EASTON GAZETTE.

WHERE THE PRESS IS FREE—"Literature well or ill-conducted is the Great Engine by which all Popular States must ultimately be supported or overthrown—RELIGION purifies the Heart and teaches us our Duty—Morality refines the Manners—Agriculture makes us Rich, and Politics provides for the enjoyment of all."

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HEROISM OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

The Washington Union, rejoicing, as every American rejoices, over our recent victories in Mexico, claims, the entire glory for Mr. Polk and his Cabinet. It says:

The administration at this moment presents itself before the people as having done thus far, all that military policy and prowess could do to secure just and honorable peace. The events of the war seem almost to have obeyed our word of command.

And again:

In estimating the glory of our arms, the people now feel, and have a right to feel that the men charged by the voice of the nation with the maintenance of its rights and fame, have foreseen and provided for, and prepared beforehand the whole process and transaction of their recent noble triumph.

We doubt whether the entire past can exhibit a parallel instance of cool and arrogant hypocrisy. The boast that the administration has done "all that military policy and prowess could do," will strike the American people as marvellous. Not to the gallant Whigs, Scott and Taylor, Worth and Doniphan, belongs the glory of "policy and prowess;" Col. Polk engrosses it all. And why is this extraordinary claim made? Because, says the Union, the administration has "forseen, and provided for and prepared beforehand the whole process and transaction of their present noble triumph." It is not merely asserted that the necessary men and munitions were provided, but that the "whole process and transaction" of the triumphs of Scott belong to Col. Polk.

The nation will enquire what has the administration done to win this extravagance of flattery? We answer, nothing but oppose and obstruct the prosecution of the war, nothing but vilify and persecute its heroes, nothing but exhibit its jealousy of merit, its apprehension that Whig Generals should reap the field of glory, and its anxiety lest the war should be closed too soon.

Congress gave the Administration ample power and resources for a vigorous prosecution of the war. General Scott, as Commander-in-chief, marked out, with the prophetic eye of military genius, a plan which must have secured an early peace. Every detail of that plan, and all its enlarged and comprehensive views have since been vindicated, and are now the subject of universal admiration.

But that plan was not merely condemned but its author was disgraced. The hero of Lundy's Lane was reproached with an unwillingness to meet the enemy, he was deprived of his command, and subjected, by every Administration press in the Union to vituperation and contempt.

Since that first effort of the adminstration to throw reproach upon one of the most valued and patriotic of our country's champions, because he was a Whig, every energy seems to have been strained to protract the war. General Taylor's out-spoken indignation at the imbecility of the Administration, and its failures to provide him with the means of advancing after the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, cannot be forgotten. Every delay belonged to the Administration—every advance to our Whig generals. Each victory was a miracle. Nor can the Administration claim a merit in our successes. It has no right to expect from our armies that they will triumph with an enemy, equal in discipline and arms, and four times their own number. Destruction, if it should result from so mad an encounter, is to be ascribed to the policy which exposed our heroes to such an issue; but the praise of victory belongs to our gallant soldiers and to the God of battles. But this inequality of forces, though it has not resulted in defeat, has induced ruinous delays and has cost our country thousands on thousands of valuable lives, every one of which lays at the door of the administration. The country will not forget the wasting delay upon the Rio Grande, the insufficient force called upon to storm Monterey, the withdrawal of Taylor's force, and his exposure upon the plains of Buena Vista to an army sufficient, in any rational estimate of military power, to crush and destroy him.

When, constrained by the call of the nation, the Administration directed Gen. Scott to assume the command of the war, it pledged itself to furnish all that was necessary for its vigorous prosecution. Before that gallant officer had left New Orleans, he had occasion to complain that those promises were violated. At Vera Cruz, the operations were delayed and enfeebled by the absence of the most needful munitions and since that period, month after month, has the nation seen that army in the greatest peril—its communications out off, incapable of advancing, in consequence of the criminal inefficiency of the government.—In the midst of an enemy's country, surrounded by a large and hostile population and in front of an army greatly superior in numbers, the nation trembled for the fate of the wise and gallant Scott; and well they might.

