

**New Terms.**  
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(Correspondence of the Banner.)  
ABBEVILLE, June 8, 1846.

Friend Allen:—Although I have returned from visiting Florida, and have met with many friends, unto whose numerous personal enquiries, I have responded. Still, the ever increasing anxieties of the people for more light, respecting the "Land of Flowers," produce such a corresponding increase of enquiries, as I am unable to answer, except in this public manner.

I will then endeavor, in a brief manner, to answer such enquiries as have been made.

Lake Monroe, is the head of steamboat navigation, on the St. John's river. It is probably 7 or 8 miles long, and 5 miles broad,—is a beautiful sheet of water, and has on its borders, several small hammocks. There are some beautiful locations for dwellings on its shores, some of which are already occupied. Major TAYLOR'S place, on the east side, is a splendid place. It is built, on a mound of shells, 12 or 15 feet above the level of high water, having a commanding view up and down the lake, and, directly in front, the infant town of Mellenville, the county site for Orange county. On the left of the dwelling, within 50 feet, is a beautiful bay, of perfectly clear water, well stored with fish, having an outlet into the lake sufficiently deep, to admit the entrance of a boat. The bay covers a space of half an acre, and receives the water of four springs, one of which, is perfectly pure water, and all the others are medicinal, each possessing properties unlike the other,—one a sulphur spring, nearly at blood-heat.

Dr. SIDNEY SPEER, formerly a student in this Village, has a very pleasant habitation in the village of Mellenville, one mile from the steamboat landing, on lake Monroe. His plantation is a beautiful tract of land, on the St. John's river, near lake Jesup. It seems better adapted to the growth of sugar cane, cotton and tobacco, than to the growth of corn. Probably the large roots of weeds found deeply imbedded in the soil, have hitherto prevented the growth of corn, and, that nothing is required, but subduing those roots, to make it as good corn land as the world contains. Capt. J. O. D'VAL'S place, is of the same kind of soil, both plantations being on the same prairie.

Mellenville, will soon be an important village, inasmuch as it is the head of steamboat navigation, on the St. John's river, and the county site for Orange county. The first county court will be held there, in this month, and in all probability, the cases will be decided according to their merits, as they have not a lawyer in the county.

The lands in the immediate vicinity of Mellenville, are mostly pine lands, with small hammocks on the lakes, and, an extensive prairie on lake Jesup.

Black hammock, on the south west side of lake Jesup, is said to be very rich; a considerable part of it, is already taken up.

The lands on Manatee river, near Tampa Bay, are said to be very rich; but are all taken up by the wealthy planters from the region of Tallahassee. There are said to be excellent lands on the Hillsboro' and Witalacoochee; but all the good lands are taken up. The lands about Fort King are very rocky; and most of the waters fail in a dry summer; but they are excellent lands for cotton, and tolerably good for tobacco. They, as well as the lands in the whole of the Alachua country, also the rich lands around lake Orange, are all now in the hands of men who are able to hold them, and will cost high. The lands around Micanopy, embracing Paine's prairie, are on the Aredunda Grant, and are held, according to their value, at from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per acre. These lands are very rich, but generally drouthy; and the drinking water is out of fetid limestone—and even that has, during a drought, to be hauled to a great distance.

The richest lands that I saw, are on the lakes Harris, Eustis, Griffin, &c., which I have called the lake region. They are hammock lands; are elevated from 10 to 20 feet above the level

