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INTERESTING.

FROM THE ORLEANS GAZETTE, OF SEPT. 21.

PUBLIC MEETING.

On Thursday a very numerous and respectable meeting of citizens was held at Masporo's coffee house, for the purpose of expressing the public sentiment in relation to the outrage lately committed on our flag by the Spaniards. The resolutions adopted do honor to our state; and tho' one of them formed for a while a topic of division, yet we are persuaded that on a fair and unprejudiced review they will be found one and all to be such as the present conjuncture demanded.

The subject of this meeting is one, we conceive, of no ordinary, or of no trifling import. It is one that ought not to be treated with the slightest degree of levity or carelessness. On the contrary it ought to be approached with sentiments of the profoundest solemnity—with feelings of the most earnest, most awful indignation. It is not yet two years, it falls far short of two years since our public meetings here were of a very different kind from the present—since we were wont to meet, not for the purpose of mortifying complaint like this; but for the purpose of crowning, shadowing with laurels the triumphant vindicators of our country's rights—for the purpose of congratulating ourselves on having defeated, humbled to the very dust, the proudest, the most powerful, the most vindictive foe that ever was experienced either by the freemen of America or by the tyrants of Europe. The time has but just passed by when we were honorably measuring swords, were wrestling in manly, in victorious, in glorious contest with the professed Lords of the ocean, and like a whirlwind at every blow, sweeping from the face of the deep, every vestige of their arrogant pretensions to domination. The time has just passed by when the very room of assemblage on this occasion, was illuminated in every quarter with transparencies and various devices emblematic of the immortal 8th day of January, and of the illustrious soldier who conducted the glories of that day—when that very room resounded in every quarter with joy and song and carousal, with the impassioned accumulations of a triumph not to be transcended either in military splendor or in political effect by any of those which have been distinguished with the choicest honors of history.

And is it in this space of time—with all our blushing honors thick upon us—and is it, alas! on this spot, the scene of such animating recollections—in the very sight too of those enhancements of American Independence, of that grave-yard of European folly and impudence—that we, the conquerors of Europe, have now to assemble to pour together our murmurs at a new insult on our national honor, and this insult not from the great and high-minded adversary whom we have just driven from the field not shortly to return, but from a power not even second rate, or third or fourth rate in the rank of nations? Is it thus soon that this mighty nation without fear and without reproach, is called on to consider of an outrage on our flag the most savage and unprovoked, and from whom?—from Ferdinand the 7th—a weaver of flouces—a tambourer of furbelows—a mere monger of nunneries of a nunnery. I am aware that it is not prudent or discreet for any people in any circumstances to undervalue too far the consequence of their antagonist. But on this occasion we may be permitted some latitude of comparison, when we cast our eyes on a court that is so far behind in the travel of modern science and modern improvement, as at this enlightened day and in this condition of the world to permit their imaginations to burrow in the antiquated rubbish and evaporated dunghill of holy inquisitions, of religious ranks and tortures and all the other farrage of obsolete tyranny and obsolete superstition.

Did the injury we have suffered proceed from a nation known to regard us with a general spirit of amity and courtesy, there would be some cause for moderating the first bursts of our indignation, for a forbearance of all popular interference, in the anticipation of a satisfactory result from the cold-blooded process of negotiation. But this is not so. The nation who have inflicted this, wound on our honor, are deliberately and systematically hostile; have for many years without intermission except from inability, harassed us with injuries and insults after insults, forming in the whole a catalogue of grievances not to be endured by an independent people.—They have besides long persisted in a claim which they well know nothing but war can enforce, which we well know no war to be waged by mortal process, can ever extort from our hands. They have demanded of us to surrender to their dominion, to the dominion of barbarism, of tyranny and of superstition, an integral part of this independent state; and they once had the insolence to expect that Americans, that Louisianians, that those brave Louisianians who met the lion at their threshold and sent him back howling to his den, could possibly deliberate on such a demand! By this last act of theirs they have manifested their disposition to resort to arms, and I see no motive whether of justice or of policy, to forbid us from grasping that disposition to its fullest extent.

