extraordinary crisis in our public affairs. That crisis has not yet passed by. Those who think so draw different conclusions from the signs of the times from what I do. The present (apparent) calm is but a temporary suspension of the dangerous elements which then raged so furiously. That party was formed upon the principles set forth and embodied in the action of the State Convention in December, 1850. Those principles I need not repeat to you. They were such as a large majority of the people of Georgia then thought, and as *I* still think, *essential* to the maintenance of the rights of her people and the union of the States. They were, moreover, not sectional either in their character or objects. They were, and are, as broad as the Union, and as wide as the limits of the jurisdiction of the Constitution; and in the very organization of that party, which was formed by an abjuration and renunciation of all old party names and affiliations by all who entered into it, we offered to unite with any and all men, irrespective of past party distinctions, in every section of the country, whether in the South or North, who would make these principles a cardinal point in their creed. The same position we still hold. As yet no party at the North has given any such assurance. The Baltimore Convention has not been called with any such view or object; so far from it, many of our bitterest assailants, at the South as well as at the North, have already been duly appointed members of it. Could any idea be more preposterous than the project of sending delegates to a Convention of our opponents, for fear that they may not conduct their proceedings according to our liking? Such would certainly be a novel course in political tactics.

If those members of that Convention from the South, who were lately so loud in their denunciation of all men at the North, and who were so particularly censorious of our position at home, shall acknowledge their errors and put themselves upon our principles, and shall purge that body of its *freesoil elements*, and shall also present to the country a good candidate for the Presidency, it will be time enough for us to connect ourselves with their action after they shall have given us these evidences of their being entitled to our confidence and co-operation. A good candidate, standing on our principles, and put forward by an organization standing upon the same principles, is all we want.

Whether that Convention will come up to these requisitions is one of the problems that future developments only can solve. My apprehension is that it will not. Upon what indications others found more favorable expectations I am at a loss to conjecture. Is it from the fact that Col. Polk's resolution was rejected in the Congressional caucus at the beginning of the present session? Is it from the fact that Mr. Bartlett, whose name appears as one of the committee who called that Convention, was elected to the seat he now holds in the House of Representatives as an open and avowed *Freesoiler?* Is it from the fact that Mr. Rantoul, the champion and defender of that most unprincipled of all *coalitions* in the annals of political profligacy in Massachusetts, is one of the members of that Convention? Or is it from the fact that the *Union* newspaper in this city puts down the most ultra men of the South and the most rabid Freesoilers at the North, now in Congress, as all good Democrats, and equally entitled to membership and fellowship in the great party of which it professes to be the sole organ?

If so, I have only to say that these and other indications which I might mention have quite a contrary effect on me. That Convention, therefore, so called and so constituted, as well as all other National Conventions, whether Democratic or Whig, must be put right on the record as a *condition precedent* before looking to me for any support or countenance. I speak only for myself. The Constitutional Union party can speak for itself when its Convention assembles. But can any one doubt that the moral power and influence of our position upon the action of the Baltimore Convention would be much greater outside than inside of its deliberations? Would they be less likely to comply with our demands from fear of our defiance in case of refusal, than to be controlled by our wishes after a voluntary surrender? If we go into their organization without *the condition precedent* of a recognition and endorsement of our principles, shall we not be in the condition of veteran troops beguiled and betrayed unarmed into the camp of the enemy? The idea of men thus situated *insisting on terms* is simply ridiculous; *captives* may be allowed to *beg* for *quarters*, but who ever heard of them *demanding concessions?* And is this the time for our party to put itself in such a humiliating position? The extraordinary effort that is now being made to inculcate the opinion that nothing can be done by a separate organization upon the principles of that formed in Georgia, I am perfectly aware of. But does it not come with a bad grace from those who, in thus speaking, are but repeating their croakings of twelve months ago? Then we were told, as now, that the new organization was a failure, because it did not meet with favor from the *political intriguers* of this city. Some went so far as to say that the party was dead, and could not be *galvanized* into existence.

