John Catlop Esqr

THE 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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From the Cleveland Herald.

THE RIVER OF LIFE.

Gliding down Life's rapid river
Hurrying onwards, onwards, ever,
Tarrying for a moment never,
See the years fly fast.

Oh for charm or spell to stay them!
But one moment to delay them,
Just while memory might array them
Round the shadowy Past!

Sure they stay!—Bright eddies dashing,
In the glorious sunlight flashing,
Silver circles, crossing, crashing
Light and fresh and free.

See! the very skies above them,
Bending, bliss caress, and love them
Onward still;—no smiles can move them
From their goal, the sea.

Stealing on the wave before us,
Fall night shadows dimly o'er us,
And an echo rings sonorous,
From the sounding sea.

Speaks a voice that is not mortal,
Who is this by Death's dim portal,
Under angel's bright escortal,
Near the solemn sea?

And the waters, answering never,
Still keep hurrying onwards ever
And in silence Life's deep River,
Meets the silent sea,

Cleveland, July. H. V.

SECRET HISTORY OF THE ANNEXATION OF TEXAS.

It will be recollected by our readers, that during the administration of Mr. Tyler, a treaty was made with Texas for the annexation of that tearritory to the United States—that said treaty was rejected by the Senate—that a resolution to annex was subsequently passed by the House of Representatives—and that, finally, the proposition of Col. Benton, to open negotiations with Mexico for the annexation of Texas, was attached to the House resolution, and thus passed into a law; giving the President the choice of expedients. It is also known that a majority of the Senate was opposed to the House resolution and in favor of negotiation, as the only way of preventing a war with Mexico We have now revealed, by Senator Tappan and F P. Blair, Esq., former editor of the Globe, the secret history of the causes which induced the Senate to combine the two modes of annexation together.

Mr. Tappan states, that, at the time the House resolution was under consideration in the Senate "it was proposed, that, instead of rejecting said resolution, we should amend it by adding, as an alternative proposition, the substance of Mr. Benton's bill to obtain Texas by negotiation." He continues:

"Mr. Polk was in the city; it was understood that he was very anxious that Congress should act on the subject before he came into office; it was also understood that the proposition to amend the House resolution originated with Mr. Polk. It had been suggested that, if we did so amend the resolution, Mr. Calhoun would send off the House resolution to Texas, and so endeavor to forestal the action of Mr. Polk; but Mr. McDuffie, his friend, having met this suggestion by the declaration that he would not have the "audacity" to do such a thing, it was no more thought of. One difficulty remained, and that was the danger of putting it into the power of Mr Polk to submit the House resolution to Texas We understood, indeed, that he intended to submit the Senate proposition to that Government; but, without being satisfied that he would do this, I would not vote for the resolution, and it was well ascertained that without my vote, it could not pass. Mr. Haywood, who had voted with me, and was opposed to the House resolution, undertook to converse with Mr Polk on the subject, and did so. He afterwards told me that he was authorized by Mr. Polk to say to myself and other Senators that, if we could pass the resolution with the amendment proposed to be made, he would not use the House resolution, but would submit the Senate amendment as the sole proposition to Texas. Upon this assurance I voted for the amendment moved by Mr. Walker, containing the substance of Mr. Benton's bill, and voted for the resolution as it now stands on the statute book.

It is matter of history that Mr. Calhoun did have the "audacity" to send off a special messenger with the House resolution to Texas on the 3d of March, a few minutes before he went out of office; and that Mr. Polk adopted and confirmed this act of Mr. Calhoun's so admitting Texas into the Union, and placing the United States in a state of war with Mexico.

We give the exposition of Mr. Blair entire, as it is full and precise as to the facts of the case. He proves, beyond question, that great duplicity was practised, and by which this country became engaged in war with Mexico.

SILVER SPRING, July 7, 1848.

Hon. Benj. Tappan, Steubenville, Ohio.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 1st instant asks me to state what I know as to the way the Texas question was got through the Senate." I comply, and will not incumber the narrative with immaterial details.