On the contrary the prospect of a Spanish war can be viewed only with emotions of pleasure, and its arrival, I think, will be hailed by the American people with unanimous delight. Such a war will not only afford us an opportunity of redressing our injuries, of avenging our wrongs, but an opportunity of rendering to the cause of Liberty and republican government that support, which the monarchists of the old world never fail to render to their principles and form of government whenever and wherever found in dispute. It will afford us an opportunity of acting like men, like Americans in the common concerns of America—of pouring in our powerful aid to those

"Brave men struggling with the storms of fate,
And greatly rising with a rising state"

—of offering to the cause of persecuted freedom that aid which but a few years ago we would have well known how to value ourselves—of saying to the world,

"Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco."

We ought to glory in the prospect of an event that will release us from those ungrateful, unnatural, ignominious trammels of a frigid and contracted policy by which we are compelled tamely to look on as cold, inanimate, shoulder-shrugging spectators of a contest between American liberty and European oppression; a contest which may in its results involve the final destiny of all that is dear to ourselves, and all that is dear to humanity.

P. S. I propose to present you in another paper some remarks in justification of the fourth resolution of the meeting.

TO THE PRINTER OF THE ORLEANS GAZETTE.

I promised you in my last to present you with some remarks in justification of that resolution of our town meeting, which sanctioned the course that would probably be pursued by the commandant of this naval station, in proceeding in quest of the authors of the outrage on our flag and inflicting on them a satisfactory retaliation. This course was deprecated by one of our speakers in terms of earnestness, and with an eloquence and vehemence of style which would have been much better adapted to the other side of the question, on which side alone warmth and passion of expression might admit of excuse if not of applause.

Let us review the objections suggested against this resolution.

It was contended that the commodore has no right to attack the hostile squadron, and consequently to advise him to do so were to advise him to do wrong. Now, sir, I maintain that the commodore is not only justified in seeking and disabling, if necessary, in exterminating the squadron itself, but in expelling all other armed vessels found joining in the declarations of that squadron, and prepared to join in their forcible support. It is true we are at peace with Spain; but treaties of peace would soon go out of fashion, were their effect to diminish instead of increasing the security of nations. "A just self defence does not violate a treaty of peace. It is a natural right not to be renounced, and in promising to live in peace, we promise no more than not to attack without cause and to abstain from injuries and violences. He who is injured by foreign subjects does himself justice by his own power when he meets with the offenders in his own territories or in a free place; for instance on the open sea; or—if he pleases—if he pleases, he requires justice from their sovereign."

This is not law of my own idle manufacture. It is the sentiments, the words of a very eminent and universally respected expounder of national law. Let us apply these principles to the present case. It is important to bear in mind that the present is not a case of accidental fracas arising from the passion and quarrel of the moment. The attack made upon our vessel is made upon principle. It is part of a system distinctly avowed and most impressively exemplified on the spot. A Spanish squadron seat themselves in the Mexican seas—proclaim to the United States that they have taken exclusive possession of those seas, and are determined to prevent by force of arms our common right of passage. Is not this invasion, in the in the strictest and most confined sense of the word? Change but the zavy into an army, the water into land, and what is the difference between this case and a forcible occupation of Mobile with similar intentions and declarations? The only difference is that there is an invasion in the one case of an exclusive property, in the other of a common right; but inasmuch as the right we hold in common with others, may sometimes be as interesting as those which are matters of separate dominion, it is as purely an act of self defence to resist encroachments on the former as on the latter. Who could be so pusillanimous or so traitorous as to say that if the Spanish standard were planted in West-Florida, under much better pretensions, bad as they are, than any that could be held on the high seas,—who could say that our military should confine its operations to a simple report of the fact,—and who that pretends to the name of a soldier, could be so faithless to his trust, so lost to his own honor, as to listen for a moment to such a doctrine.

For what purpose, I would ask, do we maintain an army and a navy? For what purpose is commodore Paterson placed on this station? For what purpose is he supplied with ships, with men, with arms, ammunition and stores? Is it for the purpose of simply reporting the outrages which may happen from foreign powers? Pen, ink and paper would suffice for that. I ask again, for what purpose is he placed here with all these active instruments in his hands? Is it for nothing? Is it for the promotion of

his country's glory, in resenting insults on her flag by "sailing by" the offenders, when the relative force of the parties may permit it? No. These are not the vile inglorious objects of the American navy—it is not for objects like these, it is not in impotent parade, that the proud flag of America courts the common ocean. The true and only intention of a navy is the protection and security of the country; and it matters not from what quarter or what manner the injury came, the country must be protected and secured.