of the lakes, at high water; are almost perfectly level, and perfectly dry. The soil is 18 inches deep, and 7 10ths of it to that depth is pure vegetable matter, in a thoroughly decomposed condition; the other 3-10ths is fine white silicious sand. The surface soil is of a dark mulatto shade. Such are the lands on Lakes Ahapopka, Okehumpkee, Harris, Eustis, Griffin, and down the Ocklawaha river. All these hammocks are based on a bed of the richest quality of shell marl, which is generally from 12 to 18 inches deep; and the marl is based upon a bed of stiff blue clay. The growth upon these hammocks, is hickory, wild cherry, mulberry, ash, red maple, magnolia, live oak and sweet gum, with any quantity of wild orange groves. The soil is exceedingly light, insomuch, that the small growth, of the diameter of one inch to one inch and a half, can be drawn from the soil with but little force, leaving the soil loose, as a bank of ashes. The hammocks are, therefore, easily cleared, and when cleared, are everlasting. The place for a residence, is on the high sandy plain, immediately in the rear of the hammocks; and back of such residence, is an extensive plain, covered with grass, yielding an inexhaustible pasturage for any quantity of cattle. The water is perfectly pure, although hardly as cold as in this village. As for health, I do not think it to be healthy, but I know it to be so; and why? because they have no stagnant water there, and they have no decaying timber, and they have a delightful sea breeze 14 hours out of every 24 throughout the year; and lastly, no family has ever had sickness in that region yet. The soil is as good and as well adapted to the growth of sugar, cotton, and tobacco, as any soil in the United States; and the climate so equitable, that almost all the tropical fruits may grow there. The weather is never so warm, as it is at times in Abbeville, and never so cold as to kill orange trees.

Game is abundant; deer and turkeys may often be shot from the door of a dwelling, and with a good dog, it is an easy matter, to tree a bear in almost any of the hammocks. Tigers, panthers, wild cats, &c., are often killed in that region, though, they never have been known to attack an individual there, unless first wounded; or otherwise greatly provoked. Even the rattlesnakes there, are truly magnanimous. I stepped within an inch of one, which was nearly 7 feet in length, and 12 inches in circumference, who looked at me, with an apparent smile upon his countenance, and seemed to say, "if you will let me alone, I will let you alone." But a gentleman immediately in the rear, being moved and seduced, by a spirit inherent in our nature, immediately fired upon him, and severed his head from his body. Venomous snakes, are not abundant there, but when you meet with one, you will be satisfied, that he is, in himself, a host. Yours truly, F. BRANCH.

(FOR THE BANNER.)

### A TRUE SOLDIER.

Mr. Editor:—As it is more than probable the incidents I am about to relate have never appeared in public print, I have concluded to present them to your readers.

During one of my excursions in the West, I received the particulars from my friend, Col. W., who is a gentleman of unquestionable veracity. I was introduced by Col. W. to the Rev. Mr. J., who I subsequently heard preach several times, and I soon ascertained was deservedly popular for his great moral works, and unremitting perseverance in the cause of Christ.

The Southern portion of Kentucky, generally known as the barren or green river country, was then very thinly inhabited, and as an almost inevitable consequence the people heard little or no preaching. The Rev. Mr. J. feeling for their destitute condition in that respect, concluded to travel among them, and preach wherever he could get hearers. This he did, and as he thought, with every prospect of usefulness. He therefore determined, after remaining with his family a few weeks, to make the second tour, praying that he might

be the humble instrument in the hands of God, in doing much good. He accordingly set out, and after travelling several days, while passing one day along a river bank remote from any settlement, surrounded by large rocks and thick scrubby trees, he was suddenly attacked by three ruffians, with guns in their hands, who ordered him to halt and dismount. This he did without hesitation. They then approached him and demanded his money; the Rev. gentleman handed them two dollars, saying he gave them all he had. The robbers, however, were very incredulous and would not rest satisfied, until they stripped the Rev. gentleman, and searched every vestige of clothing, but without obtaining any more money. They next examined his saddle-bags, where they found a few clothes, a Bible and a Hymn book. "I presume you are a poor preacher," exclaimed one of them to Mr. J. "Very poor," was the modest reply,—and as I feel interested in your eternal welfare, I beseech you all to desist from your present occupation; cease to do evil, and learn to do well, for if you do not, you will be rendered miserable while you remain on earth, and will be forever lost in the world to come; no matter how great sinners you may have been, if you will repent, you can obtain forgiveness and inherit everlasting life beyond the grave. 'Christ came to save the chief of sinners.'"

