

# ATHENS POST.

S. P. IVINS, Editor and Proprietor.

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ATHENS, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 1850.

W. THOMSON, is the authorized agent for the "Post," in the city of Baltimore, Md.

H. W. KING is the authorized agent for this paper in the city of Philadelphia.

E. MITCHELL, Jr., Charleston, S. C., will attend to any business for this paper in that city.

Mr. JAMES T. ASBURY, Sr., Kingston, Roane County, Tennessee, is authorized and requested to act as agent in procuring subscriptions for this paper.

The last advices represent Cotton as advancing.

The Representative from this Congressional District is entitled to our thanks for a copy of Congressional Directory.

THE CALIFORNIA CONVENTION.—It has been charged that the California Convention which framed the Constitution now presented to Congress, was made up of men inimical to the South. A large majority of the delegates to that Convention are Southern men, as will be seen by the following statement:

Georgia 21, South Carolina 12, Alabama 15, New Jersey 1, Spain 1, Pennsylvania 3, Tennessee 12, North Carolina 13, Ireland 7, Maryland 2, Kentucky 3, Mississippi 3, New York 3, England 4, Sweden 3, France 2, Delaware 1, Virginia 9, Florida 1, Naples 1, Louisiana 1, Mexico 1—Total 119.

LECTURE ON TEMPERANCE.—P. S. WHITE, Esq., P. M. W. P., in accordance with the action of the Grand Division Sons of Temperance, at its January Session, 1850, is now filling a round of appointments in this State, lecturing on Temperance, and will be at Athens on Saturday the 13th day of April. Mr. White has acquired great popularity as a Temperance Lecturer. Members of neighboring Divisions, and the citizens generally, are invited to be present and hear him at the time designated.

STRAWBERRY PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL.—Attention is invited to the advertisement of this Institution, which appears today. It is represented to be a most excellent Institution, located in a healthy section, free from all allurement to vice and dissipation. The President, Rev. CREED FULTON, is too favorably known as a scholar and teacher to need any commendation at our hands.

Our friend of the Southern Whig thinks we misapprehended his article, which we quoted a week or two since. Possibly we did. As yet we have heard no complaints from the people because the Legislature did not provide for the appointing of delegates to the Nashville Convention.

RAIN! RAIN!—We are not disposed to complain of bad weather, not in the least—in fact, we have a very contented sort of disposition, and are inclined to be comfortable in storm or calm, in winter's rain or summer's drought. At this time the "rain drops are falling without measure," and the noblest tributary of the Estanalee, which washes the north side of the public square, is unfordable. We have no doubt if some of our citizens who are not otherwise engaged, would put a boat or two on that same tributary, they would make it a good business, and greatly promote the public convenience. Now the impassable state of the streets, the pouring of the floods, and the rushing torrents, would not in the least disturb our equanimity, was it not for the fact that whenever the clouds begin to lower, the atmosphere grow damp, and the roads become soft, the mails all begin to fail, East, West, North, and South. Even this would be endurable, but whenever the mails fail, of course we get no exchange papers, and when we get no exchange papers the failure makes sad havoc with our editorial calculations, as our main reliance is on our scissors to make that department of our paper interesting. Therefore, if the reader should find any thing wrong about today's paper, he will please cast the blame where it belongs—on the bad weather, bad roads, high waters, mail failures, and other little casualties, to all which inconveniences it is the duty of every good Christian to submit, as we do, with becoming resignation.

Hiram Godsey, who killed Isaac Miller in Bledsoe county in January 1849, was found guilty of murder in the first degree, at the Circuit Court in Bledsoe during the past week, and condemned to be hung.

What is this world? A dream within a dream—as we grow older, each step has an inward awakening. The youth awakes and he thinks from childhood—the full grown man despises the pursuits of youth as visionary—the old man looks on manhood as a feverish dream. Is death the last sleep?

