

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL,
Published every Saturday Morning by
ROBERT M'KNIGHT,
 PUBLISHER OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION

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From the Richmond Enquirer.
THE FRENCH QUESTION.
 The Baltimore Patriot, states, that Mr. Barton did not reach Washington before Monday evening.

The National Intelligencer of Monday says: "It does not appear to us likely that the President will propose, at this moment, any direct action by Congress in reference to the question between us and France. He may perhaps recommend some further attention to the national defenses, which, without reference to the pending controversy with France, would in our opinion, be advisable."

The same paper on Thursday morning says: "The expected 'Special Message' from the Executive on the subject of our Relations with France was not transmitted to Congress yesterday. It is now said, on what authority we know not, that it will not be transmitted until Monday next."

The press is teeming with many vague and idle rumors upon this subject—scribblers from Washington descend upon quarrels about the high offices of the Government—and of whom we know nothing, of which they can know nothing. But the Whigs cannot even agree among themselves about their own story. The Washington Correspondent of the Baltimore Patriot says on the 10th, that "General Jackson and Mr. Forsyth are for warlike measures."—The Alexandria Gazette of the 13th reports that "Mr. Woodbury and Mr. Kendall, it is said, urge war measures."—Mr. Forsyth, Mr. Cass and Mr. Dickerson, it is said, are more inclined to peace. Now, Mr. Forsyth cannot be both ways on this subject.—The fact is, we suspect, the President will not send in a War Message—and that the most he may do, will be to recommend immediate and extensive preparations—not for the purpose of irritating France, and widening the breach, but defence.—She is making preparations, and we are not bound to imitate her example.

Mr. Benton in his Speech on his own resolution of Monday last, says, "He had felt it his duty to bring to the notice of the Senate, the approach of the French squadron of observation, and to show that it came because 'America had no force capable of being opposed to it.'" It was a subsidiary argument, and a fair illustration of the dangers, and humiliations of a defenceless position. It should stimulate us to instant and vigorous action;—to the concentration of all our money, and at our hands, to the sacred task of national defence. For himself he did not believe there would be war, because he knew that there ought not to be war, but that belief would have no effect upon his conduct. He went for national defence, because that policy was right in itself, without regard to times and circumstances. He went for it now because it was the response, and the only response which American honor could give to the visit of Admiral Mackau.—Above all, he went for it because it was the way, and the only way, of letting France know that she had committed a mistake in sending this fleet upon us.—In conclusion, he would call for the yeas and nays, and remark that our votes would have to be given under the guns of France and under the eyes of Europe."

For our own parts, we repeat that we do not believe there will be war.—If any thing could bring it on, it would be such factious Essays as those in the N. Intelligencer—and such madcap Orators, as Mr. Calhoun's nullifying friends in the House of Representatives, as Messrs. Hammond and Waddy Thompson. The American Representative, who like the last individual, could rise in his place in the House, and take the course which the Globe ascribes to him, who could designate the conduct of Mr. Rives as little better than that of a horse-jockey cheating a gentleman, and who maintained that we had been in every thing the aggressors, and that France would have been dead to her own sense of honor, if she had not sent a fleet here, seems to us to be utterly blinded by his factious passions, and unable to appreciate what is due to the rights of his own country, and to the character of Mr. Rives. He cannot reflect the sentiments of the great body of the people, and he represents only the infuriated wishes of the most desperate Nullifiers. Yet against such Essays and such Orators, we trust the peace and rights of the country may yet be preserved.

We have seen a letter from a member of the Cabinet, written on the 12th, (Tuesday last,) which states that they care not for the blustering of the French Press—and that the state of things is not considered as stormy! We confess we hope for the best, yet we should be prepared for the worst.