When the resolution passed by the House of Representatives for the annexation of Texas reached the Senate, it was ascertained that it would fail in that body. Benton, Bagby, Dix, Haywood, and as I understand you also, were absolute in opposition to this naked proposition of annexation, which necessarily brought with it the war in which Texas was engaged with Mexico. All had determined to adhere to the bill submitted by Col Benton, for the appointment of a commission to arrange the terms of annexation with Texas, and to make the attempt to render its accession to our Union as palatable as possible to Mexico before its consummation. It was hoped that this point might be effected by giving (as has been done in the late treaty of peace) a pecuniary consideration, fully equivalent in value for the territory desired by the United States, and to which Texas could justly assert any title. The Senate had been polled, and it was ascertained that any two of the Democratic Senators who were oppossed to Brown's resolutions, which had passed the House, could defeat it—the whole Whig party preferring annexation by negotiation, upon Col. Benton's plan to that of Brown.

While the question was thus pending, I met Mr. Brown, (late Governor of Tennessee, then a member of the House,) who suggested that the resolution of the House and the bill of Col. Benton, prefered by the Senate, might be blended, making the latter an alternative, and leaving the President elect (who alone would have time to consummate the measure) to act under one or the other, at his discretion. I told Mr. Brown that I did not believe that the Democratic Senators opposed to the resolution of the House, and who had its fate in their hands, would consent to this arrangement, unless they were satisfied in advance by Mr. Polk that the commission and negotiation contemplated in Col. Benton's plan would be tried, before that of direct legislative annexation was resorted to. He desired me to see Col. Benton and the friends of his proposition, submit the suggestions he had made, and then confer with Mr. Polk, to know whether he would meet their views. I complied; and after several interviews with Messers. Haywood, Dix, Benton and others, (Mr. Allen of Ohio, using his influence in the same direction,) finding that the two plans could be coupled and carried, if it were understood that the pacific project was first to be tried, I consulted the *President elect on the subject,*

In the conference I had with him, he gave me full assurance that he would appoint a commission, as contemplated in the bill prepared by Col. Benton, if passed in conjunction with the House resolution as an alternative. In the course of my conversation with Mr. Polk, I told him that the friends of this plan were solicitous that the commission should be filled by distinguished men of both parties, and that Col. Benton had mentioned to me the names of Crittenden and Wright as of the class from which it should be formed. Mr. Polk responded, by declaring, with an emphasis, "that the first men of the country should fill the commission." I communicated the result of this interview to Messrs. Benton, Dix, Haywood, &c. The two last met, on appointment, to adopt the phraseology of Benton's bill, to suit as an alternative for the resolution of the House, and it was passed, after a very general understanding of the course which the measure was to take.

Both Messrs. Dix and Haywood told me they had interviews with Mr. Polk on the subject of the communication I had reported to them from him, and they were confirmed by his immediate assurance in pursuing the course which they had resolved on in consequence of my representation of his purpose in regard to the point on which their action depended. After the law was passed, and Mr. Polk inaugurated, he applied to Gen. Dix (as I am informed by the latter) to urge the Senate to act upon one of the suspended Cabinet appointments, saying that he wished his Administration organized immediately, as he intended the instant recall of the messenger understood to have been dispatched by Mr. Tyler, and to revoke his orders given in the last moments of his power, to thwart the design of Congress in affording him (Mr. Polk) the means of instituting a negotiation with a view of bringing Texas peaceably into the Unio. Your friend,

F. P. BLAIR.

THE RICHEST JOKE YET.—The Ports mouth N. H. Gazette says, "if it had not been for Gen. Cass and the Democrats in Congress, the Whigs would not now have Gen. TAYLOR as as a candidate. *He would have been left to starve to death in Mexico.*" We challenge the production of a single act by the administration or its friends which gave "aid and comfort" to Gen. TAYLOR. All will recollect the intense anxiety which pervaded the whole country for the fate of Taylor and his gallant band, and the thrill of joy which was every where experienced when the news of Buena Vista, fought and won, was received. POLK admitted Santa Anna to Mexico and the democrats of Congress passed a constructive censure on Gen. Taylor for the capitulation of Monterey. It was not the fault of either of these that he did not starve in Mexico, or the bones of all his command whiten the soil of our enemy.

☞ The following letter, dated Michigan, 7th June, 1848, we clipped from a late number of the Richmond Republican, to the Editor of which journal it was communicated by a correspondent, with a request for its publication.