## MR. CALHOUN'S SPEECH.

This is one of the most remarkable productions of a most remarkable age and country. Written in the calm retreat of his studies, without the excitement of debate or the sting of retort, we may suppose it contains neither more nor less than the precise views of its great author. No doubt but he was deliberate, and thoughtfully penned what his heart felt; and thus committed it to posterity, knowing that their opinions of him were to be influenced by the very words in which he clothed his ideas. If it is true, as our statesmen tell us, that the country is in danger—that a crisis has come, the movements of so conspicuous a personage must be regarded with interest. His opinions are now before the world, and they are a part of our history. Though not written in blood, they are, alas, written in a bloody spirit! He sounds the alarm note, and deprecates the evils now threatening our Union; but he does it in a tone of reproach and defiance. He shrinks from the task, and says the North must save the Union; they must concede all and do all, because he has no compromise to make. From a very complacent remark we may infer he has arrived at his ultimatum. "I have exerted myself, during the whole period, to arrest it, (the agitation,) with the intention of saving the Union," &c. It is elsewhere remarked—"By satisfying the South, she could honorably remain in the Union;" and even intimates that all that endeared the Union to the South has passed away. The most labored point shows the equilibrium between the two sections has been destroyed, and complains that the North has more votes in Congress than the South. This is true, but certainly the constitution of nature had more to do in this than the constitution of the United States. More free than slave States have been admitted, and consequently they have more Senators; but no one contested their right to admission. The North-western territory, now embracing several of the most flourishing States, was ceded by a slave State, and accepted by Southern Senators, although slavery was excluded in terms. Mr. Calhoun calculates the probable future increase of States, and concludes that the natural progress of events will soon give the North forty Senators and the South only twenty four; and thus in ten years the equilibrium of the government will be irretrievably destroyed. On this account he thinks it impossible for the South to remain in the Union with honor and safety. The inference from Mr. Calhoun's argument is, that this increase of the North is unconstitutional, and if the South could secure a majority in both houses of Congress there would be no need to amend the Constitution. Some one said many years since that he would rather reign in hell than serve in heaven. We do not believe Mr. Calhoun would push matters quite so far in the next world; but in this one he clearly shows a partiality to the sentiment.

It is true, the North has the numerical strength, which will increase so rapidly that in a few more years they will double us. But this is not a fault in them. On the contrary, our own citizens flock in thousands to the North-west and swell the tide of Free-soilers. Mr. Calhoun sees and knows these things—he feels them, too! But because he is mortified and disappointed, shall we hazard all to gratify his feelings? Our position is, "To stand by the Constitution," and preserve our rights in a sensible way.

MR. CALHOUN'S HEALTH.—We are glad to perceive the following in the Washington correspondence of the Columbus Telegraph: "Mr. Calhoun's health is improving.—He now attends the Senate regularly, and seems to be regaining his vigor of body rapidly, though still looking somewhat the worst from his recent sickness. All apprehensions in relation to his malady, may, however, now be allayed, for with due care his restoration cannot be doubted."

A certain cure for corus is to rub them well with salt every day for a week—they have both feet cut off, just above the ankles.

It has been so cold at Kemschatka the past winter, that the Governor was compelled to quit his usual residence and retire to his subterranean palace, which is twenty French metres below the surface of the ground. It seems, all the wealthy people of that country have under ground dwellings which they resort to in very cold weather.

Mr. A. W. Dessaner, a merchant of Weston, Missouri, on his way to the East, lost a belt at St. Louis, containing \$13,000, in gold and paper.

A Mr. Hazeltine was excluded from testifying in one of the courts of Boston, the other day, on the ground that he was "an avowed atheist."

MELANCHOLY AND MYSTERIOUS.—Four persons who were crossing a creek near Allentown, Alabama, in a carriage, were drowned recently. The casualty was discovered by finding two little dogs standing on the bank howling piteously, and on draining the creek, the bodies of a gentleman and lady, a lad and a negro man were found in the buggy which had sunk with their weight. Their names are unknown.

## EAST TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA RAILROAD COMPANY.—MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS.