The result has removed those fears—but rather increased than diminished the indignation with which the policy of the administration was regarded. Can Mr. Polk boast that he exposed an American army to five or six times their own number, and compelled them to drive such a force from perhaps the strongest fortifications ever successfully assailed on this continent? Is this desperate feat his, or that of the men who abandoned by the administration, gathered courage from desperation, and effected wonders that mock at all cool and rational calculation of chances? If that army had been sacraficed, where would have rested the reponsibility? The flattery of the Union cannot salve over the deep disgrace of the Administration. The war and its calamities belong to Mr. Polk; but its victories cannot be wrenched from Whig Generals, to laurel the brows of the Tennessee Colonel who did, according to the Union, "all that military policy and prowess could do."—*N. American.*

THE WAR—THE CONSEQUENCES.

The Whig party in 1844 foretold the consequences of the annexation of Texas, in the manner in which it was accomplished—WAR was predicted, and an enormous NATIONAL DEBT;—one evil frequently leads to another, and the reader, who is acquainted with history, may easily discern what is to be the consequence of the progressive course of the "*democracy*"—Forewarned, forearmed! The day of settlement is to come!

We have been attracted to this subject, just now, by reading the following from the Washington correspondent of the Louisville Democrat. The writer appears to be very well informed as to the opinions and designs of the Administration, and the testimony may therefore be relied on as accurate. It will be perceived that he says that Mr. Walker is enthusiastically in favor of annexing the whole of Mexico. He is the most active and influential member of the Cabinet. The opinions that he advances openly are such as are more secretly entertained by his coadjutors. Mr. Walker professes to think that our Union is cemented by territorial expansion, and that diversity of interests strengthen the ties that bind the States together. This view is utterly hostile to that cherished by Washington and all good and patriotic men; but it is no part of the policy of the Locofoco progressives to sustain the opinions and doctrines inculcated by the fathers of the republic. But we will keep our readers no longer from the letter of the Democrat's correspondent. It is dated August 25, and we take the subjoined extracts from it:

"The war is now more popular than at any past time. I have visited all the Northern cities, and discover a strong disposition prevailing to annex the whole of Mexico. It will become a test question with our party. Sam. Lawrence, of Lowell, says that no measure could be more favorable to the interests of the Northern manufacturer. It would increase the present value of stock investments fifty per cent.—Immediately upon the annexation of Mexico the whole of her British commerce becomes ours. We will do all her trading. The Catholics in New York, headed by their bishop, are strong for annexation.—They look upon it as the only way in which the church is to be preserved in Mexico.—Protestants, too, more especially the Methodists, are zealously advocating annexation. They go for it because there is every opportunity of evangelizing the entire nation, if we have the liberty of speech and of the press guaranteed to the citizens. Democrats are in favor of annexation on the true ground, that we cannot negotiate a permanent peace with any existing power in Mexico: Here, then, is a combined party in favor of the war which no faction on earth can put down. And besides all this, the first and highest consideration is the honor of the nation, which never could be procured by any means less than a peace bought upon our own terms.

"Hon. Robert J. Walker arrived in town this morning, from Rockaway. The Democracy look upon this man as one of their great champions. His views are all radical. They go down to the root. At the present moment, while other men may waver and "hang fire" until the people move by the mass, he goes for *the whole of Mexico!* He went for *the whole of Texas* in a similar crisis! He went for *the whole of Oregon!* He gave us the present tariff—carried the coustitutional treasury and established the ware-house system There is no backing out with him.—He is onward—*so is Democracy*—so is AMERICA! We are destined to be the *freest* government—our commerce the *greatest* in the world—the whole continent *United States!* The wheel of progress cannot go backward. We have Mexico in our hands—she must go into the Union—that is her orbit, and out of it she must fall into worse than monarchy a British subsidy."