One of the robbers then cried out, this is not the man we took him to be, I wish we had let him pass on, and reserved our work for a more profitable object, but as we have got into the scrape we must get out; let us shoot him at once, and cast his body into the river, adding that it was an old saying, and a very true one, "that dead men could tell no tales."

The second then said, "this man is a true soldier, he is too noble a fellow to die, and is without exception, the bravest man we have ever attacked. Do you not perceive how composed he is, why he is no more afraid of dying than his horse—I am clear of his blood and I intend to remain so. I repeat, he is a true soldier, we will not kill him, but as we are in the difficulty, let us take his bridle reins and tie him to one of these trees, and make good our escape; some one will come along and release him. The third, who had been silent for some time, as if maturing a plan, then gave the result of his reflections.—"What we do must be done quickly—the highway is no place for such discussion; now let us either kill him forthwith, and cast his body into the river, or swear him on this book," (holding up the bible in his hand) "in which he professes to believe, that he will never divulge what has occurred, and we will give him but two minutes to make his choice."

"Although, I somewhat regret," said one of the robbers, "having stopped this man, still, two dollars is better than nothing, and we have made it easier than if we had plowed for it." The last proposition being agreed on by all parties, the Rev. Mr. J. took the oath, and resumed his journey. The village of B—, was about 18 or 20 miles distant, where he concluded to go that night. In riding along, he had many reflections as the proper course to be pursued by him in this affair. If he divulged, he would violate the oath he had taken. If he did not, the dismal place from which he had escaped, might soon be crimsoned with innocent blood, and although he knew the oath was not morally binding, still he had some kind of punctions of conscience about the matter.

On reaching the village of B—, he sent for a gentleman, with whom he had some acquaintance, and after conversing on the topics of the day, Mr. J., supposed the case to him, and asked him, how he would act under such circumstances. The gentleman promptly replied, that he should certainly divulge, and have the rascals brought to justice. In the mean time, one of the State Judges came in, and the case was presented to him likewise, in the form of a supposition, and he was asked how he would act. The Judge replied that such an oath was not binding—he would therefore tell it, and have the monsters apprehended for the good of the country.

The Rev. Mr. J., then gave a minute account of what had occurred, designating the spot and all. Early next morning, a party of gentlemen set out in quest of the robbers, and on reaching the spot where they had stopped Mr. J., the company all left the road, and passed through a valley about three hundred yards distant, where they came across the robbers, who surrendered without making any resistance, notwithstanding they had in their possession many implements of war. The robbers were comfortably situated under a very large rock, which projected from the side of a hill, forming a shelter, that completely excluded them from inclement weather. On entering this cavern, the assailants found several hundred dollars in gold and silver which the robbers subsequently confessed, they had taken from travellers by force. "Did you meet with no resistance from travellers," inquired one of the gentlemen. On being answered in the negative, the robbers added, that it had always been their policy to attack but one man at a time, they also stated that they had never met with but one man, who they considered a true soldier, and as he was a preacher, they concluded to let him go.

In due time the robbers were all tried, found guilty and sentenced to 20 years confinement in the State Prison, where they still remain, unless they have been summoned to a world of spirits. In reflecting on the narrow escape of Mr. J., I was forcibly reminded of that beautiful passage of scripture, "If God be for us, who can be against us."

RURICOLAST.

THE TEXAS SENATORS.—The following letter will be read with interest by all. On Wednesday, Gen. Houston, of Texas spoke.

The speech was a good one, and great attention was paid by a crowded house and gallery to the orator. He possesses distinguished ability, fine appearance, and the most courtly and prepossessing manners. There seems to be a "manifest destiny" attending this man, which has impelled on from scene to scene of an eventful and romantic life; has enabled him to establish a Republic in an Indian wilderness, to become President thereof twice, to have it received as a confederate part of another great Republic; and which will, in all probability, make him President of that. His, like the Star of Napoleon, seems ever to be in the ascendant.