Pursuant to a previous notice, published for more than thirty days in the Athens and Knoxville papers, the Stockholders in the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad Company assembled at the office of the Company in Athens, on Wednesday the 20th day of March, 1850, to vote on accepting or rejecting the loan offered by the State to said Company by an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, passed the 30th day of January, 1850.

On motion of M. B. Pritchard, Esq., the Convention was organized by calling Col. Wm. HEISKELL to the Chair, and appointing Jas. C. McCARTY and Wm. F. KEITH Secretaries.

On taking the Chair Col. Heiskell made a few happy and appropriate remarks, explanatory of the objects of the meeting, and urging upon the Stockholders the propriety of accepting the proposed loan.

A. D. Keyes, Esq., offered the following resolutions, to wit:

Whereas, the grading and masonry are finished and the timbers prepared for a portion of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, and the work is in such a state of forwardness as that 20 miles can be easily prepared in a short time for the superstructure; and whereas, it is now expedient and necessary to procure the iron rails and a portion of the equipments for said road, at as early a day as practicable; and whereas, the Stockholders, anxious for the speedy completion of the work, and having but limited available means at present, are thankful for the action of the recent Legislature of the State, in offering the Company a loan to be applied to the purchase of iron and equipments for the Road, and are desirous to avail themselves of the benefit of said aid. Therefore,

Resolved, by the Stockholders of the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad Company, in convention assembled, a large majority of the shares being represented, and voting to accept—that we, said Stockholders, do hereby accept and agree to and ratify the terms and conditions of the Act of Assembly heretofore mentioned, and do accept the loan of the Bonds of the State for three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, offered and granted to said Company by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, passed on the 30th day of January, 1850, on the terms, requirements and conditions set forth in the said act of the General Assembly, fully assenting and agreeing to all the terms, conditions and particulars thereof.

Resolved, as evidence of said receipt, and to make the same obligatory and binding, the Chairman and Secretaries of this meeting make out a sworn statement of these proceedings, before some Justice of the Peace of McMinn county, and have the Clerk's certificate and the seal of the County Court of McMinn county affixed thereto; and that said sworn statement be forwarded to his Excellency, the Governor of the State, and that a true copy thereof, be filed in the office of the Company, and be entered on the minutes of the Board.

Resolved, that the Directors are requested to apply for said loan, and that it be used in instalments, or for sections, as needed, and when the same can be judiciously expended in the purchase of iron and equipments for the Road; providing in the mean time for the payment of the interest on said loan, as it falls due, promptly.

On motion of T. N. Vandye, Esq., the ayes and noes were called for on the above resolutions; and, on motion of Mr. Keyes, Messrs. Jno. L. Hurst, T. N. Vandye, and D. C. Kenner were appointed tellers to take the vote.

The names of the Stockholders were called over in alphabetical order, each Stockholder voting the number of shares he holds in the Company—when it was announced by the tellers that over two thirds of the entire number of shares of the individual Stockholders were represented in this meeting, and that the vote was unanimous in favor of the adoption of the resolutions.

The Chair then declared the resolutions unanimously adopted.

Col. Wm. Heiskell offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the vote just taken shows that considerably over two thirds of the Stock of the individual Stockholders are represented in this meeting, and that the vote is unanimous for accepting said loan on the terms and conditions of the Act of Assembly; and that in the opinion of the Stockholders present, there is reason to believe that the Stockholders not present, would, if present, have voted in the affirmative.

The Convention then adjourned sine die.

WM. HEISKELL, Chm'r.

JAMES C. McCARTY, } Secretaries.

Wm. F. KEITH, }

"There is a great demand," says a Yankee pedlar, "for a species of plaster, which will enable men to stick to their business!"

"Blood and Ours."—A correspondent of the Columbus (Miss.) Democrat, writing from Jackson, gravely says:

Governor Quitman is surrounding himself with a gallant staff, and says he is willing and ready to do whatever the people's representatives may require at his hands, or perish in the effort.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 10.

