

# KEOWEE COURIER.

"TO THINE OWN SELF BE TRUE, AND IT MUST FOLLOW, AS THE NIGHT THE DAY, THOU CANST NOT THEN BE FALSE TO ANY MAN."

VOL. 1.

PICKENS COURT HOUSE, S. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1850.

NO 34

## THE KEOWEE COURIER,

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY  
W. H. TRIMMER.

J. W. NORRIS, JR., } Editors.  
E. M. KEITH, }

### TERMS.

One Dollar and Fifty Cents for one year's subscription when paid within three months. Two dollars if payment is delayed to the close of the subscription year.

All subscriptions not clearly limited, will be considered as made for an indefinite time, and continued till a discontinuance is ordered and all arrears paid.

Advertisements inserted at 75 cents per square for the first insertion, and 37 1/2 cts. for each continued insertion. Liberal deductions made to those advertising by the year.

All Communications should be addressed to the Publisher post paid.

### MASON AND DIXON'S LINE.

The recent operations which have been duly noticed for the restoration of the old boundary stone between Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania, have probably stimulated the curiosity of some of our readers to know who the persons were, whose names have acquired nearly a century's perpetuation, and will probably continue to be thus retained, until the distinctive institutions of the North and South in our Union, shall have grown faint or have disappeared. Both Mason and Dixon were astronomers, sent over at the recommendation of Lord Baltimore, in 1763, to assist the surveyors that had been already called in under the 4th July 1760 for commissioners to run the boundary that had been for more than thirty years disputed between the Calverts and the Penns. Neither of them were persons of remarkable celebrity; though meritorious in their proper spheres. Jeremiah Dixon seems to have been more of a geometer than his colleague; though it was from the latter that the suggestion came, of applying the means at their disposal to the measurement of a degree of the meridian.

Dixon is said to have been the son of a coal miner, in the Northumberland coal field, and himself to have been born within the mine. But this is probably a misapprehension, or an exaggeration. He was a self made man, and returning to England died in 1777, at some place in the County of Durham; leaving nothing behind him to commemorate his pursuit of science, beyond his connection with the measurement of the degree, the account of which was published in the Philosophical Transactions, for 1768. Chas. Mason was better known. He had been the assistant of Bradley, at the Greenwich Observatory, and in that capacity calculated a large number of observations made by the Astronomer Royal, to serve as comparisons and corrections of the Lunar Tables of Mayer, first published in 1755, at Gottingen, and transmitted to England to concur for the prize offered by the Board of Longitude. A prize of £2,000 sterling was in fact bestowed upon them; but it was supposed that the Greenwich observations would materially improve their value; and this was the task with which Mason was charged by the Board of Longitude, and which he accomplished. He introduced no new methods; the formula which he employed were those of Mayer, using the Greenwich readings. After completion, the work remained a long time unpublished; answering in part its purpose all the while in being reported as confirming the general accuracy of Mayer's Tables. Finally, in 1787, it was published under the title of "Mayer's Lunar Tables, improved by Charles Mason, and published by order of the Commissioners of Longitude, &c." Doctor Marhelyne, who supervised the publication, was assured that the errors of the improved tables did not exceed a half minute in arc. In his shape they were used for the calculations of the Nautical Almanac; and Lalande having reprinted them in 1792; they served also for the Connaissance des Temps. Latterly, they yielded to the Tables of Borchard, Burg and Burchardt and form only a part of the history of Astronomy.

It has been always said that Mason was disgusted at not receiving the premium himself—a rather unwarrantable justification, if he really entertained it—and that he willingly came to bury his pique and disappointment in the forest of the New World. There may be some grounds for this tradition, since after his labors were completed in manuscript, the Commissioners of Longitude actually awarded to the widow of Mayer for an improved copy of his own Tables, which he left at his death.

However this may be, Mason came to America shortly afterwards; finished his works here in 1767 and '68, and return-

ed no more to England. He died somewhere in Pennsylvania, in 1787; suffering for several years, melancholy aberrations of mind.

His chief memento here is the line which bears his name, whose latitude he and his colleague determined at 15 miles south of the most southerly point of the town of Philadelphia; and in the reduction of the peninsula line dividing the present States of Maryland and Delaware, to its value on the meridian. This last is more remarkable for the attention it excited for the time, than for any intrinsic merit beyond the zeal and labor in its execution. Its conception was radically faulty; it reposes upon no triangulation, but is a straight line of more than 80 miles, cut through wood, with a vista of 30 feet in width, and measured with a steel chain on the ground where inequalities, were reduced by calculation to a uniform level. Mason and Dixon, therefore, allowed what is still regarded as the most hazardous part of a geodetic operation to pervade their whole work, and success in such an undertaking, in spite of the ingenious suggestions of Cavendish, and the encomiums of Marhelyne, would have been more remarkable than its admitted failure.