MICHIGAN, 7th June, 1848.

Fellow Citizens—I have received of late many letters in which I am desired to express myself fully upon all subjects which have agitated the country heretofore, and which in time to come must be acted upon by the assembled councils of the nation. I "desire no concealment of my views," though they have been somewhat altered by political vagrants of my own party. I shall, then, briefly advert to my acts, and when I have done so let my exposition speak for itself, because truth is stronger than fiction. In the first place, it has been asserted that I wore the *black cockade* of federalism in the palmy days of the existence of that creed. *Yes*, I did wear it, and at the same time I *opposed* the election of Thomas Jefferson to the Chief Magistracy. I certainly did do it, and I sincerely hope that my Democratic frinds will bear testimony to this effect—True, Mr. J. rewarded me with an office. Was it because I opposed his election no but it was because he "*loved his enemies*" and knew that *I* was a non-such; that's the reason.

I am also represented as a *Wilmot Proviso* man. Why shouldn't I be? I was born in the midst of abolitionists; I have been tinged the creed from the word go; I live in the State which furnished the abolition candidate in 1844; and I would certainly be false to my situation, my position, if I were to reject these truths, which have been morally planted in my soul; and while in the Senate of the U. S. if the Wilmot Proviso had come up for final action; I should have unconditionally *voted for that bill*, because if I had voted against it I would have been drummed out of Michigan. I don't wish to deceive the people. That Nicholson letter, about which my Northern friends make such ado, was all a—hoax. I was just 'hopping from the frying pan into the fire.'

With regard to the acquisitions of Territory, I beg leave to add, that I am for anything in the shape of a ten acre field, which can be started this side of Oregon. Confound that Oregon affair; I wanted a fight on that subject, but I had to do what the rest of the squad did, back out of 54 40 and take 49. Had as well been 50, to make it even. I go for the whole of Mexico, including all the provinces, Yucatan, as well as Patagonia and the Garden of Eden, including the niggers, whom I would prefer to kidnap. That's tall business. We must take in Cuba, also; and we had as well inscribe our power on the barren rocks of St. Helena; and the sea encircled shore of Madagascar. This last is the land of promise, where milk and honey flow in perfect sluices. It's No. 1, and no mistake. It is true very true, *I* did not approve of Gen. Taylor's capitulation at Monterey, although his staff and the commissioners on the occasion did approve it; but you see, *I* am one of those sort of men who think that there is not any body like themselves. I say then, unequivocally, that *I did vote to CENSURE* Old Zach for fighting the battles to his country and of Jimmy Polk. Why, 'taint worth while for Jimmy to deny it. I blame old Zach more now than I ever did. He was just making a favorable impression on the folks at home.

Here is another matter, which also claims special attention. It has been reported that I *voted for a Lieutenant General* to rule over Old Zach. I did do it, and would do it again if I had a chance.—My fellow citizens—the 'birds of the air have nests,' but Old Zach didn't have but 1,000 men when he brought Santa Anna to a focous at Buena Vista. The old fellow says he 'never surrenders' and that isn't the worst of it he hasn't been thrashed yet. He says he '*asks no favors* and *shrinks from no responsibilities.*' The old scamp!!! Why he is hinting at me because I have always crept after office, office; because I have guzzled down $28,000 of the raw material; and he says he shrinks from no responsibilities. You see he plainly insinuates that I wanted 54 40, and shrunk from it. Circumstances alter cases; but they will never alter such a *case* as he is, because he is made of something more substantial than I am. I am "*an equivocating betrayer of Southern rights.*" He is what you call a Constitutional Whig—a National Whig; a man for the people. He goes in, pledged by his own words to advance the *interest of the whole country*, while I go in (of which there is not the least prospect) pledged to appropriate the *money and credit* of the government to the sole aggrandizement of partizans—to the benefit of Democratic office-holders. I have some friends to reward and some "enemies to punish," while Old Zach is neutral. I am a Democrat; if any doubt it I refer them to Mike Walsh, the Barnburners, and South Carolina delegation to the Baltimore Convention. *I go for party and not for the country*—that's the long and short of it.