Nothing is talked of here but the triumphant speech of Daniel Webster. All Southern, and nearly all Western men, with whom I have conversed, are content to stand on his platform. No speech ever delivered by Mr. Webster has had such an effect as this. It has brought, already, confidence and harmony. Still, I am not without fears that the Northern men in Congress will not come up to the support of Mr. Webster's views. These men are, to use Mr. J. Q. Adams' phrase, "palsied by the will of their constituents." Two-thirds of the House are ready to admit that Mr. Webster's views are incontrovertible; but, still, they are afraid of the denunciations of faction in their own districts. We have no doubt that some project, based on Mr. Webster's views, will command a large majority in the Senate. What the House will do, no man can tell. I am sorry to find that, already, there are powerful influences at work, in the House, to counteract the effect of Mr. Webster's speech. I could name two members from Massachusetts, one from New Hampshire and from Ohio, and several from New York, from each of whom I had hoped better things.

Mr. Webster throws himself upon the country—it is in the country that he appeals. He vindicates his own consistency, and combats Northern prejudice. Much of his speech is directed, necessarily and properly, to these objects. But his strength is employed, chiefly, in the enforcement of constitutional obligations, in the maintenance of the obligation of compact, and in the vindication of the laws of Nature as superceding and rendering unnecessary laws of Congress in regard to slavery. I cannot doubt, notwithstanding the fears of some Northern members, that the great mass of the Northern people will assent to his views. A Northern gentleman, of distinction, now here, says, to the timid and hesitating, "In five weeks, you will witness the great ground-swell of conservative opinion in the North."

The Administration, as I have reason to know, feels greatly relieved by the stand taken by Mr. Webster. It is considered, here, that the danger is over. We are not quite out of the woods, but we can see our way out.

Crowds of people are brought to Washington by their anxiety as to the existing state of things. I hear, to day, of a number of distinguished men who are coming hither from the South—*Cor. Char. Cour.*

## "THE CHIVALRY" RISING.

We believe, says the Memphis Eagle, we have noticed appropriations for home defence made by South Carolina and Alabama, in view of the impending crisis.—We believe we have also noticed the argument in Mississippi urged against the payment of the Planters' Bank bond; viz: that, in view of the appalling (?) relation of Mississippi to the rest of the Union, Mississippi needs all her surplus funds for purposes of internal defence.

These things would be very amusing, if they were not so treasonable, so outrageously libellous upon the Union and all connected with it that is dear and holy.—To sit down and calmly calculate upon a disruption of the Union, upon civil war and all its fearful and abhorrent consequences of blood, desolation and ruin, passes our patience, and we consider such legislative arguments as but little (if at all) short of actual treason, nullification or any other absurd outrage.

But in all this dark drama of crazy treason to the Union, there are occasionally most amusing glimpses of the grotesque and ridiculous. For instance, a very respectable cotemporary publishes the following:

"I am happy to inform you, that Edgecombe is fully aroused and will be equal to the emergency. Town Creek, Tosnot, Coneto, (your own Coneto) are every section of the good old county is ready at the top of the drum. You will hear from us on Tuesday the 26th inst. We shall show a bold, unflinching front to the enemy, and should they continue the cry 'lay on McDuff' we will be the last to exclaim 'hold, enough!'"

This is written in view of the assumed certainty of civil war between the Southern and Northern divisions of our confederacy—a thing not to be thought of or dreamed of—the mere mention of which is to us treasonable in will and word. But "Edgecombe is fully aroused." Think of that.—Town Creek!! Tosnot (Toss not) we presume, and the very name is belligerent, Coneto (our own Coneto)!! every part of our "good old county" (Buncombe) is "ready at the top of the drum"!! Rap! rap! tiddle dee dum!! shoulder broonsticks—fizzle!!!!

The Wheeling Gazette says that during a recent steamboat trip down the Ohio, the berths became so scarce that a tall Vermont Yankee rented his at \$2 per night, and slept in it by day. He'll do for this world.