COL. RICHARD M. JOHNSON.
 We take great pleasure in laying the following Extract before the public. It is impossible to do so, without expressing the feelings which this manly and liberal conduct on his part is so strongly calculated to produce in the bosom of every man of sensibility. We honor the public services of Richard M. Johnson—we honor the motives, which have prompted him to address the following Letter—although we are induced by public considerations to support another candidate for the Vice Presidency. The same feelings which prompted us in May last to decline that portion of the nomination of the Baltimore Convention which respects the Vice President, will carry our support to another individual—but nothing shall prevent us from doing full justice to the public services, the chivalrous spirit, the generous character, of Richard M. Johnson. We venture to say, that every one who attended the Convention of Monday night was animated by the same kind feelings towards him—nor did they hesitate to express their regret, that they felt themselves bound to pass over his pretensions, and support Judge Smith. We trust our political friends elsewhere will exhibit the same liberal spirit which breathes in Col. Johnson's Letter—the same tolerant spirit which animates the citizens of Virginia—and that the friends of Col. Johnson will not suffer themselves to be betrayed into any unkind expressions by the preference of Judge Smith. Col. Johnson has himself set them a noble example of forbearance and magnanimity. The Whigs would be glad enough to blow this difference into a flame of dissension. Division is their policy—Discord in our ranks is the very design they have in view. Any schism in the Republican party must be injurious to them—beneficial to the enemy.

The Whirligig Whig, who was the first to criticise the nomination of Col. Johnson, the last Spring—who would have been the first to abuse him, if he had been supported by the Convention of Virginia, and will be among the first to satirize him, if he should succeed to the Chair of the Senate, has been fit to change its key—and to call him "the best of the bunch."

The Col. must be sufficiently acquainted with the Whig, to be indifferent alike to its praises or its censures.

Another Whig Press (the Petersburg Intelligencer of yesterday morning,) asks, "What will 'the Tecumseh-kill-r,' the nominee of the Baltimore Convention, do that august assembly," that was called for the express and important purpose of reconciling all dissensions in the Republican party, and preventing any split in their ranks?" what will he and his friends say to this indignity, this contemptuous disregard of his loyal pretensions?—What does Col. J. say? Let him speak for himself, and let the Editor of the Intelligencer, if he be capable of appreciating the insidious question he has put—and abandon all hopes of "dissensions in the Republican party," and of any "split in their ranks!"

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this City, from Col. Richard M. Johnson, dated
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 14th Jan. 1836.

"I am informed that the Democratic Republican Convention at Richmond, incline to nominate, for the office of Vice President, a distinguished citizen of Alabama, Mr. Smith, rather than myself. I wish it distinctly understood, that so far from my making any complaints, or feeling that I had a right or good cause to complain, no man holds more sacredly than I do, the rights of the people to make the selection of those in whom they have the most confidence; and however honored or flattered I might have considered myself, by the vote of my native State, Virginia, I feel much higher gratification in my exclusion, unless I had been the unobscured choice of a majority of my fellow citizens. I feel it my duty to give you this very hasty and crude, but sincere and candid, expression of my feelings, in the bustle of the business of the House."

The Baltimore Patriot says one day, "The members and officers of the Harrisburg Convention are for the most part 'Nullifiers,'—and it is therefore somewhat doubtful, whether a Convention, so constituted, will be able to accomplish much union and harmony," so far as the Wolf party is concerned." But, pre-ter changed, the next day, it is compelled to say "The Nullifier eighth of January convention, at its sitting on the 9th, adopted the 4th March Electoral ticket, without alteration."—Thus, Harmony and Union are restored—and the Whigs are dashed in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Rives can no way escape the arrows of the Whigs. One of them asserts, that he has compromised the claims of our merchants for less than a third—another Whig (Mr. Waddy Thompson) affirms, with equal decency and truth, that he has played the part of a horse-jockey upon the French—screwing them, we suppose, and driving a hard bargain with them. Pray, gentlemen, agree in some story among yourselves—and do not place Mr. R. upon both horns of the dilemma.

