

PUBLIC LEGER.

"FRIENDLY TO THE BEST PURSUITS OF MAN,
FRIENDLY TO THOUGHT, TO FREEDOM, AND TO PEACE."—*Cowper.*

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From the Cincinnati Gazette.

CONGRESS OF PANAMA.

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, the President has communicated to Congress the information, in his possession, of the proceedings of the Congress at Panama. The states represented were Peru, Mexico, Central America, and Colombia. A letter from the Colombian Minister to Mr. Clay, gives the following account of their proceedings:

"The Assembly being installed, it was determined that the Representatives of each should alternately hold the Presidency for the direction of the discussions. These were conducted with that perfect harmony and concord, which the great and important object in view should inspire; and the preparatory conferences and debates which preceded, enabled the Plenipotentiaries, on the 14th of July last, to agree—

1st. A treaty of union, league, and perpetual confederation, between the four states represented, to which the other powers of America might have an opportunity to accede within one year. 2dly. A convention for the renewal of the great assembly annually in time of common war, and biennially during peace. 3dly. A convention which fixes the contingent which each confederate should contribute for the common defence. 4thly. An agreement concerning the employment and direction of those contingents; and 5thly. A declaration that the treaties which Colombia had formerly concluded with the United Mexican States, Central America and Peru, should be included in those treaties, with certain reservations."

One from Mr. Poinsett, dated September 6, contains the subjoined information: "One of the articles of agreement between the New States is, that, whenever the safety of America shall require a large force to be kept on foot, the expense shall be defrayed by all parties."

"A meeting of the Plenipotentiaries of the allied republics is to take place once in every year, in the month of September, so long as the common war continues, and every two years in time of peace. The Plenipotentiaries are to remain in the place agreed upon for three months, which term may be prolonged for two months more, at the end of which period the sessions may be renewed; but, during the war, these Plenipotentiaries cannot leave the territory of the Republic wherein the meetings are held, so that they may meet together immediately, if any extraordinary circumstance should require it."

"The Congress will continue its negotiations in Tacubaya, so soon as the minister who carried the treaties from Panama to their respective governments, (eight months is the time fixed for exchanging these ratifications; six will probably elapse before these Plenipotentiaries reach Mexico.)"

"The following is the substance of an additional article of the treaty of union, league, and perpetual confederation, concluded and signed at Panama: 'Whereas, the contracting parties desiring ardently to live at peace with all the nations of the world, by avoiding all motives of misunderstanding which might arise from the exercise of the legitimate rights in peace and war, have agreed, and hereby agree, that, immediately on the ratification of the present treaty, they will proceed to fix, by common agreement, all those points, rules, and principles, which are to govern their conduct in both cases, for which purpose they will renew their invitation to the neutral and friendly powers, that if they deem it expedient, they may take an active part in those negotiations, and may be present, by means of their Plenipotentiaries,

in order to adjust, conclude, and sign such treaty, or treaties, as may be made for so important an object."

It would appear from this article, that although the sessions of the Congress of Panama have been removed to Tacubaya, the invitation is to be renewed to the friendly and neutral powers. At all events, our Plenipotentiaries need not be here before the month of February next."

In a despatch dated 23d. of Sept. 1826, Mr. Poinsett holds the following language as to what took place in the Congress of Panama in respect to the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico:

"I have been assured that, although the present condition of the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico was considered by the American Plenipotentiaries at Panama, to be incompatible with the safety of these countries, and the policy of subduing them, by force formed a frequent topic of conversation in that assembly, still no decisive measures with respect to them was resolved upon, nor are they mentioned in the secret convention concluded between the Spanish American States."

"The Plenipotentiaries were probably deterred from acting on this very important subject, both by the language which has been held by the President with regard to these islands, and by the inability of the governments of Mexico and Colombia, at this time, to undertake an expensive expedition."

The Congress adjourned from Panama to Tacubaya, principally upon account of the unhealthiness of the former place.