The Twenty-Dollar Gold Pieces have made their appearance. They are about the size of a half-dollar, and are to our appreciation an awkward-looking coin. The eagle on the reverse is out of proportion with the obverse. They will be convenient, however, for parties, having large payments to make in gold, although too large for the pocket.—*New York Tribune.*

## TWO WEEKS LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

Through the kindness of a passenger by the California, who came to New-Orleans in the Alabama and has just reached this City by the Southern line, we have been furnished with San Francisco papers to Jan. 15 and from Panama to Feb. 8th, thus enabling us to lay before our readers, in advance of the mail, full particulars of the latest news from California and the Isthmus.

In the diggings the rains continued without cessation. All the rivers were swollen to an alarming height, but the miners still continued to work a part of the time. On the night of the 8th of January, the Yuba River, at its junction with Feather River, rose fifteen feet, flooding about half the town of Yubaville. The inhabitants were moving to a bluff about eight feet higher, which it was supposed would be secure from inundation. No lives were lost.

The Sacramento River has overflowed its banks, both above and below Sacramento City, and in many places, the flood extends nearly the whole breadth of the valley, resembling an immense sea, the course of the river being only marked by the thickets on its banks. Great numbers of horses and cattle have been swept away and drowned. Along the banks of the river many persons were engaged in wood-cutting and charcoal burning; the flood rose so suddenly that they were obliged to climb into trees and wait for some chance of relief.

Sacramento City was entirely submerged on the night of Jan. 9. When our informant left, the next morning, the water was rising at the rate of an inch per hour, chiefly from the American Fork. The flood on the Yuba had not reached the city.

These unprecedented floods have been occasioned by two or three successive falls of snow in the mountains, followed by two days of warm summer weather. On Feather River, a fall of snow two feet deep entirely disappeared in one day.

There was a rumor—which it is feared is but too true—that between one and two thousand persons were imprisoned in Sutter's Fort by the water, unable to escape, through want of boats, and with very little means of subsistence.

Owing to the rise in the rivers there are now three steamers plying between Sacramento City and Yubaville, a distance of about seventy five miles; fare \$15. Provisions were plenty on all the northern rivers. The prices remain about the same as at previous advices.

The "burned district" in San Francisco is now almost entirely built up. The Exchange, El Dorado and Parker House are again in operation. The growth of the town in all directions is even more marvellous than heretofore.

The California had on board a million and a half in gold dust, including the sums brought in private hands.

The neglected placers in the Province of Veraguas, about 75 miles north of Panama, are now worked by a Company of 40 American emigrants, and yield \$5 to \$85 daily per man. The gold is in large grains, and 22 carats fine.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

## PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT.

Letters from Senator Cass and Senator Dickson to the late Union democratic meeting in New York are published in the New York papers. The following paragraphs are from the letter of Gen. Cass.—They are eloquent, patriotic, and well timed.

"Let him who will calculate the value of this Union if he can. I spare the useless effort. Its value is in the past, in the present, and in the future; in its promises, its performances and its hopes; in all it has done, and is doing, and is destined yet, I trust, to do. Its value is in the heart of every true American. It has made ours the most prosperous country on the face of the earth; given us a greater measure of national freedom than any other people ever enjoyed; placed us among the powerful nations of the world, with nothing to fear but our own follies and crimes, and the judgment of God; it has spread an intelligent, a happy, a contented and a virtuous population over our hills and valleys and prairies, from the shores of the Atlantic almost to the base of the Rocky mountains, which the hardy pioneer is now as ending; and it has already brought to us the great political offering, to be laid upon the altar of our common country, of a constitution from a free people, who have established their home upon the very shores that look out upon China and Japan.

"All this our Union has done; but, if left to go on, its work is but just begun.—We cannot explore the future; it is best we should not. But we have reason to hope, with proper humility, indeed, that, if not struck with judicial blindness, the career of this great republic will be as glorious in itself as it will be happy for its people, and encouraging to the lovers of freedom throughout the world. The cause of human liberty depends on us. If lost here by intestine divisions, it is lost everywhere.

