

The Standard

"WE WILL CLING TO THE PILLARS OF THE TEMPLE OF OUR LIBERTIES, AND IF IT MUST FALL, WE WILL PERISH AMIDST THE RUINS."

EDGEFIELD, S. C., AUGUST 17, 1859.

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Select Poetry.

A Mother's Love.

Oh, there is still within the world
A brilliant, fearless light,
Which, like a star, shines through clouds
Of sorrow's darkest night,
Which beams round her pathway here,
Where'er we may rove;
It is the light reflected from
A mother's love.

There is a boon—a blessed boon—
Unto mortals given,
Which gives us a foretaste of
The bliss of heaven;
And when the thorns of sorrow rise,
And clouds of grief dark above,
It hinders round us to the last:
That boon—a mother's love.

The true that oft our footsteps roam
Through life's desolate way,
We seek the ties of home,
In its deceitful ways;
Yet there's a charm to lure us back,
Like some poor weary dove—
That charm, a pure and beautiful,
Is a mother's love.

Where is thy Sting,
Who calls thee grim and terrible,
Thou glorious angel, Death?
Thy form so sweetly wins my gaze,
Like sweet perfume thy breath,
Thy robes so beautiful they light,
A crown of stars upon thy head,
Thy face as heaven serene.

O'er weep thou fearful in thy might,
Wrathful and stern thy way,
When multitudes before thee passed,
Despairingly
Before the Feet of Righteousness,
To thee we glad the earth,
Then Sin and Pain and Thoud shalt blast
All loveliness and worth.
But now midway from earth to heaven,
Upon thy throne thou sit,
A glorious being is seated there,
The golden key of Life, True Life,
Opening the pearl gates,
Where never enter we or strife,
But rest the feet await.

Political.

From the South Carolina.

Mr. Editor.—DEAR SIR: You will oblige me by publishing the accompanying paper, prepared with some pains by its author for the purpose of recording a portion of the book, where he in his narrative details unjustly and falsely with the history of certain prominent events and men connected with the tariff and the Texas annexation controversy of 1844. This correction and relation was intended to have been published earlier than the original, but for the delay in the present time delayed. The reason Mr. Pickens assumes the task to vindicate the name and fame of South Carolina and Mr. Calhoun from the aspersions of Col. Benton's book, he himself fully discloses in the narrative. Being the original and now sole depository of the facts upon which Col. Benton grounds his assertions, the duty appeared imperative that he should suffer no further time to elapse before he made public a true statement of every thing that transpired between Mr. Polk and himself during the visit alluded to in the thirty-third issue of the "United States Gazette." As it may naturally assist in developing the political history of our times, likely from the "publicity" to be perverted and distorted, its publication at this time may be of some general importance, and may also be of some service to the State and to the reputation of Mr. Calhoun.

Truly yours,
Mr. Benton's Book—South Carolina—Mr. Calhoun—Mr. Polk.
He who writes history, often makes history, and perhaps his fictions are innocent, because he only writes from his standpoint, and sees things as represented to him in a totally different light by one set of men from that in which they are represented by the other side, might represent them. This is eminently true of all those who attempt to give a history of their own times, particularly if they were active partisans in the political conflicts of the day. Mr. Benton has recently published elaborate books, purporting to be a full and complete history of the late wars of the United States. He has there attempted to give the detailed history of great events, in which he might well exclaim, "Magnus parvus!"
Soon after I became of age, I was sent to the Legislature; and from 1852, became deeply enlisted in all the great questions of the day from that time to the present. Some circumstances led me to keep an accurate memorandum, particularly of everything that related to South Carolina. I see many points in his books where he has done the grossest injustice to the State and to Mr. Calhoun, as identified with South Carolina. For instance, the minute of his visit to Mr. Polk, at the residence of the Secretary of War, in Mr. Munro's Cabinet, in relation to General Jackson, the taking of the Barancas, and imprisoning the Spanish Governor in Pensacola, the "Johnny Rhea" letter, &c., &c., all appear to be quite plain and truthful to any one not prejudiced by his own views. The fact is, however, that those accounts, as far as they are concerned, are entirely untrue, and were never written, as the papers published in any book having the slightest pretension to history.

Memo as prompting General Jackson, commander of the army, to invade Florida and take possession of it in the month of January, 1818, as President, had assumed a totally different position; and he is appealed to as a "brother Mason" to suppress the letter, and all done under the intrigues of Mr. Calhoun, who was no Mason? This is doing great injustice to that noble band of brothers, who have stood the test of ages, and defied the scrutiny of time to the purity and benevolence of their purposes. This transaction represents leading members of the brotherhood, combining together to suppress an important secret document essential to vindicate honor and the truth of history, and acting under the instigation of political intrigue. Surely there must be some grievous error here, and what purports to be General Jackson's "expectation," never could have received the deliberate sanction of that renowned man when in the full vigor of his great intellect. Besides, the letter was burnt because of Mr. Polk, and Mr. Rhea was used as a "Mason" to appeal to his brother Mason, General Jackson, to suppress it, and he says he did burn it about six years after it was written, that it might not be used; and General Jackson made to say he never showed it to any man except Mr. Polk, and after Mr. Munro and Mr. Rhea are both dead, and about thirty years after the date of the letter, General Jackson himself is set forth as revealing the substance and contents of this very letter from memory, so that if there is a double wrong, the one is far greater injury upon the character of Mr. Munro than in any aspect it ever could do to Mr. Calhoun.

But it is not my purpose to examine that part of Mr. Benton's book, or any part of it, except where, in some prominent instances, he uses me as a witness or evidence upon which to make grave charges against Mr. Calhoun and South Carolina. I will not examine his account of the meeting and organization of the twenty-sixth Congress, however unjust that account may be, but merely a few prominent points which he makes elsewhere, and particularly where he puts me on the question of peace or war out of hands of an excited and interested frontier people, and held it under the control of government itself. These questions being kept open, might give Great Britain a pretext to instigate Mexico to a war with us in reference to Texas annexation, if it should be rejected, and the difficulties that might arise were considered, at that time, more with reference to Great Britain and her citizens acting on Mexico, than in relation to a direct issue with Mexico herself.

Lord Aberdeen, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Great Britain, had written that elaborate and extraordinary letter, dated 13th August, 1859, in which he attacked the annexation of Texas, and the abolition of slavery, which he directed to the State and to the Congress of that country.

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In vol. 2d, and at page 650, I find an account which I made to Mr. Polk, August 1844. He says: "He (that is I) made known the condition on which the vote of South Carolina for him (Mr. Polk) might be dependent. That condition was to discontinue Mr. Blair and his associates in the Cabinet, and to have Mr. Polk as Secretary of State. Mr. Polk was willing to agree to be given up, &c. That was proposition to Mr. Calhoun, to whom Mr. Blair was objectionable on account of his execrable opposition to nullification and his avowed hostility to Mr. Calhoun's life is bound up in the character and history of South Carolina, I trust, under these circumstances the public will consider the contents of this letter, and will place my evidence before them. I do so entirely from a sense of duty.

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