But what have we not accomplished since then? Georgia has spoken, with a majority never before known. So has Mississippi. And Alabama has shown that her people are not to be bound by the shackles of party when principles are at stake. Has a single election been lost where the issue was made? But not only this; last winter the Georgia organization met with nothing but opposition from the two great parties, as they are called here. These parties have since both been brought to a pause. They want nothing now so much as a *truce*. Their opposition has been changed to a modest request that "bygone may be bygone." Shall we grant them even a *truce?* Will they not thereby be enabled to rally their disorganized forces? Is this the time, then, for us to disband? Should we desert our standard when the enemy every where is in flight before us? Should we not rather hold our ground until our triumph is complete in forcing an acknowledgment of our principles? This attempt to create the impression that the new organization has failed in its objects, and that every body must fall back into one or the other of the former lines of division, is but the last appeal of the old priests of the defiled temples of party, who feel that they are about to lose their livelihood in making images of false deities for the people to worship. Hence their lusty shouts of "great is Diana of the Ephesians;" "great is the power of party;" and great is the virtue of old issues!

This cry has been unavailing in the past, and it will be unavailing in the future, wherever the question shall be made and met. Let our friends not doubt too soon. No occasion has yet arisen for an appeal to the whole people of the United States upon the principles of our organization. Whether such an occasion shall arise may depend upon the action of the Baltimore Convention. Alabama has already called a National Convention on our principles, to assemble in this city after the Baltimore Convention. To this latter Convention we should not fail to send delegates. Should such a state of things then exist as to render a new national organization necessary and proper to carry out our principles, I feel assured that the late results in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi are but proofs of what may be expected in other sections of the country, when similar efforts may be made for similar objects. And in this connexion I will add that the idea of *reorganizing* either of the old parties in this country upon sound national principles is, in my opinion, a result not to be looked for with much confidence. As organizations, these parties are both effete and corrupt. They both make professions in "platforms" which they never carry out in practice. These platforms or programmes have become nothing but artful devices by which demagogues are enabled to delude and cheat the people. "New wine is not to be put into old bottles, else they burst." And if the effort to infuse new and sound principles into either of those worn-out parties should be successful, a like result may be expected. It is quite improbable that it should be otherwise, for the elements in each are discordant, conflicting, and hostile.

How, for instance, can those men in Georgia who looked upon the *eighteen thousand majority* against them in their own State at the late election as *untrustworthy* upon the question of Southern rights, be expected to act in harmony with the Wilmots, the Rantouls, the Preston Kings, and the Van Burens at the North? The very idea of such a possibility is suggestive of infamy. I take it for granted, then, that harmonious action amongst men holding such antagonistical opinions and principles is out of the question. And it should be borne in mind that Mr. Rantoul declared the other day, in the House, that if he were not a good Democrat, there was not one in New England! But, apart from considerations growing out of the present condition of the slavery question, and other questions of domestic policy on which there is equally as wide a difference of opinion between the two great wings of these old parties, there are still other and new questions arising, upon which most probably still wider differences of opinion will exist. The question of interfering with and taking part in European politics will soon be upon us. "Coming events cast their shadows before." At this time we see a man, of unusual address and great ability, traversing the Northern States of the Union, and urging upon the people the abandonment of those principles which have been coeval with the existence of our Government in our relations with the various monarchies and dynasties of the old world. His object evidently is to implant in the public mind the principle that it is our duty to join in a general crusade for the liberties of mankind. These wild and disorganizing doctrines have been embodied in resolutions and adopted with enthusiasm by large and respectable meetings in divers places. The day is not distant when the questions involved in these doctrines will become practical issues. They will present subjects of vast magnitude and momentous importance for the consideration of the American people. And upon them, as well as upon those other kindred questions to which I have alluded, men in all sections who think alike must organize and act together, without respect to past differences of opinion on other points, or an early doom will be our destiny, instead of that full measure of true greatness which it is our real "mission" to attain, and which nothing short of the united patriotism of the whole country can secure.

This is no time, therefore, to look to old issues with a prospect of *reorganizing* parties upon them. But I have said much more than I intended. In conclusion, I will add that our policy is to hold our position. We should unite with no party that fails as a condition precedent to incorporate in its creed those principles which we consider as essential to the maintenance of our rights and the preservation of the Union of the States. We should stand aloof from all parties that do not purge themselves from all affiliation and association with *Freesoilism*. Whatever may be the course of future events, we should stand by our principles wherever they may lead us, "through wo" as well as "through weal," and maintain them now, and always, if need be, until they, we, and the Republic perish together in a common ruin. Yours, respectfully,

ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

THE WRECK OF THE MISSOURI.

