

The Sumter Banner.

DEVOTED TO SOUTHERN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, NEWS, LITERATURE, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND THE ARTS.

WILLIAM LEWIS,
JOHN S. RICHARDSON, JR., } PROPRIETORS.

"God and our Native Land."

TERMS—\$2 IN ADVANCE.

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TERMS.

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The Irish and the War. A Second Letter From John Mitchell.

Letter to the Survivors of the Irish in
Ireland under Forty Years of Age.

I believe it is safe enough to assume that, in the war now imminent, England being at one side and Russia at another, all your sympathies, my countrymen, are with Russia.

The sole reason and ground of this is, of course, that Russia is the enemy of England.

If, in the course of the war, the eagles of Austria and Prussia shall happen to range themselves against the Red Cross of England, I presume that from ten thousand Irish firesides will rise up prayers and blessings for the eagles of Austria and Prussia.

If the present treacherous and unadmirable league between France and England should, happily, burst asunder on some early day—it is altogether a matter of course that thousands of our countrymen will be eagerly soliciting service in the French armies, that so they may have a chance of dealing England, sometime and anywhere, a mortal blow.

The state of feeling in Irishmen may as well be avowed and understood. I should like to see the Irishman who is enough of an idiot and a beast to believe that Ireland has any interest at all in the present confusions of Europe; save in so far as they may bring about the destruction of our ancient foe—and may bless us with the chance of bearing a hand in that destruction.

But if any of you be so foolish as to suppose that England, in commencing this war, has any regard to right or justice, any friendship for Turkey, or any sympathy with the manifestly righteous cause of Turkey, let him attend to some of the considerations here following:

First.—There is no such thing in all history, since history began, as one nation undertaking a war for the honor or benefit of another nation. The interest of England in preventing Constantinople from falling into the hands of Russia; or any other first-rate power, is expressed in the well-known words of Lord Chatham—"that the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire is a question of life and death to England."—And it is for that interest in the first place, that she has armed now.

Second.—England is the same power that, thirty years ago, contrived a pretext for burning and destroying, in time of peace, the Turkish fleet in the harbor of Navarino, which has had the effect of leaving Russia in full possession of the Black Sea ever since. So that you see if England be Turkey's friend, it would be better for Turkey to have England for an enemy.

Third.—But England has another powerful interest in arming against Russia—it is to prevent an European war, to prevent the consequent uprising of the crushed nationalities of the Continent, and, Irishmen, especially your nationality, which is the most heavily crushed of all. With all the despots of Europe the British aristocracy stands or falls, lives, or else dies and goes to perdition. And it, can hardly be needful to remind you that during the European struggle against Napoleon I, it was the English Government that paid the monarchs of Europe to fight for their own capitals and crowns—bribed them with borrowed money, on which you pay the interest yet out of every meal you eat, out of every rag you wear. Yes, not an Austrian cuirassier fell on the field of Ulm or Wagram, but you are this moment paying interest on the price of his brea-tapier and sabre.—No bearded giant, not a whiskered pandour, or a fierce hussar, of all who trooped to Jena, or Austerlitz, like sheep (or rather like goats) to the slaughter, but every hair in the creature's beard is dear to you as a thread of finest gold. All this to uphold "legitimate sovereignty"—to bring about the Vienna treaty—to fling Italy under the heels of her paltry tyrants—to insure hopeless abolition of Holland—to impose the brood of Bourbon upon France and Spain—in short,

to bind down all Europe on that bed of pain and shame where she has since been enjoying rest and "peace," with full five million bayonets at her throat. To hold her bound there still is, I repeat it, the second, or, indeed, the first and main motive of Britain's activity now.