It has been said that the soldiers in Mexico *hung me in effigy*; and why? Because I voted to give them $2,50 per month, as an allowance equal to the value of the clothing they should use. I'm a General, and have I got a right to vote any way I choose? Yes, and I would vote to put Old Zach in the penitentiary for 4 years.

It will be beneficial to him; give him rest, a fourth as bread and water. But the *people* said he must live in the White House, I can't help it. The edict has gone forth and "Rome must be saved."—In the meantime, let me invoke the powers that be to lend their assistance in elevating me to the Presidency. I don't care how many lies they tell on Old Zach. I *know* they won't tell any on me, because I have laid down my 'cardinal rules' in this letter, and 'it is a true saying and worthy of all acceptation,' that where the 'loaves and fishes' are to be found, there will I be also. I am a *Democrat, dyed in the wool, bigoted to my zeal* for the *aggrandizement* of that party, and I don't care a cent about country, so I get hold of the reins of the government and then I will make the wool fly. But, as I said beforehand, there is no probability that I will be the *happy man.* Self love is the *first* law with me, and love for the 'fawning sycophants' that follow me, the second.

I think Louis Philippe is a whole team, and deserves the thanks of the democratic party, because I eulogised him. I wrote a few letters to this country, while in France, detracting from the reputation of Mr. Van Buren. What of it? It wasn't because I loved him less, but because I, you know, loved myself more.

I have given you my views on matters and things, and I hope you will not budge when I will tell you that everything herein contained is true—as true as the dial of the sun. One thing, I forgot. While I was in France, received a letter from a committee of gentlemen, desiring to bring me before the party then, as a candidate for the Presidency I told them, in reply, I *thought the office should be declined;* but now I am here at home and they have nominated me, and I accept it, although it is an exception to my rule; but I thought it was *more honor* to be beaten by Old Zach than to decline, and that's the reason.

You will please circulate this letter, as it will be of infinite value. All I ask is a tight boat and snacks—Extras—thrown in. I may write again, if find myself slandered. Very respectfully yours,

LEWIS C—S.

A HUMOROUS SPEECH.

In the House of Representives, on the 27th, Mr. Lincoln made 'crack speech' of the day. He is a very able, acute, uncouth, honest, upright man, and a tremendous wag withal!

After answering all the objections raised against Gen. Taylor, he turned his battery upon Gen. Cass and the Baltimore Platform. After showing that Gen. Cass and his supporters had a curious set of principles, varying with the breeze to suit contingencies, wearing one shade at the North, and another at the South, he turned his attention to Mr. Iverson, who had said, in his speech the other day, that the Whigs had turned out Henry Clay, like an old broken down hose, to root!—He asked if the gentleman's party turned out no old horse? Had they not turned out Martin Van Buren to root? And was not that old horse now rooting in a manner that made them uneasy and uncomfortable.

He said the friends of Cass were attempting to sneer at the Whigs for nominating a Military Chieftain for their candidate, and yet these very innocents were striving with all their might to make it out that Gen. Cass was a military hero who had broken his sword, marched into Canada, and all that; and who now had on the ticket with him another military man! The Cass men had two military chieftains for candidates where the Whigs had one, and yet they presumed to rebuke the Whigs for going after a military hero!

He reviewed Gen. Cass's military exploits. He said that the General did march into Canada, when nobody opposed him, and he marched out again in the same way. As to his breaking his sword, history was not very clear upon the subject, except that as the Louisville Journal well says, if he did break it, he didn't *do anything else* with it!

Mr. Lincoln said he was himslf something of a military hero; he was out in the Black Hawk war, and was just about as near a fight as Gen. Cass ever was. He broke no sword, for he had none, he was sorry to say, to break—he had a musket!

He alluded to and ridiculed General Cass's extra charges, and his great faculty of doing a vast amount of business at the same time, in three different places, and *receiving pay and rations for the whole!*—He referred to the fable of the ass between two stacks of hay, unable to eat either. It would not be so with Gen. Cass, for he would manage to eat both of them up at once.

Mr. Lincoln's manner was so good-natured, and his style so peculiar, that he kept the House in a continuous roar of merriment, for the last half hour of his speech.