### PUNCH'S CHARGE TO THE JURY.

Gentlemen of the Jury—You are sworn, in all cases, to decide according to the evidence; at the same time, if you have any doubt, you are bound to give the prisoner the benefit of it. Suppose you have to pronounce on the guilt or innocence of a gentleman accused of felony; you will naturally doubt whether any gentleman would commit such offence; accordingly, however strong may be the testimony against him, you will, perhaps, acquit him. The evidence of your own senses is, at least, as credible as that of the witness; if, therefore, your eye-sight convinces you that the prisoner is a well dressed person, you have a right to presume his respectability; and it is for you to say whether a respectable person would be likely to be guilty of the crime imputed to him. In like manner, when you see a shabby-looking fellow in the dock, charged, for example, with sheep-stealing, the decision rests with you, first, whether that individual is a ragamuffin; secondly, how far it is to be supposed that a man of that description would steal a sheep. Of course, as has been before said, you will always be guided by the evidence; but, then, whether the matter is trustworthy or not, is a matter for your private consideration. You may believe it if you choose, or you may disbelieve it; and whether, gentlemen of the Jury, you will believe or disbelieve it, will depend on the constitution of your minds. If your minds are so constituted that you wish to find the prisoner guilty, why then very likely you will disbelieve it. You are to free your minds from all passion and prejudice, if you can; and in that case, your judgment will be unbiased; but if you cannot, you will return a verdict according to it, not, strictly speaking, for you to consider what will be the effect of your verdict; but if such a consideration should occur to you, and you cannot help attending to it, that verdict will be influenced by it to a certain extent. You are probably aware that when you retire you will be locked up until you contrive to agree.

You may arrive at unanimity by fair discussion, or by some of you staying out the others, or by tossing up; and your conclusion, by whichever of these processes arrived at, will be more or less in accordance with your oaths. Your verdict may be right—it is to be hoped it will; it may be wrong—it is to be hoped it will not. At all events, gentlemen of the jury, you will come to some conclusions or other, unless it so happen that you separate without coming to any.

### "CUBA WILL YET BE FREE."

We published, a few days ago, by particular request of the parties, the proclamation of the patriotic Junta for the promotion of the political interests of Cuba. We complied with the request of the gallant and patriotic gentlemen who compose this body with feelings of pride and gratification. We have been cognizant of their design from the beginning, and have enjoyed the confidence of members of this noble association to revolutionize and redeem the beautiful, but oppressed Island of Cuba. We can freely declare that we have never known more truly patriotic and devoted gentlemen. Their motives seemed to us to be as free from selfishness as devoted, sincere, heroic, as those by which any men ever were prompted, who labored to rid their country from a foreign and degrading rule. Nor was there any want of wisdom, discretion or judgment in their arrangements. On the contrary

their plans were well digested and skillfully prepared. Funds were raised, supplies were procured, and an army sufficiently large to form a nucleus to invade the island and rally the patriots around it, was already enlisted. The sympathies of our people were thoroughly aroused in behalf of the enterprise, and many a fervent prayer went up to the Almighty for its success. No people in the world have better grounds for complaint and dissatisfaction with their government than the native population of Cuba have against the foreign emissaries, who are sent over to oppress them. There is no Government in existence which contains more the elements of injustice, tyranny and wrong than the Vice Royalty of Cuba. The concerted enterprise, to revolutionize the island, and establish a more liberal form of Government, embodying the principle of the right of a people to govern themselves, for which our ancestors of '76 fought, could not but command the warm sympathies of all true hearted Republicans of this country.

Yet there were many among our people—with mortification we state the fact—who viewed the whole movement with coolness and distrust. Some of these were influenced by the interests of trade; some by a selfish disinclination to see our institutions and principles extended to other countries, and a vain pretence that no other people but ourselves were fitted for free institutions; others, too, were influenced by partisan and sectional considerations. This body of enemies to Cuban independence was not inactive. It called into its employ all the arts of ridicule and calumny, and did not stop at treachery and corruption, when they were necessary to defeat the designs of the patriots. This journal, which, from the beginning, has shared much of the abuse of these revilers, has steadily enforced the duty of the American people to indicate their sympathy; and extend their aid to all people who were struggling to imitate us in establishing free institutions. We have been propagandists to the extent of being willing to extend republicanism throughout the globe, commencing first with those who are nearest to us. We have lamented the selfish policy which, in obedience to old traditions and obsolete ideas, would isolate us from all the sufferings and struggles of our fellow men in other lands, and make it criminal to aid those efforts, which in our own case, it is doubtful would ever have been successful without such aid from others.