The wheel of progress, the writer declares, cannot go backwards. We have progressed as far as the capital of Mexico in our conquests, and our course will not be stayed until we have reached and circumscribed within the circle of our conquests all of the provinces of Mexico. This is the position assumed by Mr. Walker.—The Northern manufacturers stimulated by cupidity, and the Catholics and Protestants stimulated by religious zeal, together with the war patriots generally, and the "manifest destiny men," form a combination in favor of wholesale annexation that, in the opinion of the writer, "no faction on earth can put down."

We are certainly approaching a crisis in the history of our country more momentous than any that has preceded it. The people should prepare themselves in time to meet the solemn responsibilities that are to devolve on them. The question of annexing the whole of Mexico must, when proposed be met by them, and on their decision of that great question hangs the destiny of our country. Before that question can be decided, sufficient time for consideration will be allowed, and we hope than when it does come they will be prepared to meet it in the true spirit of patriotism. Is it not mere annexation of a vast superficial extent of territory, but the more important question of making citizens of eight millions of people, ignorant and depraved, which may come up for decision. This question, together with others which will certainly be mixed up with it, will probably produce a struggle, such as has not been known in our annals, and will test the capacity of our Union to survive discords and strifes of the most deadly nature.

Mexico contains more than twenty States and a very large proportion of them are already sufficiently populous for admission into our Union. Shall we annex these States to this confederacy? Their representation in the national councils would be prodigious. We should have forty-odd Mexican Senators and over a hundred Mexican Representatives, all ignorant of our language, to assist our native legislators in the arduous duty of making laws for us. The Mexicans would hold the balance of power and determine the character of our legislation. Yet this is the spectacle which the Locofocos are looking forward to with aching eyes, deeming it a splendid vision of a still more splendid destiny that awaits our nation!

We are hastening towards a most alarming struggle, we hope that there is enough wisdom, patriotism and fortitude left among us to meet it firmly. The Whigs are everywhere opposed to the annexation of foreign territory; and they will maintain their ground with all that immoveable resolution and consistency which has heretofore marked their devotion to their country.—*Louis. Jour.*

☞ Mr. BUCHANAN, since the death of SILAS WRIGHT, seems to have become the most prominent aspirant for the honor of a Presidential nomination, at the hands of the Administration party. His recent letter, adverse to the Wilmot Proviso, and in favor of continuing the Missouri compromise line to the Pacific, has gained for him a considerable show of popularity at the South.

In other quarters of the Union he is charged with being little less than a trimmer, devoid of principle. A writer in the New York Evening Post, denouncing him as one who has attempted to introduce "a new and monstrous principle" into the democratic creed, says:

"The pretext for this proposed enormity is party expediency. And the democratic party, the unfaltering defenders and supporters of the rights of man and of constitutional liberty, are called upon by our Secretary of State to surrender to expediency a principle sound beyond all others, and which constitutes the basis of their whole party superstructure. Calculating and scheming party operators may do this, but no statesman, no sound politician, no man who loves his fellow man and regards his rights, can make such a surrender of principle. Circumstances sometimes strangely influence the actions and opinions of men. Mr. Buchanan, though not inherently a democrat, has sagacity; and, from observation and study has, many years since, arrived at the conclusion that the democratic party is the best, most popular, and most deserving of the parties in this country, and has, therefore, attached himself to it. This result is brought about by calculation, for he is not intuitively, and from the promptings of his own heart, a democrat.

"He never did and never can originate a democratic measure. He never was and never will be a pioneer on any radical question. Timid, cautious, and yet observant, he watches and examines with interest, and with all his peculiar abilities, the progress of measures; and when satisfied that he shall be supported by the popular voice, he embarks in a new measure. But until then, he clings to the past, and relies on prudence to shelter him. On all great questions, Mr. Buchanan has lingered behind the public voice, though he has had the shrewdness to fall in with the popular current before his bark has been stranded. Hence his weakness. He does not do justice to his own abilities, which are very respectable. He studies to be popular rather than to be right. Had he been unambitious and unaspiring, in the humble retirement of a quiet home, neither wanting nor expecting distinction, he would never have written the letter of the 25th of August."