He would commence a point in his speech far up one of the aisles and keep on talking, gesticulating and walking, until he would find himself at the end of a paragraph, down in the centre of the area in front of the clerk's desk. He would then go back, take another *head*, and *work down* again.—And so on, through his capital speech

REASONING IN THE RIGHT WAY.

On Saturday last, a few persons accidentally met on the wharf, when politics became the subject of conversation. In the course of the conversation, one of the Locofoco office holders of the government remarked that he had heard a good deal of Democrats voting for General Taylor, but he did not believe a word of it. He would like to see one.

At this, a farmer, who had a lot of wheat on the wharf near by, stepped up and said: "I am one Democrat that will vote for Gen. Taylor, any how.

"Surely not said the office holder, "Gen. Taylor's got no principles. You are not going to vote for a man that has no principles?"

"I tell you what," replied the farmer, "he's got the very principle I like. *He's an honest man*, and that's what can't be said of many men who boast so much about their political principles. He has been forty years in the employ of the United States Government, and neither the Government nor any one that has served under or over him has accused him of a single dishonest act. He says if he is elected President; he will be the President of the People, not of a party. Now, if Cass is elected, he will be the President of a party, and not of the people. I don't want to see a party President; I want to see every man who pays his taxes, and does his duty to his government, have an equal chance for office, and not be treated as an alien because he has independence enough to think for himself. We have had enough of that kind of corruption and tyranny already. Gen. Taylor says he won't veto the acts of Congress unless they are clearly unconstitutional, or have been passed without consideration. This suits me exactly; these were the doctrines of the Democratic party when I was a boy, and ought to be now. The people send nearly three hundred men to Congress to make laws, and when a majority of the representatives of the people make a law, I don't think any one man should prevent its being the law, if it is not unconstitutional.—I go for the will of the majority, as expressed by the people's representatives, and not the will of one man. If the majority of Congress say a high tariff, I say let them have it; if a low tariff, so let it be until the majority choose to change it.

"Now stranger," says the farmer, growing somewhat emphatic, "I never voted against the party nominations before, but I intend to vote for old Zach this time; but if you will give me an instance of the old General's dishonesty, or a case where he gave his word and didn't stick to it, or mention a single act of his life, to show that what he says he don't mean, then probably I may not vote for him, and there's a great many in our prairie just like me."

The office holder looked at his watch, and discovered he had pressing business just then in the city.

The above occured in the presence of several persons, one of them the captain of a steamboat, who furnished us the particulars.—*St. Louis Republican.*

GEN. TAYLOR'S NO-PARTYISM.

As the oft-repeated declarations of Gen. Taylor expressing his desire not to be a party President have been somewhat harshly commented upon by a portion of those antagonistic to his nomination, we subjoin a few declarations of our eminent men whom the Whig party has delighted to honor, in order that all may see that there are weighty precedents in favor of the patriotic desire of Gen. Taylor (while always avowing himself a Whig,) to have the Government administered for the benefit of the whole people, and not solely for party purposes.

John Quincy Adams, in his address to his constituents in 1842, said: "I entered the National House of Representatives in December, 1831, with an assurance to the constituents by whom I was elected, that I should hold myself bound in allegiance to no party, whether sectional or political. I thought this a duty imposed upon me by my peculiar position. I had spent the greatest portion of my life in the service of the *whole* nation, and had been honored with their high trust My duty of fidelity, of affection, and of gratitude to the whole was not merely inseparable from but identical with that which was due from me to my native commonwealth."

William Henry Harrison, in his letter to Harmar Denny, giving his views of the duty of President, said: "He should never suffer the influence of his office to be used for purposes of a purely party character." In another letter upon the same subject, he says: "The framers of the Constitution never could have expected that he, who was constituted the umpire between the contending parties, should ever identify himself with the interests of one them, & voluntarily raze himself from the proud eminence of leader of a nation, to that of a chief of a party." As to the difficulties in the way of the President avoiding the influence of party spirit, he says:—"Several of our chief magistrates have been able to escape its influence; or, what is the same thing, to act as if they did not feel it.'—And his letter to the Van Rensselaer dinner concludes with the following sentiment—"May Solomon Van Rensselaer be the last victim in our country of party violence; and may the services, which are to be the future passports to office, be not those rendered to a party, but the whole people."