Unhappily, however, the views of those who were either opposed or indifferent to the struggles of the Cuban patriots, received a support, which we did not anticipate, from the very stringent and decided course of the Government, in employing all its force to frustrate the designs of the patriots. An obsolete law was revived, and a latitudinarian constitution is given it, in order to circumvent the patriots.

Spain, who had no particular claims upon our liberality and kindness, was taken under the wing of our government, and no new measures were spared by our authorities to save her from the evils of Republicanism. We do not charge the administration with being prompted by other than honest motives; but we do think that it went further than it was required by any strict law, or by any duties it owed to Spain, in preventing the expedition, designed to revolutionize Cuba.

But let us drop the disagreeable past, and look hopefully to the future. The Cuban patriots, in this country, are undismayed and unconquered. They renew their labors, in the cause of liberty, with cheerful spirits and bright hopes. A little more time, patience, and labor, are now required to accomplish, what no wise man will doubt is an inevitable event.

We parted a few days ago with one of these patriots, who has been sojourning in our city during the past summer. He is the gentleman whose name is left in blank among the signers to the proclamation of the Junta. During his residence here, he made many personal friends; but what is of more value to him, he made here many friends to the independence of Cuba; whose voices will be heard, and whose arms will be felt, when the hour for action comes. His calm, philosophic, self-possessed, and highly intelligent mind, diffused a flood of light and knowledge through this community, in relation to the condition and prospects of the Cubans. When we bade this gentleman farewell, his bright eye beamed with hope, and his pale, care and sickness worn countenance radiated with an expression of heroic enthusiasm, as he declared, as his last words, "Cuba will yet be free."—N. O. Delta.

**British Piracy on the Pacific coast.**—The seizure of the island of Tigre, by the British, demands the prompt attention of our government. This island is situated in latitude 15 deg. north, exactly opposite, and commanding the harbor, where the proposed ship canal across Nicaragua will enter the Pacific. Taking the piratical seizure of this important point in connexion with the previous seizure of the port of San Juan at the Atlantic terminus of the canal, it looks very much like a preconcerted and deliberate plan on the part of the British to obtain possession of his pass by foul and violent means, in high-handed and insolent defiance of the undoubted rights of the United States have peaceably acquired there. It seems that Tigre island had been ceded to us by its rightful owner, the government of Honduras; but Consul Chatfield, the insolent British official, with full knowledge of our title, seized upon it by force, with as much coolness as if it had been some East India possession, which the rightful owners would not have sufficient strength or spirit to defend against British rapacity. This fellow has been playing this sort of game, on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides of this region, in a very novel and astounding style. In addition to Tigre island, he has seized upon all the islands of the Gulf belonging to Honduras, and also upon the ports of Truxillo and Moro. His conduct has been rather that of a Spanish buccaner, roving the main without law or license, and liable at any moment to be hung at the yard arm, than that of the rational representative of a civilized and law respecting nation. Yet there is very little doubt that he is backed up in his fantastic tricks by his master at home, Lord Palmerston, who has probably given him instructions, and is watching his lawless proceedings, prepared to avow or disavow them hereafter just as may happen to be most convenient. We should think the time had fully arrived for this administration, if it retains any respect either for itself or the country, to interpose, and to put a stop to these very extraordinary British antics. It is one of the old pastimes of that rapacious power to seize on islands and ports under some flimsy pretext; and to hold them until unresisted occupation grows into conquest. But they are not to be allowed to play this piratical game in the American seas, without a determined, and if need be, an armed resistance.—Hartford Times.

**GOLD.**—From the gold mine recently discovered in Montgomery, Maryland, large quantities of ore have been raised, which will yield at the rate of \$1000 in pure gold to every ton of the ore.

### CONGRESSIONAL.

In the proceedings of the Senate on the 31st ult., we find the following:

#### THE CITY OF THE SALT LAKE.

Mr. Underwood also presented the petition of William Smith and others, members of the church of Latter day Saints, asking that the application of the Salt Lake Mormons to be admitted as a State into the Union, under the name of the State of Deseret, may not be granted by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Territories.

Mr. U. said that the memorialists represented in this memorial that they belonged to the church or sect more commonly known by the denomination of Mormons; that they represent that, prior to the emigration of those people from Nauvoo, in the State of Illinois, 1,500 of them took the following oath.