From the Huntsville Advocate.

There is more truth, sound reasoning, and good sense, in the subjoined letter of a native Choctaw, taken from the Port Gibson Correspondent, than every one seems willing to admit. The Choctaws are considerably advanced in civilization, so far, in fact, that they pretty clearly understand the proper measures to complete it. We think the idea a very good one, to send among them more pious instructors, and fewer whiskey dealers.

North-Western District, }
Choctaw Nation. }

Messrs. Crutcher & Stockton:

Gentlemen: From your known candor and impartiality, I am emboldened to solicit you to give the following lucubrations of a Native Choctaw a place in the columns of your journal.

There are three orders of men, whose professed object is to benefit the Choctaws. The Missionaries, with a laudable zeal, are striving to benefit us by instructing our children, and both by precept and example recommending the gospel to all. Could not the Methodists afford to assist us in the way that leads to the Redeemer's Kingdom?

The second class is the whiskey merchants, who have the arrogance to say that they are beneficial to the nation, because the natives are fond of whiskey. This class of gentlemen (if the appellation of gentlemen can be properly applied to them) have established their groghops near the line, and there, in violation of the laws of your state, carry on an illicit traffic with the Indians; And, for fear of detection, the lamp with its glimmering light is compelled to behold the blushing deed.

The third class supposes that if we were removed to the west of the Mississippi, and forsake farming and turn hunters, we should soon become a great nation, and be preserved from ruin, or, in other words, from a final annihilation. This is a mistaken notion—because agriculture and the arts of peace increase their votaries, while the precarious subsistence that is afforded by the chase decreases its followers.

If ever the Choctaws are civilized, I am convinced that here is the place to do it. But a desire to remove us has overcome every benevolent consideration in our behalf—our patriotism is ridiculed, our rights trampled upon, and no friendly voice is raised in our defence. It is the pride of the United States to afford an asylum to the oppressed of every country;—yet it is said they want to drive us to the western wilds! Poor unfortunate Choctaws! where shall we take up our abode and live in safety?

We have been traduced; our character as a nation slandered. Even the Senate chamber of the United States has resounded with calumny and detraction; and no one to do us justice! I am your humble servant.

A NATIVE CHOCTAW.

Extract of a letter written by the late Thomas Jefferson.

Some men look at Constitutions with sanctimonious reverence, and deem them like the ark of the covenant, too sacred to be touched.—They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment. I know that age well; I belonged to it, and laboured with it; it deserved well of its country; it was very like the present, but without the experience of the present; and 40 years of experience in government is worth a century of book reading; and this they would say themselves were they to rise from the dead. I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. I think moderate imperfections had better be borne with, because, when once known, we accommodate ourselves to them and find practicable means of correcting their ill effects; but I know also that laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind; as that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy, as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors. It is this preposterous idea which has lately deluged Europe in blood; their monarchs, instead of wisely yielding to the gradual changes of circumstances, of favouring progressive improvement, have clung to old abuse, entrenched themselves behind steady habits, and obliged their subjects to seek, through blood and violence, rash and ruinous innovations, which had they been referred to the peaceful deliberations and collected wisdom of the nation, would have been put into acceptable and salutary forms. Let us follow no such examples, nor weakly believe that one generation is not as capable as another of taking care of itself, and of ordering its own affairs. Let us as our sister states have done, avail ourselves of our reason and experience to correct the crude essays of our first and inexperienced, although wise, virtuous, and well meaning councils. And lastly, let us provide in our constitution for its revision at stated periods. What these periods should be, nature herself indicates. By the European tables of mortality of the adults living at any one moment of time, a majority will be dead in about 19 years; at the end of that period then a new majority is come into place; or in other words a new generation; each generation is as independent of the one preceding, as that was of all which had gone before; it has then, like them, a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes most promotive of its own happiness; consequently, to accommodate to the circumstances in which it finds itself, that received from its predecessors; and it is for the peace and good of mankind that a solemn opportunity of doing this every 19 or 20 years, should be handed on, with periodical repairs, from generation to generation to the end of time, if any thing human can so long endure. It is now 40 years since the Constitution of Virginia was formed. The same tables inform us that, within that period, two thirds of the adults then living are now dead. Have then the remaining third, even if they had the wish, the right to hold in obedience to their will, and to laws heretofore made by them, the other two thirds who with themselves compose the present mass of adults? If they have not who has? The dead? But the dead have no rights, they are nothing, and nothing cannot own something. Where there is no substance, there can be no accident. This corporal globe, and every thing upon it belongs to its present corporal inhabitants, during their generation. They alone have a right to direct what is the concern of themselves alone, and to declare the law of that direction; and this declaration can only be made by the majority. That majority then has a right to depute representatives to a Convention, and to make the Constitution what they think will be best for themselves. But how to collect their voice? This is the real difficulty. If invited by private authority to county or district meetings, these divisions are so large, that few will attend, and their voice will be imperfectly or falsely pronounced. Here, then would be one of the advantages of the ward division I have proposed. The may-