It is not for us to judge of Mr. Buchanan's democracy. It is not easy to form a definite idea of the meaning of the phrase itself—that catch-word of demagogues.—One thing, however, may be learned respecting it, by the careful observer—which is, that those who talk most concerning democracy and make the most profound protestations of devotion to it, are the least to be trusted as public men. Mr. Buchanan, in his letter, says a great deal about "the democracy of Old Berks," from which a design may be inferred to wheedle the democracy generally.—*Balt. American.*

THE WHIGS AND THE WAR.

Although the whigs opposed the *origin* of the war, and done all in their power to avert the terrible evil, no sooner was the country involved in it through the *blundering policy* of the Locofoco administration, than the Whigs, actuated by that patriotic love of country characteristic of the descendants of the Whigs of '76, came out strong in defence and support of the country, and advocated the vigorous prosecution of the war to a speedy and honorable peace. They did not ask for *three millions* to "purchase peace," but nobly volunteered to fight it out; Whig writers and Whig speakers took strong ground in favor of "conquering peace"—and hundreds and thousands of gallant Whigs, responsive to their country's call, flocked to the "Star Spangled Banner," and went forth to bare their breasts to the bullets of a foreign foe, in defence of their native land. How does such exhibitions of patriotism and love of country contrast with the conduct of the Locofoco President in *passing Santa Anna and suit in'o Mexico.* While the Locofocos were *aiding and comforting the enemy*, such Whigs as TAYLOR, SCOTT, WORTH, BUTLER, CLAY, RINGGOLD, RIDGELY, and thousands of other equally gallant spirits, were nobly defending the "stars and stripes," and sacrificing their lives upon the altar of their country. The Locofoco Administration is chargeable with the loss of the brave Americans who fell at Buena Vista. The Locofocos have denounced, proscribed, insulted and endeavored to destroy the WHIG GENERALS who have conducted the campaign so gloriously notwithstanding the unceasing fire in "front" and "rear," and they shall bear the responsibility. Finding that the intrigue with Santa Anna and hostility to old ROUGH AND READY is likely to bring them into trouble, they have changed their system of tactics, and make hollow-hearted professions of friendship for the old Hero they did their utmost to destroy. But they will carry with them the odium of being the friends of Santa Anna, and the enemies of the lion-hearted Hero of Mexico, the gallant ZACHARY TAYLOR.—The Locofocos have aided much to prevent the victories achieved by the unconquerable Taylor, and they shall not now be permitted to bind around their brows the laurel wreaths so dearly purchased by that heroic WHIG GENERAL.—*Rough and Ready.*

THE WHIG PARTY OF MARYLAND —ITS CLAIMS ON THE PUBLIC SUPPORT.

No party ever had stronger claims upon the support and confidence of the whole people, than the Whigs of Maryland now present. They came into power in 1845, and they found the State treasury bankrupt—the fruits of six year's rule of Locofoco-ism. It would have been easy for them to have allowed the downward course of things to have continued. It was manifestly a great work to undertake to stop the tendency towards open and shameless repudiation, which had been all but publicly encouraged by the preceding governors. It was certain to devolve a high degree of personal as well as official responsibility, on all who should assume, as principals or auxilaries, the task of redeeming the State faith: and there were difficulties presenting themselves all around, which required that the men who might set about to do the work of redemtion, should make up their minds to accomplish it at every hazard. They were to know no such word as "fail!"

The Whigs, on entering into power, undertook the work asking only that they should receive the support of the people, and pledging themselves, for that support, "to do it. They did receive that support. It is true that they were opposed, and that the support was not as general and as enthusiastic as they had a right to expect and ought to have had. It was a question of State faith, involving the honor of the Commonwealth, and concerning the good name of every one of her citizens. On such a question there should not have been two parties. But despite all opposition, whether it bore the name of repudiation or assumed the guise of Locofocoism, the Whigs, with the Governor at the head, persevered, and the task is all but accomplished.

The first of January next is the day for the consummation of the work, and it is now certain that there is no dobut of its entire success.

Now, we submit to every candid man of every party, whether the Whig party, for what they have done in this great work, have not claims upon the support and confidence of the people of Maryland, which may not, with safety to the public weal, be disregarded?