But the most remarkable part of the display upon that occasion was the circumstance, that whilst one Texas Senator was addressing the Senate and an immense audience, the other was presiding in the Chair—Gen. Rusk having been invited thereto by the polite President of the Senate. This was certainly a very appropriate compliment to two great men of the "Lone Star"—the youngest sister of this great national family.

Indeed no State in the Union at this time presents a more imposing and interesting representation in the Senate, than Texas. Her two Senators unite all that is calculated to attract the admiration of mankind, being men of distinguished abilities, both in the field and

the cabinet; uniting the polish of the gentleman with the heroism of the soldier, and graced with a most courtly appearance. And these qualities are enhanced in Gen. Rusk, by his extremely youthful appearance and modesty of deportment. Nor does General Houston look at all old for one who has passed through his vicissitudes, hardships and hair-breadth escapes. He represented Tennessee in Congress, was elected its Governor, voluntarily resigned, retired to the wilds of the western wilderness, when a handful of heroes were struggling to be free; joined them, and, by his gallantry and skill, was soon made their chief. At the memorable battle of San Jacinto, the wreath of victory and triumph was awarded him. He was made President of the Republic when its independence was established, served the time allowed by law, retired, was elected and served again. "The Lone Star" was admitted into the Union and became an integral part of another great nation, and he has become one of the representatives of her sovereignty. In all this is a romantic vicissitude that no man in the old world ever before experienced, or contemplated, and it was reserved for Gen. Houston to be the master spirit to do all this, and enable a new nation to emerge from chaos into national existence in a day, and enjoy the novelty, splendor and immortality of the great achievement.

Columbus Democrat.

GEN THOMAS J. RUSK, SENATOR FROM TEXAS.—General Rusk, the associate Senator of Gen. Sam. Houston, from the new State of Texas, is one of the very finest looking men in the Senate. He stands full six feet; strong, sinewy frame; well proportioned, and perpendicular. He is a South Carolinian by birth and education. He studied law in that State, and in 1822 removed to Georgia, where, in the course of a ten years residence in practice—the practice of the law—he married. In 1834 he removed to Nacogdoches, in Texas, (the Red River country,) where he resumed the practice of his profession. In the formation of the Provisional Government of Texas, in December, 1835, of which David G. Burnet was appointed President, Gen. Rusk was Secretary of War. He was present, in his official capacity at the battle of San Jacinto April 21st, 1836. At this battle Gen. Houston was wounded early in the action, and taken off the field; when Gen. Rusk and Major Wharton headed the charge upon the enemy's entrenchment and carried the day. Subsequent to this victory, General Rusk assumed the command of the army, on its Southward march in the expulsion of the enemy. In the summer of '45 he was chosen President of a Convention called for the consideration of the resolutions of annexation proposed by the United States, and the States having accepted the terms, and, having adopted an acceptable constitution, and having been admitted into the family with the clear certificate of a legitimate daughter, Gen. Rusk was elected one of the Senators to represent the new commonwealth at Washington. Gen. Rusk is a man of family, and of considerable property. He is a cotton planter of the Red River country. His residence is at Nacogdoches. His history is more like a chapter of the Arabian Knights than of an American politician.

PLEASURE—The nature of pleasure is vain, empty and unsatisfying, biggest always in expectation, and a mere vanity in the enjoying, and leaves a sting and thorn behind when it goes off. Ever laughing, if it be loud and high, commonly ends in a deep sigh; and all the instances of pleasure have a sting in the tail, though they carry beauty on the face and sweetness on the lip.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOUR OF MARRIAGE.—It appears by the report of the keeper of the Kentucky Penitentiary, that of the convicts in that institution 36 are married and 125 are bachelors. Does not this fact show the vast importance of matrimony? There is not one married woman in the penitentiary.