HIGH AND MIGHTY.
 "Little what ye what's coming."
 Yesterday morning, while sitting in our elbow chair, concealing a paragraph to supply the deficiency caused by the delay of the mails, we heard an alarm at the door of our sanctuaries, to which our faith-

ful quadruped attendant responded with his usual promptness. The door opened, and we found ourself in the presence of the representative of the delegated wisdom of the State. The deputy sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania drew from his bosom a document, and read to us in a proper tone and emphasis, a subpoena "duces tecum," from a committee, whereof is chairman THADDEUS STEVENS, Esq., calling upon us to appear before the said Thaddeus on the third Monday in January inst. Now, though the committee has, in our opinion, no more right to compel us to go to Harrisburg, than they have to send us to St. Petersburg, yet, if health, a rare attendant on our person, will permit, we shall certainly accept the invitation. There may be some who will ask, with reference to the proceeding, "why, what evil hath he done?"—to which we reply, there is imputed to us the enormous crime of being a freemason!—U. S. Gazette.

There is to be a masonic procession from this city to Harrisburg on Monday next, by order of the committee appointed by the House of Representatives, to investigate the evils of masonry, and doubtless some "tremendous developments" will be made. Our cotemporary of the United States Gazette is one of the summoned to a seat upon Thaddeus Steven's gridiron, but he appears to be in a marvelous good humor on the subject, and not to contemplate his sufferings with unchill terror. He has, however, plenty of company of all parties, Wolfiers, Mullen-burgers, Whigs, Bank and Anti-Bank, Van Buren men, White men, Harrison men, and Western men, as may be seen by the subjoined list:—T. B. Freeman, J. M. Read, R. R. Moore, S. M. Stewart, C. W. Schreiner, William Stewart, S. H. Perkins, W. Stevens, B. Newcomb, Josiah Randall, T. Kittera, S. Badger, Michael Nisbet, G. M. Dallas, Joseph R. Chandler, John M. Scott, Jas. Page, J. M. Broom, Chas. Stout, and Dr. J. McHenry.

Not being a brother of the mystic [sic] ourselves, it is impossible for us to imagine what the revelations will amount to, and therefore hold ourselves to be astonished—not with the smoke, as we have been by the results of some investigations, but with something more substantial—Pennsylvania.

ELECTION OF SENATOR IN ILLINOIS.
 On the 29th of December, the Legislature of Illinois went into the election of a Senator to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the Hon. Elias K. Kane. There were four candidates, all friendly to the Administration, and for the Baltimore nominations. On the 12th trial, Alexander, Gen. William L. D. Ewing, of Vandalia, was elected. He was to set out for Washington on the 6th inst.

THE JOURNAL.
 CAMDEN, JANUARY 23, 1836.
 PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

The subscriber has become the proprietor of the CAMDEN JOURNAL, and appeals to the citizens of Camden, and the surrounding country to support him in his exertions to continue its publication. There is not, that he is aware of, a town in the United States as large as Camden, which does not sustain one newspaper, while there are a great many smaller ones, having and supporting two.

The time has gone by when a labored essay was necessary to convince people of the utility and necessity of newspapers, their establishment and success in every part of the country, is proof that their benefits are properly appreciated, and it cannot be that the people of Camden and the adjacent country, will remain so far behind the age, as to suffer the press here, to languish and die for the want of adequate encouragement and support. I have said that it cannot be, and think I am right in saying so, from the general sentiment expressed by all during the brief existence of the JOURNAL. Will those of our citizens in town, and in the country, interested in the prosperity of Camden, and in sustaining a newspaper here, give us some stronger reasons for the opinion we entertain, than a general wish for its continuance? I am the evidence of their desire on this point is wanted, and in return, the proprietor has no doubt but his patrons will get the worth of their money, at all events he pledges himself that no exertions on his part shall be spared, in making the JOURNAL worthy of the patronage of the public, so far as its pecuniary department is concerned, so that it is peculiarly dependent.

The editorial department will be under the management of Mr. JOHN C. WEST, former Editor and Proprietor. Of his qualifications for discharging the duties, I need not speak. The public can judge of his competency from the character of his former labors. In relation to the future—but he will speak for himself.

ROBERT M'KNIGHT.

The subscriber is no longer the proprietor of the JOURNAL, having disposed of it to Mr. ROBERT M'KNIGHT, who will continue its publication. Having now no pecuniary interest in the measure of support which may be awarded to the paper, he may, without subjecting himself to the mortification he would feel, under other circumstances, urge the friends of our Town, both in and out of it, to sustain and support, the undertaking of the proprietor.