Fourth.—England's pretext that she is bound by treaties to maintain the independence of Turkey is a falsehood, of course. She was bound by treaty to maintain the dominion of Holland over Belgium, to resist the swallowing up of Cracow by Russia, to respect the neutrality of Denmark in 1807. I need not refer to England's deliberate breach of the treaty of Amiens—still less to her atrocious breach of the treaty of Limerick. What I want to know is, what treaty she has ever kept.—Once more I will cite against her the sentence pronounced by her greatest statesman (whom, as usual, Ireland gave her,) Edmund Burke. It is a description of the policy of the English in India: "I engage myself to make good these three positions. First, I say that from Mount Imaus, where it touches us in the latitude of 29, to Cape Comorin, in the latitude of 8, there is not a single Prince, State, or Potentate, great or small, in India, with whom they have come into contact whom they have sold. I say sold, though some times they have not been able to deliver according to their bargain. Secondly, I say that there is not a single treaty they have ever made which they have not broken. Thirdly, I say there is not a single Prince or State who ever put any trust in the company who is not utterly ruined; and that none are in any degree secure or flourishing, but in the exact proportion to their settled distrust and irreconcilable enmity to this nation."

Words that burn! Words that England would erase, if she could, from the writings of her greatest statesman, at the cost of say half a quarter's income tax—for they conflict with and sadly discredit the system of philanthropic cant, according to which "we have conquered India in our own defence."

Fifth.—You are to observe that neither England nor France has declared any war against Russia. I do not believe they will declare war—and if a war take place Russia will declare and make it first. The English and French Governments have armed and sent forth their troops and ships, not against Russia, but provisionally against each other—each being apprehensive that the other will get hold of Constantinople. And those troops and ships are to be employed in compelling the Turks to make peace on ignominious terms, and in gaining control of the Turkish Empire, under pretext of securing the rights of Christians. The intention of the Western Powers, in short, is, that Constantinople and its master shall be swallowed, not by the East of Europe, but by the West. Such, and so chivalrous allies, has the predestined Turks.

Sixth.—Readers of English books and newspapers have always been taught to regard the Russians as a nation of abject serfs, groaning under despotic rule. Now it cannot fail to occur to you that these Russians must be in a bad condition indeed if they are worse off than you under your beautiful constitutional Government, which is the envy of surrounding nations.—But the truth is, Russia is now, in her social and political condition, very much as England was when England was indeed a great nation, under her Plantagenets and Tudors, when she created and won all that true national greatness, on the mere credit of which she has been living ever since. Remember, too, that Russia is ruled by a Russian Government, and for the Russian people. No stranger sits on her judgment seat—no stranger watches at her gates. Herein, my countrymen, how deeply you ought to envy the Russians! The peasants of Russia are, it is true, annexed to and inseparable from the land they till. If the Irish peasantry had been so annexed for the last six years, they had lived and not died. In 1847, when famine threatened all Europe, the Russian Government promptly prohibited the export of rye, which is the common food of its people. Where was the Government that would do as much for you? It was because our poor countrymen belonged to nobody; because nobody had any interest in keeping them alive; because the foreign nation that holds military occupation of their country desired their destruction—that they were swept from the face of the land, huddled into poor-houses, starved to death by myriads and millions, or hunted from their own island to the four winds. Oh! believe me, there is not a Russian serf but has cause to pity and despise you.

It is worth while, just now, to ponder all these matters. When newspapers and organs of British opinion everywhere, even in America, are using all efforts to puff "John Bull," and get up the enthusiasm of free men in his favor, it is expedient that the Irish should bear constantly in mind the true nature of this Bull, and the real principles and motive of the war he is now engaging in.

It might surprise you, indeed, to find American newspapers praising and flattering England; for England is the sole enemy America has, or ever had. Americans seem to forget how grand and august a champion of liberty that power was, which paid Indians for the scalps of their fathers-and mothers, and raised negroes in insurrection against their masters; when her ships of war landed parties to burn peaceful villages, and Admirals, blazing in the decorations of Grand Cross and Bath and Carter, led on their gallant tars to the plunder of henroosts on the Chesapeake.

Yes! Americans may forget, for she scorned the Crossed, and Gartered pirates; but we, my countrymen, cannot afford to forget what they have done to us and our country just yet. America drives a prosperous trade with England now, and naturally looks on her wealthy customers with some indulgence; but Ireland's trade with her is death and ruin.

Enough, it is not without a definite object, ask a hearing, that I may remind you of these things now. I desire to impress upon all my countrymen, first, that it is base and suicidal to enter the British Army; and next, that the present position of the civilized world opens, or is likely to open, a chance for expatriated Irishmen to help at least, in doing justice and execution upon their enemy—so that men in Ireland of a fighting age, and temper may find more congenial work near home than fighting with Russians on the Danube.