"We have not only our own fate in our hands, but the great question of the power of self-government is committed to our keeping. If we cannot govern ourselves, who can? If this constitution falls, the next that will govern us may be the sword. My ardent prayer is, that I may never live to see that day.

Counterfeit half-dollars, so accurately executed as to exhibit no perceptible difference from the genuine coin, are in circulation in New Orleans. They are said to be of domestic manufacture, and can only be detected by ringing them.

## OVERFLOW OF THE SACRAMENTO.

It is with the utmost pain that we are compelled to announce the distressing intelligence that the City of Sacramento is completely overflowed, and that in the streets of the city where the most active business operations were conducted but a brief time since, the splashing waters are now sweeping with resistless fury. The distress and devastation which this untoward event will cause is truly deplorable to contemplate. We had hoped that the waters, which were not materially rising when our last accounts were dated, would abate, but their course was "onward." Inch by inch they insidiously rose, until the streets ran rivers, and the whole banks of the river were covered with the rushing flood. Those who were camping in tents gathered up what they could lay their hands upon and fled to higher ground. Alarm and panic spread upon every side, and no means to check the dire and dread calamity could be devised. On swept the tide—merchandise of all descriptions was borne away in the mighty rush, and still it poured on. The terror of an unavertable flood was apparent to all, and every exertion was made to reach a place of safety with what necessaries of life were obtainable. The excitement and confusion is represented to us as almost indescribable and heart rending in the extreme.

We conversed with a passenger who came down in the Senator last evening, to whom we are indebted for the particulars of this calamitous and unexpected event. When the Senator left the entire city was under water, boats were navigating the streets, and carrying passengers from the second stories of houses. The only means of getting about was by boats, and every imaginable craft was engaged in navigating the streets. The ridge of high land about two miles in the rear of the city was literally studded with tents, and human beings were mingled with affrighted animals who had also taken refuge upon terra firma.

Sutterville was overflowed, but the fort was still dry. Numbers of small tenements had been washed away, and the front of a large brick building, near the new steamboat landing, had fallen in. Dewy's Hotel and the City Hotel were peopled like beehives, and passengers were taken from the second stories in boats. Many of the inhabitants had taken refuge on board the shipping, and some were still living in the upper stories of buildings; but these habitations were insecure. The fees demanded by those having boats were very exorbitant, illustrating the proverb that "What is one man's meat is another man's poison."

But the extent of the calamity does not end here, according to our informant; for the branches back of the river are also under water. The cattle, horses and mules were lining the river's banks, deep in water, browsing upon the spare herbage yet visible above, presenting a most woful picture of misery. We dread to hear of the loss of many lives and much distress and suffering.

Already, we are informed, lives have been lost, two men having been drowned in the streets of Sacramento by falling from boats. We also understand that Vernon and most of the little towns above are flooded. We shudder at the contemplation of the utter disaster which must be caused by this untimely catastrophe. There is no knowing when the flood will stop, and what further ravages may succeed those which the relentless rush of waters has already occasioned. Hundreds of persons who were prosperous, comfortable and happy, are now deprived of nearly their all and thrust forth at a moment's warning from their homes.

We learn that the Placer Times newspaper was not published, and that the building was partially under water. We have penned this account hastily and from the best information we could gather in the absence of our correspondence, but it is confirmed by several sources. We trust by our next issue to place a more minute account of the flood before our readers. —*Alta California Jan. 14.*

## St. Louis, March 9.

A very large meeting was held here last night. A series of resolutions were passed, approving of the course of Col. Denton in the United States Senate, and repudiating Mr. Calhoun's speech on the slavery question, and the threats of disunion.—They also agreed to make "Bentonism" a test vote, on the Democratic candidates, at the Municipal election.

"Ma," said a little girl to her mother, "do the men want to get married as much as the women do?" "Pshaw! what are you talking about?"—"Why, ma the women who come here are always talking about getting married, the men don't do so." We slogged.

Laziness grows on people; it begins in cobwebs, and ends in chains.