Mr. John E. Gowen, the contractor for removing from the Bay of Gibraltar the wreck of the late United States steam frigate Missouri, writes as follows of the success of his efforts, under date of January 14th:

"I arrived at this place about the middle of August. Immediately after my arrival we made a survey of the steamer Missouri, and found from two to six and a half feet of water over various heavy portions of her machinery, which was entirely covered with oysters and shells. We then made a succession of submarine explosions, consuming about eighteen hundred pounds of gunpowder. The effect was very satisfactory, as it separated some connected portions of machinery, which had become so much corroded that no joints or openings could be detected by my divers. It also broke in pieces immense bodies of cast-iron, such as cylinders, condensers, air pumps, working beams, and steam chests, some of them weighing seven and eight tons in a single piece. We raised these to the surface of the water by the aid of powerful purchases, and conveyed them to the shore. We have continued our operations, blasting and hoisting machinery, and the woodwork of the vessel, until nothing is left but her keel and *some* of her floor timbers, which we are rapidly demolishing. Of the machinery we have removed every thing but the shafts, which we shall hoist early in the spring. They are exceedingly heavy, and require smooth water and calm weather, as their aggregate weight is about *forty tons*. Nevertheless, we can hoist them to the surface of the water with the greatest facility, after which I shall send them to America and dispose of them, to be used in some of our mammoth steam vessels which are now in progress of building. There is now not less than eighteen feet of water over all portions of the wreck of the Missouri, and by the month of June not a vestige of this ill-fated steamer will remain in this Bay. The wreck is so far removed that the light which has been kept over the wreck eight years has been dispensed with, and any vessel that dares sail on the adjacent ground can have no apprehension of touching on her remains."

WHEAT CROP OF OHIO.

The Cincinnati Gazette of the 11th instant has some interesting statistics respecting the wheat production of the State of Ohio. Under an existing law of the State the assessors were required to make returns of the wheat crop, and from these data the amount of the wheat product of the State in 1850 is ascertained with precision. The Gazette says that owing to the late period at which the law was passed the returns for a few counties are wanting; but these it is enabled to supply. The Auditor's returns give the amount for seventy-three counties, viz:

	Bushels.
Seventy-three counties	30,309,373
Add Wayne	1,071,380
" Darke	565,867
" Eleven counties	2,230,000
Total, eighty-six counties	34,176,420

It seems, therefore, that the wheat crop of Ohio in 1850 was *thirty-four millions of bushels!* The crop of 1851 was nearly, if not quite, as good.

The relative proportion of land, wheat, and averages are as follows:

Acres planted	1,957,106
Bushels produced	34,176,420
Average per acre, bushels	17½

About *one-thirteenth* part of the land in the State is in wheat cultivation. We shall hereafter have occasion to show that not more than *one-fifth* part of the State is in arable cultivation of any kind. This fact, connected with the large crops of all sorts, may serve to exhibit the extraordinary fertility of Ohio, and its adaptation to the best kinds of agriculture, and its means of supporting an immense population.

In the mean time, let us see how far the actual population has the power to consume its own crop, and how much must be exported in order that it should not be wasted.

Six bushels of wheat per annum (about a pound per day) to each person, large and small, is a large allowance for actual consumption. Then the consumption and surplus will be thus:

Population, 1851	2,050,000
Six bushels to each one	12,300,000
Crop	34,176,420
Surplus for export, bushels	21,876,420

More than twenty millions of bushels of wheat were produced in Ohio in 1850 for export, after deducting the amount required for consumption. Great as this is, there can be no doubt that it is very nearly accurate.

It is very obvious that this surplus was not all sent out of the State, and very probably many farmers have reserved a part of their crops. This point, however, is susceptible of being ascertained, and we may hereafter give a comparative view of the surplus and the amount exported.

We may say, in conclusion, that the crops of the three last years have been, in round numbers, as follows:

	Bushels.
Wheat crop of 1849	15,000,000
" " 1850	34,000,000
" " 1851	30,000,000
Three crops	79,000,000
Average crop	20,00,0000

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FOREIGN.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, February 4, 1852.