There are times, when honorable men of all parties should forget political differences, and unite in giving a generous support to those who have undertaken and accomplished a great work. This united support is necessary to secure the full advantage of it. This putting down of repudiation was emphatically a great work. The State faith may be fully established, such an union of men of all parties should now take place.

Shall we appeal in vain to the men of the other side, who are friends of State faith—and there are such we know—when we say to them, that now to oppose the Whig party, to vote against the Whig candidate for Governor, and to aid in the election of a man who never, in all his public life, said one word in favor of, and never, did any act which might have aided in, maintaining the State faith, is to do wrong to those who *have* struggled to maintain it? Shall we appeal in vain to such men, when we tell them, that it will be but a poor encouragement for those who may hereafter have such tasks imposed upon them, to know that those who wish them success in their undertaking, still withheld from them all encouragement,—and by not aiding to continue Whigs in power, refused to manifest in the only way they could, their approval of their exertions, and their satisfaction at their success?—And if—as, thanks to the intelligence and honesty of the people, there is no danger—it should come to pass, that the Whig party should, at the approaching election, be displaced from power, what, we ask, will be the effect upon the credit of the State, whose people, it would seem, disapproved rather than rejoiced at the successful exertions which had been made to maintain its faith? And if there be any man, calling himself a friend of State faith, who shall aid in giving expression to this seeming disapprobation, and thus allow the repudiators to claim that the defeat of the Whigs is their triumph,—as it would be in truth—what reproaches will he not visit upon himself, and how can he ask to be ever regarded as an enemy of repudiation?

We put this to his judgment—let his conscience answer it.

The election of WILLIAM T. GOLDSBOROUGH is certain. No combination—no local disasters—no scheming can defeat him. But it is of consequence to the great question of State faith—it should be a matter of pride to every good citizen—to have him elected by a majority so emphatic, as to demonstrate,—not merely the preponderance of the Whig vote of the State—that is certain—but that the good citizens of all parties regard that question as above all others, and first to be taken care of.

Is this not, citizens of Maryland, you are the guardians of her good name, and who share in all her glories and feel all her wrongs—is this not more important than it is to have this man or that man—this party or that party in office?—*Pat.*

THE CRY OF REFORM.

The cry of the Locofocos in this election canvass is "reform," "conventional reform." They want the State Constitution altered, and are not satisfied with the full authority which the Legislature has to alter, amend or abrogate any or all of it, whenever a majority of the members choose. They want a Convention, specially called for the purpose, who are to work out a Constitution according to the latest and most approved fashion. Perhaps in a few years there will be as loud a cry for a change of the altered constitution, if it should be altered, as there is now; and thus continuing in a regular interval of years, it may come to pass that we shall have no constitution at all, which is virtually the case now in the general government, whenever the Constitution stands in the way of any thing Mr. Polk or his party want to do. In the general government they do not stop for conventions or alterations. When they want to do any thing which the Constitution forbids or does not authorize—why *they just violate it;* and when taxed with doing so, generally refer the complainer to the "resolutions of '98," and the principle of "strict construction." This is a money saving and a labor saving way of changing the Constitution, which the Locofocos of Maryland would adopt, *if they were only in power*—and this may be the reason why they were so quiet about "reform" and "convention," when they were six years in power—from 1838 to 1845! They did not want any reform or alteration in the Constitution then—*because they had the offices*, and the constitution was found to be no barrier to their continuing in them!

He would be a good guesser who should predict, that their disingenuous clamor for reform would be "hushed up," if they should, unfortunately for every true interest of the State, get into power again.

It may be that this is the reason they put up Mr. Philip Francis Thomas as their candidate for Governor. In the Legislature he opposed every measure of reform—was particularly hostile to the proposition to call a Convention—and signalized his legislative career by two things—support of virtual repudiation, and opposition to all Conventional reform of the Constitution. His signal vote on this latter subject is thus noted in the "Proceedings of the House of Delegates, for the session of 1843-44," when Mr. Thomas was a member from Talbot:

A bill was under consideration to reduce the number of members of the House of Delegates. A motion had been made to indefinitely postpone it, which failed, Mr. Thomas, however, voting for it.