Rumors are current amongst gossiping newspapers here in New York pointing to some definite and organized plan now actually on foot in America, for giving expression to this yearning and passionate longing for a fair and feasible enterprise in the cause of freedom and honor. They even indicate the precise design—an invasion of Canada by Irishmen from the United States. Of course our countrymen will know how much confidence is to be placed in all this. And they will ask no more at present than to be assured that certain Irishmen in New York, men who have the nearest and dearest interest in the cause, have resolved, if a fair occasion arise to avail themselves of it, and to ask a sufficient number of you to help them.

You will not be in a position to help if you are in Turkey, wearing the red coats of British soldiers. It is right to mention that those who cherish this design know what the law of the United States are in this matter—that they are bound by duty and affection to obey these laws—and that they contemplate nothing which will violate them, or this country with other powers.

The possible occasions that may arise are numerous. Some of them make the heart bound to think of.—Spain, Cuba, and the Black Warrior.—Napoleon, and the secret hope of vengeance for St. Helena that he cherishes in his occult soul. Another French Revolution—and a Provincial Government with no-mouthing, Lamartine at its head. Possibilities are endless, and Time and Chance wait upon all men.

JOHN MITCHELL.

The Murder of Mr. Craig.

We publish the following letter, which was written to the *Wentworthian* and published in that paper under date of the 1st of February, for the information of those who feel an interest in the sad occurrence which has aroused so much excitement in that District. The letter is written under the signature of "Waxhaw":

FRIENDS READ:—You wish to know something about the times in Lancaster. We have just emerged from a perfect torrida of excitement. This originated in the sudden disappearance of Alexander J. Craig, the overseer of George Witherspoon, on the night of the 17th December. The negroes reported that he left about moon-up, going, they knew not where; and next evening his horse returned with the bridle and saddle on. His brother left his residence that evening at sundown, and insisted on his going home with him; but refused on the ground that it was for him to remain on the premises of his employer on Saturday-night; but he promised to visit him next day. This led to the suspicion that his leaving was not voluntary.—And all concluded if he were murdered he would be thrown into the river for concealment. Search was immediately instituted to ascertain if the river had been approached by any person, for that purpose. As it had rained heavily on the morning of that same

day, this fact could easily be ascertained. No vestiges of an approach to the river could be anywhere discovered. The whole of the surrounding country was then closely examined, but no traces of the disappearance could be found. On the eleventh day, when they were preparing to drag the river, the body was found on the other side five or six miles from his residence in the woods opposite Price's place in Chester District—the head severed from the body and scalped—the scalp still attached to the back part of the neck. The back part of the head had a considerable hole broken into it, by a blow from some heavy instrument. Also a blow had been received between the point of the shoulder and the neck, sufficiently heavy to break the collar-bone. On the Tuesday night previous, whilst on his way to the Depot, an attack was made on his life, near the same place, where the body was found. A few persons alleged that the deed was perpetrated by Price's negroes, but most believed that it was done at Witherspoon's plantation. On examining the overseer's yard closely, marks of a scuffle were discovered; also, an indentation made in the earth by a person falling heavily on the shoulder, leaving the marks of the threads of the coat plainly to be seen. Some hoecrops were also observed in the yard, and on examining the earth turned up by the hoe, blood stains were found in it. A little further from the house, blood was seen on the leaves—some had drops and some had a stain, as if they had been wiped on some bloody object. And the next morning after Craig had disappeared, on the road leading up to Price's, a considerable quantity of blood was seen in a stony part of the road, between Garetton's Quarter and Land's Ford. And on that part of the Road passing through the Culp plantation blood was also seen. The road was full of liquid mud and a drove of hogs had passed along; but had it not been for this, some supposed blood would have been found all along the road from Witherspoon's farm to where the body was found. The body was borne thence on a horse, the tracks were plainly to be seen from the road to the place where the body was, a distance of sixty or seventy-five yards. The blood on the road was on the left-hand side; and from where the horse left the road, blood was plentifully seen on the same side; and in the bushes on the right-hand side was seen mud not quite so high from the ground as the blood was on the other side. Five of Witherspoon's negroes were incarcerated and a day set for their trial, but it was put off. Another day was set, but the trial was again put off. At last, on Tuesday the 17th ult., the Court proceeded to the investigation of the case. And you will scarcely give me credence when I say *eleven days* were expended in the trial. But you will not understand me as intimating that the incredible time was necessary to a full and fair hearing of the case. It was caused by

a lawyer.