He may, perhaps, place too important an estimate on the advantages of a newspaper establishment in a community like ours, but it is impossible to divest himself of the opinion that it would be more advantageous to the mercantile portion of the town, to be at the entire expense of sustaining a press themselves, than that Camden should be

known. The subscriber had indulged the best such a disposition of the establishment might have been made as would have permitted him to form all connexion with it, but circumstances altogether uninteresting to the patrons of the Journal, has made it necessary for him to cease to discharge the duties of Editor.

In performing these duties, it was his constant care to avoid giving offence to one, or any party. It would perhaps, con to the advantage of the proprietor, in a quality like ours that the paper, so far as politics concerned, should be neutral, but in times like the present when questions on various subjects of great importance are the subject of discussion, such a course, however desirable, would be difficult, if not impossible to pursue, by any accustomed to think, and having liberty to speak. Consequently it will not be attempted. The Journal will therefore, maintain its former impartial character, and in support of the opinions by express or adopt, will be careful always in use of the language required to express those opinions, to keep in view, at least, "a decent respect to the opinions" of others.

With the hope of making the undertaking of the proprietor successful and stable, the Editor will use every exertion to "faithful and true" in the discharge of his duty.

C. WEST.

THE SEMINOLE (Florida, the last month or two has been the scene of a savage warfare. The Seminole Indians have been committing the most lawless depredations on the inhabitants, murdering all ages and sexes, and destroying property to a vast amount. Several expeditions have taken place, in which much blood has been shed. A company of volunteers from Tampa, immediately on ascertaining the exact state of their brethren in Florida, went to their assistance, and from Charleston arms, provisions, &c. &c. have been promptly afforded. From the well known character of these savages and mode of warfare, it is to be expected that some time will elapse before they are completely subdued. Among the plantations the buildings, fens, crops, &c. &c. which have been destroyed, notice that of Col. RICE, of Sumner District, in State.

PERIODICALS.
 During the temporary absence of the JOURNAL, and consequent recess in our editorial labors, we have been enabled to give thorough perusal to a work with which the press is constantly teeming, and with which we have been lately, a more acute personal than they usually get our hands, but we deem it right and proper that we should give expression to the opinions which have formed in relation to them. We begin with

THE SOUTHERN LIBERAL MESSENGER.
 We always take up this publication with pleasure. Its literary character is of a constantly different stamp, from that of any other which we are privileged to peruse, and just of its stamp too, which fills our minds of correct taste. The number before us (2d of vol. 2d) is excellent—and all the articles original, except a single one. What enhances the value of this publication, in our estimation is the correct morals, such nearly all the writers seem constantly to be in view, and endeavor to inculcate. "The lot Teyon" is a graphic and interesting sketch, but we are better pleased with the moral of the beautiful Tale under the title of "Sensibility," than that of any other. "Metzgerstein" by Mr. S. is an excellent imitation of German extravaganza. He is a writer of considerable force and originality, but has, we think, a little too much of it pedant in his composition, for a popular author.

With the "Editorial criticisms" we have been much pleased, with one exception. He is rather severe on our countryman W. G. STEWART, devoting a column to the purpose of rendering ridiculous, a dedication of the "artisan," consisting of less than half a dozen lines. This was hardly called for. In his remarks on the character of POKER, we entirely concur, and agree with him that "there is neither wit nor humor in an ostent of any kind," much less such as Mr. S. has put into the mouth of his character.

Our limits will not permit us to extend our remarks. We may add however, that we are rejoiced to see from the list of payments acknowledged by the publisher, that the merits of the Messenger is properly appreciated. We wish it continued and enlarged success.

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 The January number of this work, appears in a new and improved dress. It contains several magnificent original articles, and the selections are made with taste and judgment. It is embellished with a handsome colored plate of the fashions, likenesses of the Queens of Europe, portraits of HENRY NELLE and J. D'ISABELL, together with a piece of music.

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The most important questions which have yet been agitated are those in relation to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, appropriations for fortifying our coast, and increasing the Navy. No final action has been had in either House, on any of these questions.

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