You solemnly swear, in the presence of God, His holy angels, and these witnesses, that you will avenge the blood of Joseph Smith upon this nation, and so teach your children; that you will from this time henceforth and forward, begin and carry out hostilities against this nation, and keep the same intent a profound secret, now and forever, so help you God.

The memorialists further represented that these people, since their settlement, had, by their principles and by their institutions, tolerated polygamy, and they charged upon them various offences and crimes, and called upon the authorities of the nation to establish a system of government by which these crimes, perpetrated there, as they alleged, should be arrested. Since receiving the memorial, Mr. U. had seen in a newspaper what he would read to the Senate:

[The extract read was from the Western Missouri Reporter, and stated that the Mormons, at the city of the Salt Lake, had seized upon citizens of Missouri, who were passing through their valley, and lawlessly tried them for having aided in their expulsion from Missouri. A Mr. Pomeroy and Mr. Wilson had both been thus seized. The Mormons had also imposed a tariff of fifty per cent upon all goods carried through their country from the States.]

If there was any truth in what he had just read, it would be seen that this people were about to carry out the tenor of the oath taken at Nauvoo, which he had previously read.

Mr. Foote requested the Senator from Kentucky to repeat his preliminary remarks, inquiring whose memorial this was.

Mr. Underwood repeated that the memorial was signed by William Smith and Isaac Sheen, representing themselves as the legitimate successors and presidents of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and claiming to be the legitimate successors of Joseph Smith, and signed also by twelve others, members of the church. These persons lived in Covington, Kentucky. The paper had been regularly mailed to him from that place. He trusted that the memorial would be referred to the committee on Territories, and that some investigation would be made into the matter.

Mr. Douglass Before the reference is made, I deem it due that I should make a remark upon one branch of the subject to which the senator has called the attention of this body. In regard to the memorial, and the statements contained in it, I know nothing, and therefore can give no explanation about it. But I have observed in the newspapers the article which the senator has read; and meeting with Mr. Babbit, a delegate elected and sent here from the provisional government of Deseret—being the government the Mormons have lately established for themselves, in the absence of an action of Congress in their behalf—I asked Mr. Babbit if he could give me an explanation of the statement, that the Mormons had assumed the right of imposing duties upon goods passed through the valley. He stated to me that this transaction was alleged to have occurred since he left, but that this was what he understood to be the state of the facts; that these people having assembled in large numbers in the valley of the Salt Lake, and made their permanent home there, and established a city, found it necessary to establish also a government for their protection until Congress should provide one for them; that they found it necessary, when they established a government to provide the means of revenue to support that government; that one of the means taken to provide a revenue was the exacting, by that government, of a duty upon all goods brought in and sold within the city of the Salt Lake, whether by Mormons or anti-Mormons, whether by residents or non-residents; that the Mormons and anti-Mormons, residents and non-residents, were placed upon an equality. I asked him if this duty was imposed upon goods passing through and going beyond, and not to be levied in the city. He assured me that it was not; that large amounts of goods, large caravans of goods, had passed through and were never molested. He assured me, furthermore, that these caravans sold their goods upon the prairies outside the limits of this Mormon settlement, immediately outside, and without any such duty; and that the duty was only imposed upon those who retailed their goods inside the limits of the city; was imposed on all alike, and was imposed merely for the purpose of providing a revenue until Congress should provide a government for them. This was the explanation that Mr. Babbit, a delegate from the Territory elected to represent them in the other branch of the Capitol, gave to me. I feel it due to the Senate, to the country, and to these people, to make this explanation, that it may go out with the statement of the Senator from Kentucky. I know nothing of the facts, other than as I have stated, and I give the authority upon which I have made these statements.

**PROFITS OF PLANK ROADS.**—The Waterville and Utica road, nineteen miles long, and costing \$34,000, has just declared a dividend of ten per cent laid by for repairs. The Utica and Bridgewater road, twenty miles long, costing \$40,000, pays 25 per cent.

Negro fellows, (common field hands) sold at this place yesterday, at public sale, for over \$1000. One sold for \$10, 80. This is higher than negroes have sold for a number of years. We would admonish the planters against paying such exorbitant prices for negroes, for if cotton were suddenly to decline, they would decline with it, and the most disastrous consequences would ensue. Our advise is, never buy negroes when they are selling high, for there are ten chances of their falling to one of their value.—Forsyth Bee.

He who anticipates his inheritance will be the inheritor of beggary.