All that our navy has to do on the occasion, says the orator of the opposition, is to navigate the prohibited waters "as usual." Why, sir, that is what our navy did before this affair happened. A signal occurrence takes place deeply affecting our national interest and honor, a most flagitious outrage is committed upon us, and we are told that the part we have in consequence to act is to do just as we did before.—But it so happens, that this is advice which it is impossible to pursue. We cannot navigate those seas as usual—the Spaniards will not let us—and it is in vindication of this very privilege of navigating as usual, that it becomes necessary for us to apply force to the removal of all unlawful obstructions. We are warranted in doing so by the principles of national law, just as an individual is warranted by those of the municipal law in the immediate demolition of a nuisance in blockade of the highway. Navigation as usual! that is to say, go out always with a force superior to the enemy, take care to keep all your vessels in mutual convoy, and if per chance occasionally an unfortunate Firebrand be caught wandering apart, by a Spanish banditti of frigates, who fire into her without provocation and without mercy, shatter her into a wreck, half sink her, wantonly insult her officers and in inquisition style castigate such of the crew as they were not expert enough to murder in flight; let her sneak back to the commodore and report the fact: and then—what then? why, repeat the process, the formidable process of "navigating as usual."

It is contended that an attack upon the offending squadron by our officer, would amount to the declaration by him, or what is worse, the making of war. Now the original assault was certainly one of two things—either authorised by the Spanish government or unauthorised. If it were authorised then it ipso facto creates, or conclusively evidences a state of war; and in that state our officer is empowered, is in duty bound, with or without instructions, to inflict every possible injury on the enemy. If it were unauthorised, then it is not war; but then let us take the same view of our officer's concern in the business. His conduct too, in committing acts of retaliation, is either authorised or unauthorised. If the former, then he must be right at all events: if the latter, than he is wrong; but it is not war any more than the like authorised conduct in the other party and that was not war, or if it were, would by virtue of its being so, justify the retaliation. Supposing then, both parties to be entirely unauthorised, either by previous orders or subsequent approbation, what is the amount of it all? a mere balance of injuries, with the serious difference, however, of their having begun the affair and being therefore, in my opinion, chargeable with the whole breach of the peace. The utmost that the most subtle negotiator ever could flatter himself with obtaining from us in satisfaction, would be the same quantum of concession which we were already entitled to demand from them for the original outrage, or in other words a reciprocal cancellation of accounts. So that the final result to us would be the taking of our satisfaction in our own way instead of receiving it in a less agreeable form.

But this is not coming to the point. This act of the Spaniards is itself a strong, very strong indication of actual war. It can be considered as nothing else until it is explained and reparation offered; and on what ground are we to hope for reparation from a nation that charges us with having robbed them of their territory? Are they to add to their injustice the folly of satisfying our demands whilst we reject theirs? On what ground are we to expect reparation for this injury when we have so many of elder date still unatoned for? The present attack on our flag was in all probability authorised by the government. The gentleman who opposed the resolution in question with such animation, unequivocally expressed his own belief that it was; and if it was not at the time of action, it is destined to become so, by the treatment it will inevitably receive from the Spanish government. Considering, then, the remoteness of this station, and the importance of its concern in a Spanish war; considering the known dispositions and temper of the two nations; considering the peculiarity, the unexampled extravagance of the outrage; considering the necessity of our own safety, which is at last the supreme law of nations and of men; and considering all the various circumstances in which our commodore is placed, I am decided in my opinion that he ought to proceed to take immediate satisfaction! If, unfortunately, in doing it, he should in the event do wrong to Spain, even that sad conclusion would not be without its consolations. The wrong thus suffered by Spain would only be a set-off on her part against wrongs without number and without prospect of redress, except from war.