In reference to Toney, one of the accused, it was proved before the Court he had made a threat against the life of his overseer. And in the possession of Fanny Toney's conch-chief, Craig's knife, pocket-handkerchief, and one or more lines were found. She testified if they were given her by Toney, on Sabbath (18th Dec.) which was the day after Craig was murdered. She also said she gave her a shirt, and a pair of pants which were bloody, and told her to wash them clean. He also gave her money and sugar, which was proved to be exactly like the sugar C. used. Lunn, another of the accused, accompanied Toney to the place where this interview between him and Fanny occurred.

The community was surprised when it was announced that only Toney was convicted. It would be difficult for a man to be murdered in the midst of a negro quarter, and but one know it. Besides, the tracks of two horses were seen at the place where the body was found.—But the jury were known to be men of sound principle and sterling integrity.

The community is considerably excited, for Craig was a highly respectable man, and one of the best overseers in the country; and the murder one of the most brutal that Satan could invent. And it is possible Chester minister-Prentiss Lancaster on the subject. It is true some of those immediately concerned did make silly efforts to shift the guilt over that side of the river, and said things about Chester that were better unaided. But this is not the work of all Lancaster. A large majority of the disinterested persons impute no guilt, (or unfairness) in the evidence to Chester. A great crime has been committed, we wish the guilty may be punished.

The Kentucky Legislature have passed a law prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons.

Liquor Law Veto.

Governor Seymour has vetoed the prohibitory law passed by the New York Legislature. He says that the bill is unconstitutional, unjust and oppressive in its character, and subversive of well settled principles of legislation, and that the people, irrespective of their different views of the use of intoxicating liquors, when advised of its provisions, will regard them with surprise and alarm.

He concludes his message as follows: "The constitution makes it my duty to point out the objectionable features of this bill, but leave it to the subject, and to the friends of the measure, to add the expressions of my belief that habits of intemperance cannot be extirpated by prohibitory laws? They are not consistent with sound principles of legislation. Like decrees to regulate religious creeds or forms of worship, they provoke resistance, where they are designed to enforce obedience. The efforts to suppress intemperance by unusual and arbitrary measures, proves that the Legislature is attempting to do that which it is not within its province to enact, or its power to enforce.

"This is the error which lies at the foundation of this bill, which distorts its details and makes it a cause of angry controversy. Should it become a law it would render its advocate odious as the supporter of unjust and arbitrary enactments. Its evil would only cease upon its repeal, or when it became a dead letter upon the statute book. Judicious legislation may correct abuses in the manufacture, sale, or use of intoxicating liquors; it can do no more.

"The experience of all nations, in all periods, demonstrates that temperance, like other virtues, is not produced by the law maker, but by the influence of education, morality, and religion.

"While a conscientious discharge of duty and a belief that explicit language is due to the friends of this bill, requires me to state my objections to the measure in decided terms, it must not be understood that I am indifferent to the evils of intemperance, or wanting in respect and sympathy for those who are engaged in their suppression. I regard intemperance as a fruitful source of degradation and misery. I look with no favor upon the habits and practices which have produced the crime and suffering which are constantly forced upon my attention in the painful discharge of official duties.—After long and earnest reflection, I am satisfied reliance cannot be placed upon prohibitory laws to eradicate those evils. Men may be persuaded, they cannot be compelled to adopt habits of temperance.

"I concur with many of the earnest and devoted friends of temperance in the opinion that it will hereafter be a cause for regret if the interest which is now excited in the public mind upon the subject should be diverted from its proper channels, and exhausted in attempting to procure legislation which must be fruitless."

The Senate on Saturday tried to pass it over the veto, but failed to obtain the constitutional majority.