The fifth session of the present Parliament was yesterday opened by her Majesty with much royal pomp and splendor, and under the kind influences of a warm sun and an almost unclouded sky. Her Majesty, during her procession to the new Houses of Parliament, and her return to Buckingham palace, was enthusiastically greeted by the loud acclaim of an immense assemblage of the people. The Queen entered the Parliamentary palace by the noble portal of the "Victoria Tower," which, although yet unfinished, has attained to an elevation which makes it resemble the splendid fragment at the west end of Cologne Cathedral, and, though that has been mouldering for five centuries, it has not yet occurred to any Englishman to doubt that in a dozen years at most we may hope to see the Victoria Tower at its full height.

Her Majesty's speech was, in every sense of the word, pacific; full of hope, and promise, and progress. The proceedings of the Lords and Commons respectively will be estimated according to the peculiar habits and tendencies and party predilections of those who study them. We find that Ministers have refused an explicit sanction to the autocratic revolution in France, and that the cause of Lord Palmerston's retirement from office was his preferring a contrary course. Whatever may have been the expressions of Ministers (including the chief) in private intercourse, they have hesitated to proclaim to the world any express approbation of the past, or encouragement for the future, as regards the present ruler of France. Nay, they have gone so far as to censure the bolder course taken by the press, and have recommended moderation in its strictures, and less personality in its comments.

The Queen has recommended Parliament to "consider calmly" what amendments can be made in the Reform Act of 1831-'32, with a view to carry more completely into effect the principles upon which it is founded; and Lord John Russell has given notice that on Monday next (9th instant) he shall present a bill "to extend the right of voting for members of the House of Commons." This prompt action is of good augury.

Industrial prosperity at home and peaceful relations abroad; the propriety of adopting extensive law reforms, and attention to our military defences, as an act of prudence looking to the probable future rather than to the actual present, are the leading topics of her Majesty's speech.

We have also the manly avowal of Lord John Russell that he did not anticipate, nor would he act as though he did anticipate, any interruption in the existing cordial amity between England and France. The decided tone in which the Premier rebuked the panic-mongers, and deprecated idle invectives against the present chief of the French Republic, are not to be mistaken. The notice given in the House of the introduction of a *militia bill* indicates the direction in which a portion of whatever is deemed necessary will probably be done.

Closely connected with the subject of France, and arising out of recent events in that country, is the personal topic of the dismissal of Lord Palmerston. The Daily News gives the following version of the affair, which seems to be borne out fully by the Parliamentary proceedings:

"From the speeches of the once attached but now alienated statesman we gather that upon the question of prompt recognition of the new order of things resulting from the *coup d'état* of December 2 there never was any difference of opinion in the Cabinet. Instructions, it now appears, were sent to Lord Normanby on the 6th December to maintain uninterruptedly the same diplomatic relations with the Elysée which had subsisted with the provisional Government of 1848, and with Louis Napoleon while he occupied the position of constitutional President. With the internal affairs of the French nation the Cabinet rightly felt that our Government had nothing whatever to do; and upon the justifiability of the particular acts by which the startling suppression of the representative system was accomplished it was not for our Government to pronounce any opinion. So thought Lord John, and so thought his colleagues generally.

"Unhappily there was one exception, namely, the then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. We have it upon the noble Viscount's own admission that on the day following the *coup d'état*—that is, upon the 3d December—Lord Palmerston told M. Walewski, in conversation, that he entirely approved of the measures taken by the President; that he thought the co-existence of the Presidential power and that of the National Assembly had become impossible; and that he considered it better for France and for Europe that all authority should be concentrated, under such circumstances, in a single hand. The French ambassador hastened to detail this important conversation to his chief in Paris. The despatch containing it was read in triumph by M. Turgot, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the leading members of the diplomatic corps; and, finally, it was boastfully alluded to in a conference with Lord Normanby, who, in dismay at finding his own instructions overshot from Downing street, wrote for explanations to Lord Palmerston. Lord Normanby's despatch went in due course to the Prime Minister and the Queen. Both reiterated the demand for explanation of the language held on the 3d December to Count Walewski; but, incredible as it may appear, no explanation came from the Foreign Office. Day after day went by, and, to use the words of Lord John, the subject was suffered to remain 'in disdainful silence.' At length a copy of a despatch addressed to Lord Normanby was laid before the Sovereign and the Premier, as furnishing the explanation required. But it explained nothing. It disclaimed any desire to interfere with the domestic concerns of France, but repeated in substance the individual approval of the *coup d'etat*. On this Lord John determined to recommend her Majesty to place the seals of office in other hands."