Daniel Webster, in advocating the election of Gen. Harrison, said: "If I desire the success, as I most anxiously do, of of the Whig candidate now in nomination for the presidency, it is because he would be President of the whole people; that his administration would be just, liberal and comprehensive."—*Salem Register.*

☞ After the above was in type we came across the following extracts from the letters written by the great Washington, to which we call the attention of our readers. It must be confessed that if Gen. Taylor errs in not giving more positive pledges, he errs in noble company; if he is wrong by his devotion to an illustrious example. After bringing the Revolution to a triumphant close, and presiding over the Convention that framed the Constitution, Washington was called upon to become a candidate for the Presidency. He wrote as follows to two of his friends:

From a letter to Benjamin Harrison.

"MOUNT VERNON, 9th March, 1789.

* * I will therefore declare to you, that if it should be my inevitable fate to administer the Government, (for Heaven knows that no event can be *less desired* by me, and that no earthly consideration short of *so general a call* together with a desire to *reconcile contending parties* so far as in me lies, could bring me into public life,) *I will go to the chair under no pre engagement of any kind or nature whatsoever.*"

From a letter to Benjamin Lincoln

"MOUNT VERNON, 11th March, 1789.

Should it become inevitably necessary for me to go into the chair of goverument, I have determined *to go from all positive engagements of every nature whatsoever.* This is the answer I have already given to a multiplicy of applications, and I have assigned, as the true reason of my conduct, this predominant desire I had of being *at liberty to act with a sole reference to justice and the public good.*"

SECTIONAL DIFFERENCES.

The evil against which the first President warned his countrymen with impressive emphasis—which he entreated them to shun as they valued their national existence and prosperity—seems to be now more threatening and more imminently near than ever before at any period of our history. We refer, of course, to the formation of parties on grounds of sectional differences and sectional interests.

"We think we see clearly," says the Boston Courier," where it is to end. If the North say we will have no man for President but a *Northern* man, and the South, we will have none but a *Southern,* (and the one declaration is inevitably consequent upon the other,) what will follow? The one or the other division of our confederacy must be excluded from this national privilege of furnishing the man who shall occupy the high station of head of this great republic. And will either the one or the other submit patiently to such an exclusion? We answer, every one must answer, *No!* Would the *North* submit? Answer, ye conscience gentlemen, who are aiming at this result in the belief that the free states are strongest!—Would the *South* submit? Are not the men of the north and South the same in sentiment on this point if on no other?

"And if such an exclusion should be determined upon and successfully carried out, what then? The Union is divided.—There is the Northern division and the Southern division. Nominaly, they might be one—really they would be two. And with forces thus arrayed, who could hope for a continuance of that union of the states which now exists? The *fraternal* union would be at an end. The *sentiment* of union would be gone. A *constitutional* union, or a union sustained by force, might remain for a while, but it would soon be dashed in pieces before the conflict of interest and opinion which such a state of things would engender. *Dissolution would follow.* It is inevitable that a *sectional* division of parties in this country should produce this result."

From the contemplation of such a gloomy picture we turn with unshaken reliance upon the patriotism, the good sense and mutual forbearance of the good people of the Union. If geographical parties are to exist, and stand arrayed against each other, founded upon sectional interests or prejudices, it is gratifying to know that geography has marked no line by which a severance of the Union can be practicable or permanent. The *unity* of the Republic is decreed by Nature no less than by the identity of blood, language and laws, which stamps us as one people.—For better for worse, nay, for better & for best, we are bound together in one common destiny—a glorious one for the achievement of which *unity* is indispensable.—*Balt. American.*

STRAWS.—For a while the Locofoco papers ventured to publish steamboat votes but the tide is so overwhelmingly against Cass that they are beginning to keep ominously silent in this respect. Here is a specimen of great variety of steamboat votes which we observe in the Western papers. A vote was taken on the Steamer Fairmount on her trip to Pittsburgh.—This is the vote:—Taylor 75, Cass 37, Van Buren 4.

☞ Great eaters never live long. A voracious appetite is a sign of disease, and not of helth as is generally supposed.

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