I CANNOT PRAY FOR FATHER ANY MORE.—She knelt, at the accustomed hour, to thank God for the mercies of the day, and pray for cars through the coming night; but, as usual, came the earnest, "God bless dear mother, and"—but the prayer was stilled! The little hands unclasped, and a look of agony and wonder met the mother's eye, as the words of hopeless sorrow burst from the lips of the kneeling child, "I cannot pray for father any more!" Since her little lips had been able to form the dear name, she had prayed for a blessing upon it; it had followed close after mother's name, for he had said that must come first; and now to say the familiar prayer, and leave her father out. No wonder that the new thought seemed too much for the childish mind to receive.

I waited for some moments that she might conquer her emotion, and then urged her to go on. Her pleading eyes met mine, and with a voice that faltered too much almost for utterance, she said, "O, mother, I cannot leave him all out; let me say, 'thank God I had a dear father once!' so I can still go on, and keep him in my prayers." And so she always does, and my stricken heart learned a lesson from the loving ingenuity of my child. Remember to thank God for mercies past; as well as to ask blessings for the future.

Religion.—The religion of some people is constrained; they are like people that use the cold bath—not for pleasure, but necessity and their health; they go in with reluctance, and are glad when they get out. But religion to a true believer is like water to a fish; it is his element, he believes in it, and he could not live out of it.

John Newton.

Slavery and Cotton.

Greely & Co. only betray their gross ignorance of facts when they imagine that slavery would be abolished if the cotton culture of the U. States were abandoned. Even if this were so, the notable schemes they rely upon to dispense with cotton are about as wise and practicable as might be expected from such great philosophers.—The East India plan so far is a great failure, and for the flax substitute, the soil of the slave States is peculiarly well adapted. Nearly two thirds of the whole flax crop of the country is produced by Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia. Unfortunate philanthropists! Nature has conspired with man to thwart the benevolent spirit of this age!

When these philosophers suppose that there is no department of industry but the cotton culture in which slave labor is profitable, they commit an egregious error. Statistics now before us show that 15 millions of dollars are invested in the Southern States in the manufacture of cotton, iron and wool, and 25,000 operatives employed; that the South produces nearly one fourth of the wool grown in the United States; that its corn crop amounts to 274,000 bushels, about one half of the whole crop; that its live stock is worth more than \$250,000,000, or nearly half the whole product of the country. There are four or five Southern States, either of which produces ten times the provisions and live stock of New England. Not more than one third of the slaves of the South are engaged in making cotton for market.—So it is very clear that the abandonment of the cotton crop would not involve the abolition of slavery.

Why don't Greeley, Beecher, Stow & Co., set an example of dispensing with the use of cotton. Let them divest themselves of their cotton garments, and go forth among mankind in the unadorned simplicity of nature.

Presented with a Baby.—A Cincinnati paper says: "On Saturday last, while the train of cars was at Cleveland depot, heading for Columbus, a lady bearing an infant child in her arms, (apparently five or six weeks old) entered one of the passenger cars, and going to a young lady of some 16 or 18 years, very politely inquired if she would do her the favor to hold her babe until she could step out and see to the disposal of her baggage. The young lady generously complied, and received the infant in her arms. The mother left the cars, and has not been seen or heard of since. The young lady also fell heir to a carpet-sack, which had been placed under her charge by the inhuman mother, in which was found a note containing a request that the child should be treated with kindness, in which case it might become a distinguished man. Several offers to take the child were made to the young lady, but she refused to give it to any but its lawful and natural mother. She preferred keeping it herself, influenced perhaps by a desire to have a child of her own, whether she ever had a husband or no."

Affecting Case.—The St. Louis Republican says while a gentleman residing near that city on his way home, on Sunday evening, 4th instant, he was startled by a moan coming from a graveyard he was passing, and searching for the cause, discovered a young and beautiful woman lying on the ground and apparently suffering great physical agony, and there, pressed to her bosom, and wrapped in its mother's tattered dress which she had torn from her person to protect her tender offspring, lay a newly born and beautiful infant. Her story was soon told—she had left her home and all the endearments of social relation to hide her shame and another's crime; and, in the sacred precincts of the cemetery, amid darkness and surrounded by the stillness of the dead, her infant drew its first breath under the very shadow of the tomb. The mother and the infant were conveyed by the charitable gentleman who found them, to his own home, where they were properly taken care of. The unfortunate creature stated that she was from the State of New York, but declined to give her name. She subsequently gave one by which she might be called, but which is a fictitious one.