As to the apprehension excited of our producing or precipitating a war, by our passionate proceedings here, it is scarcely worthy of answer. Reason ought long since to have taught us, and experience has doubtless taught us, that temporising with nations is not the way to avoid war. As it is with individuals so it is with na-

tions, the way to secure peace is to maintain your dignity against the first approach of intrusion.

FAYETTE.

POLITICAL.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE (K.) CORRESPONDENT.

ON PARTIES.

In my former remarks on this subject in answer to *Cassar*, the editor endeavored to show the substantial similarity of the parties of our country in the great leading principles of government, religion and manners, to a most remarkable degree. I asserted the fugitive, perishable nature of the former grounds of party difference, and the total transformation of parties at this time. To support this latter assertion, we have only to recollect what we formerly differed about. Were they not, after the adjustment of the objections to the present federal constitutions, banking, revenue, naval and military establishments?—What the particular incidental reasons were, are immaterial; the essential point is, that the federal and republican parties did differ about the policy of those branches of the administration of any government; and that they now notoriously cease to differ about the very identical topics. Why then, in the name of heaven, do we still continue to revile each other, and hold our respective parties up to the hatred and distrust of the nation? Parties in the United States are at this time little more distinct in political principle than they were in the empire of Lilliput, where, according to Swift, they were divided about whether they should break their eggs at the big or at the little end, giving rise to most notable parties in the state, called the big-endians and little-endians. The subject, however, is too serious for this strain of remark; party proscription is a pestilence in society; it poisons the public mind against the profoundest learning, the most exalted talents and the purest patriotism, which is not within the pale of party politics. The dogmas of the passing moment, the slavish sycophancy of party, these are the abominable substitutes of virtue, learning and mind. It is strangling the best faculties of society, and cutting off the most valuable members of the community, whose exertions would redound to the prosperity and glory of the republic. Does is not then imperiously behoove every honest man, every citizen attached to the good of his country, (and what virtuous man can be insensible to it) to shake off his party bigotry, and to despise the prostituted press that exerts its influence over the public mind, but to debase it with party bigotry and exclusive pretensions? Shall we never, my countrymen, put an end to this civil war? Why should we not call into our service the hearts and heads that are best calculated to promote the welfare of our common country in despite and contempt of old differences. The disputes ought to be buried under the alliance which has virtually been made by the parties of the country pursuing the same plans of policy. But how shall we effect this desired harmony? by adopting the idea of the National Register, to denounce every distinctive epithet, except that of republicans. This appellation is certainly the most happily expressive of the whole tenor of our government, and which is in the name, and for the good of the people, in opposition to the interests of an hereditary prince; and though the term federal is equally expressive of another feature in our complex system of government, which is its confederate character, it is unfortunately associated with such obnoxious recollections of ancient differences, (yet given up by the republicans of late) that the successful coalition of all good and capable men is utterly desperate. Let, then, the federalists imitate the republicans so far as the latter have notoriously, and to the satisfaction of the nation, renounced their old plans of government in regard to navies, armies, internal taxes and banks; let the former renounce their name. The republicans are now substantially federalists in the leading and permanent policy of government: let the latter, meeting their old adversaries on the middle ground of friendship and moderation, and renouncing a name which has ceased to designate them exclusively, become republicans in name, as well as in fact.

The republicans have abandoned the substance of old party difference, and now let the federalists magnanimously abandon the form. Let all unite in the holy band of brothers and countrymen, determined to exalt our admirable republic to the highest pinnacle of happiness and renown. What may not be anticipated of our country when this shall be the case? What glorious emulation of the proudest days of Grecian valor and Roman patriotism may not be expected? Why, then, delay the blessed work? Let us, in the language of the sacred volume, be up and be doing, in the pious labor of healing the wounds of our common country.

"Hard Times!"—Under this head, the Massachusetts Spy makes the following trite remarks.—"Hard times, indeed; and times will continue hard, until the people turn over a new leaf. They must retrench their expenditures—They must buy less than they sell—Credit has been the great cause of their present embarrassments. People have ventured beyond their strength; they have pushed too far from shore. They have tried too many experiments. Let them quit speculation for industry; extravagance for frugality; intemperance for sobriety and the times will become speedily ameliorated; and the people will in a great measure be relieved of their embarrassments. Unless this be done, the times, ere they are better, will become worse fourfold."