A motion was then made, that the bill be recommitted, with instructions to the committee, *to report a bill to call a CONVENTION TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION*, and amongst other things *establish a system of representation upon a fair and equitable basis.*

On this motion the yeas and nays were taken—and resulted ayes 25, noes 48—*Mr. Thomas voting the negative!*

Subsequently the bill was taken up again, and on page 217 of the House Journal, it is recorded:

"MR. THOMAS, of Talbot, MOVED TO POSTPONE SAID BILL AND AMENDMENT INDEFFINITELY."

The motion was lost; but a motion to refer to the next General Assembly was afterwards made and carried—Mr. Thomas voting for the reference.

From these facts, it appears that Mr. Thomas was opposed to Conventional, Legislative or any other reform or mode of altering the Constitution. and especially was he opposed to a proposition to any alteration of the principle of representation in the House of Delegates.

Yet with these his opinions, recorded on the journals of the House, the Locofocos have nominated Mr. Philip Francis Thomas as their candidate for Governor, and he has accepted the nomination, and is going about the State haranguing the people and putting himself up as the champion of reform!

But, say his friends, "he has changed." "I have altered my views," he tells the people of Washington county,—"I am for representation according to taxtion;—*that is, if you pay taxes on a dollar's worth of property more than I do, I am willing you shall have a dollar's worth of influence more than I have.*"

These are his words—they embody a principle, which if the Locofocos like it, they should support him.

But he was once opposed to reform, when a representative of Talbot in the House of Delegates, and has now changed! *These changlings may not be safely trusted.*

Who will guarantee that he will not change back again if he gets to be Governor?

That he will be sure to go back, may be safely relied on, if he is defeated in his present asperations and wants to go to the Legislature again from Talbot.

Let no such man be trusted.—*Pat.*

ILLEGAL VOTING.

The following sections of the act passed at December session, 1844, ch. 309, remain unrepealed—and will be enforced, at the approaching election, against all who may violate their provisions:

"AN ACT ENTITLED, AN ACT TO PREVENT ILLEGAL VOTING."

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That from and after the passage of this act, any person offering to vote in any of the counties of this State, or in the city of Baltimore not being at the time of so offering to vote a citizen of the United States, twelve months a resident of this State, and six months preceding the election a resident in the county or city in which he shall so offer to vote, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction thereof in the county court of the county in which said attempts shall be made, or in the city of Baltimore, shall be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars, nor more than five hundred dollars, and to imprisonment in the county jail for not less than one month, nor more than two years.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That if any person shall bribe or offer to bribe a legal voter, he shall be subject to the same fine and imprisonment as an illegal voter convicted as aforesaid.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That any person who may hereafter vote at any election in this State, without possessing the qualifications of age and residence, as now required by the laws of this State, shall upon conviction thereof in the county court of the county where he may so vote, or in the city court of Baltimore, be subject to the same punishment prescribed in the first section of this act.

Sec 4. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That any person voting or offering to vote in any of the counties of this State, or in the city of Baltimore, on the certificates of naturalization of any other person, shall be guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof, shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary for not less than two or more than six years.

MR. CALHOUN AND THE WAR.—We have, from time to time, given the opinions of the great leader of the Democracy in the *West*, Mr. Benton in regard to the War—here is the opinion of the great leader of that party in the *South*, upon the same question. And yet the Whigs are charged as "tories," "federalists," when the *two strongest men of that party* have put forth such sentiments as the following,—and others equally decided. In a speech made in the United States Senate on the 24th of last February, Mr. Calhoun said:

"Every Senator knew *that he was opposed to the war; but no one knew the depth of that opposition but himself.* In one short hour after the act of recognition of the war passed, he had said to his friends that a deed had been done from which the country would scarcely recover. A curtain had been dropped between him and the future and for the first time in his life the future was shut out from his view."

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