A Singular Case under the "Main Law."—A few days ago, the Sheriff of Norfolk county, Mass., in the discharge of his official duty, seized and sold under a writ of execution, a quantity of goods and merchandise, including two barrels of brandy; and on Wednesday last he was surprised by finding himself arraigned for violating the prohibitory liquor law. He pleaded not guilty; and alleged that he had discharged his sworn duty. The court, however, held, that he had violated the prohibitory law, and he was fined \$10 and cost, and ordered to give bonds in \$1,000, not to violate the law for one

year, and to stand committed until these orders were complied with.—He repeated that he had acted in this case only in the discharge of his duty as Sheriff of the county of Norfolk; that he was under \$20,000 bonds, and under oath to discharge all the obligations of his office; and he should therefore respectfully decline to pay the fine and cost, or to give the bonds, as required; whereupon he was ordered to be committed.

Development of a Murder.—A Body Found in a Barrel of Liquor.—On Saturday last, says the Cincinnati Gazette of the 3d inst., a barrel of whiskey or alcohol was put on board the steamer Alvin Adams at our wharf which was directed, very intelligibly to Dr. Kelly, hadgog, Indiana, but there was no entry of it on the receiving book of either of the clerks. Madison being the point to which freight to that place is shipped, the barrel was rolled out on Sunday upon the wharfboat at that place; there being no owner for it and its rolling being peculiar, as if some heavy body was in it, it attracted observation at the time; the barrel was taken to the railroad depot, where the peculiarity of the case induced those having it in charge to open one of the heads, when in the liquor was found the naked body of a man who had a terrible gash across the throat, and a severe bruise on his head.

A coroner's inquest was held, but its findings we have not fully learned. Much excitement was created in Madison thereby, and rumors were started that the body was that of Mr. Sterling, who disappeared from Louisville on the 23d of January last. By dispatches received this morning, we learn that the body found is not that of Mr. Sterling.

Hanged While Drunk.—We read in the Gazette des Tribunaux (Paris) about 29 years of age, arrived at Paris a month ago to seek a place; but, as he was provided with a rather large sum of money, he resolved to indulge in debauchery until it should be spent. On Thursday evening he went to dine with some acquaintances, and remained drinking with them until 4 o'clock in the morning. He then returned to his hotel, the Rue St. Honoré, but was so drunk, that he could hardly walk up stairs. Yesterday morning a person called to see him, and was directed to his room; which was situated at the bottom of an isolated corridor. To his astonishment he found him hanging by the neck, by his cravat to the handle of the door. He, it appeared, in trying to open the door, had slipped, and his cravat, which he wore very loose, caught by the handle. The efforts he made to release himself in his state of intoxication, were fruitless, and he remained hanging until he was completely strangled.

Aaron Binn's Wife.—The Paris Patrie of a late date has the following: "At the last Tulleries ball, the brilliant toilette of a stranger with an incredible number of diamonds attracted the attention of all present. In a moment the attention was changed to the most intense curiosity, when Louis Napoleon was observed to accost the lady and remitt some moments in conversation. The enigma was soon solved. The lady was the widow of Mr. Aaron Barr, formerly Vice President of the United States, with whom Louis Napoleon was on terms of intimacy whilst in that country, and at the end of fifteen years he had recognized the widow of his old American friend!" This probably alludes to Madame Jumet, the wealthy second wife of Col. Barr, who obtained a divorce from him a few years previous to his decease. She owns a large landed estate on the island of Malta.

Cincinnati Inquirer.

A Romantic Affair.—A Spanish boy, named Joseph Edward Ene Pobal, has arrived at Washington, in charge of Adams & Co's Express. It is said that about ten years ago, while bathing on the coast near the city of Campeche, Mexico, he, with five other boys, was stolen by a gang of French pirates, who kept them for years, and then sold them to a merchantman, who k pt them two years, took them to the city of New Orleans, and there sold them to a Louisiana planter for the term of their minority. Their owner was about to re-sell them to a shipmaster, to make sailors of them; when the boy Pobal made his escape, and worked his way to Lafayette, Indiana where he attracted the notice of a gentleman who corresponded with the Mexican Minister at Washington regarding him. The minister became interested in the story of the boy, and wrote to have him forwarded, that he might restore him to his parents, if they were living.