In the House of Commons, Lord John Russell, after explaining the relations betwixt the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Crown, and the duties of the Prime Minister, stated a declaration he had made at a meeting of the Cabinet in November last, with reference to our foreign policy. Shortly after this Lord Palmerston had received a certain deputation of delegates at the Foreign Office in a manner in which he (Lord John Russell) thought his noble friend had not exercised due caution; but he gave him the credit of supposing that it was through an oversight. The next and most important transaction related to the events which had taken place on the second day of December in France. The instructions conveyed to our ambassador from the Queen's Government were to abstain from all interference in the internal affairs of that country. Being informed of an alleged conversation between Lord Palmerston and the French ambassador repugnant to these instructions, he (Lord John) had written to that noble lord; but his inquiries had for some days met with a disdainful silence, Lord Palmerston having meanwhile, without the knowledge of his colleagues, written a despatch containing instructions to Lord Normanby, in which he, however, evaded the question whether he had approved the act of the President. That noble lord's course of proceeding in this matter he considered to be putting himself in the place of the Crown, and passing by the Crown, while he gave the moral approbation of England to the acts of the President of the Republic of France, in direct opposition to the policy which the Government had hitherto pursued. Under these circumstances, he (Lord John Russell) had no alternative but to declare that while he was Prime Minister Lord Palmerston could not hold the seals of office; and he had assumed the whole and entire responsibility of advising the Crown to require the resignation of his noble friend, who, though he had forgotten and neglected what was due to the Crown and his colleagues, had not, he was convinced, intended any personal disrespect. Lord John deprecated, in very earnest terms, all harsh criticism upon the conduct of the ruler of France, who, he believed, was desirous of being on terms of amity with us, and distinguished between extending to foreign exiles our ancient hospitality and indulging in intemperate judgment on the policy of other nations.

In reply to this Lord Palmerston said that he had, in conversation with the French Ambassador, uttered precisely the sentiments which appeared in the despatch Lord John Russell had read. But when Lord Normanby applied for instructions there could be of course but one answer consistently with our habitual policy. Lord Normanby thought it necessary to communicate this to the French Minister. The latter said that two days before he had received a communication, which he described, however, in highly-colored words. Lord John Russell had written for explanation; and he (Lord Palmerston) had, being much pressed by business, delayed his reply until he could write fully. He then did write, and said that his opinion was that the antagonism which had arisen between the President and the Assembly had made it impossible both could exist together. He had replied to Lord John Russell's letter that there was a distinction between official despatches and non-official communications; that he had said nothing to Count Walewski which could fetter the Government; and that if a foreign secretary were forbidden to talk frankly to a foreign ambassador, there would be an end of all that easy diplomatic communication which tended most of all to preserve the peace of nations. Upon this Lord John Russell signified that he, Lord Palmerston, ought to resign. He conceived his own doctrine right, and Lord J. Russell's to be wrong.

We copy the remarks made by Lord Palmerston, in conclusion of his speech, on the subject of the foreign diplomacy of Great Britain during the last three years:

"During all the changes which took place in France during the year 1848, whoever was at the head of the Government, and whatever form of Government was adopted by the French nation, we abstained from all interference with the internal affairs of France. Our principle has been to treat the authorities of the moment as the Government of the French nation, and with those authorities our relations have always been those of cordial amity. Then, with regard to the United States. The United States constitute a Power between which and this country in former years the most serious difficulties existed. But these countries are now upon a more cordial footing, and a better understanding prevails between them than has ever before prevailed between those two great and kindred Powers. This is a state of things which I must say is very much owing to the abilities and conciliatory manners of our late Minister to the United States, Sir Henry Bulwer, and very much also to the manly, straightforward, frank, and conciliatory character of that distinguished person who represents the United States at this Court. With the Spanish States of America our normal condition, I may almost say, has been that of demanding redress for injuries done to British subjects. But these points of dispute are now either settled or in a train of adjustment; and our relations with those States are now as good as they ever have been, or as they are likely to be. With Brazil we are now co-operating, with the great object of the suppression of the slavetrade. That object has been attained with such success, that whereas in