or of every ward, on a question like the present, would call his ward together, take the simple Yea or Nay of its members, convey these to the county court, who would have on those of all its wards to the proper general authority, and the voice of the whole people would be thus fairly fully and peaceably expressed, discussed and decided by the common reason of the society. If this avenue be shut to the call of suffrage, it will make itself heard through that of force, and we shall go on, as other nations are doing in the endless circle of oppression, rebellion, reformation, and oppression; rebellion, reformation, and so on forever.

BREWING.—The London Mechanics' Magazine gives the following instructions for brewing "on a small scale."

"The art of brewing is exactly similar to the process of making tea. Put a handful of malt into a tea pot; then fill it up with water, the first time rather under boiling heat. After it has stood some time, pour off the liquor, just as you would tea and fill up the pot again with boiling water; in like manner pour that off, and so go on filling up and pouring off, till the malt in the pot is tasteless, which will be case when all the virtue is extracted. It must then be boiled with new hops in it, and when it becomes cool enough, that is about blood heat, add a little yeast to ferment it, and the thing is done. This is the whole art and process of brewing, and to brew a larger quantity requires just the same mode of proceeding as it would to make a tea breakfast for a regiment of soldiers. A peck of malt and four ounces of hops will produce ten quarts of ale, better than any that can be purchased in London, and for which purpose a tea-kettle and two pan mugs are sufficient apparatus."

WOMEN.—Night being come [when Pericles, with his army before Lacedaemon] the Lacedaemonians determined in council to send the women over into Crete; but they unanimously opposed it, and one of them, called Archidamiae, took a sword, and entering the Senate with it in her hand, demanded of them, in the name of the rest—"What could make them entertain so ill an opinion of the women as to think they were so much in love with life, as to be able to outlive the loss of Sparta?" *Plutarch's Lives.*

The noblest treaty of peace ever mentioned in history, is, in my opinion, that which Gelon made with the Carthaginians. He insisted on their abolishing the custom of sacrificing their children! After having defeated three hundred thousand Carthaginians, he required a condition that was advantageous only to themselves, or rather, he stipulated in favor of human nature.—*Montesquieu.*

Alexandria fire.—We have much pleasure in stating that the corporation of this city has appropriated one thousand dollars for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at Alexandria. We have heard of other sums made up by individuals here, for the same purpose; but have not learned the amount. In Georgetown, we understand, upwards of seven hundred dollars has been raised, five hundred of which, we are informed, was given by the corporation.—*Nat. Journal.*

Mr. Miner offered a resolution in the House of Representatives, to make an appropriation, not exceeding 10,000 dollars, for the relief of the sufferers by the fire at Alexandria. The humane proposition was worthy of its mover. In its capacity of the local government of the District, the right of Congress to make appropriations for the benefit of our citizens, residing within the ten miles square, cannot be doubted, and it would be a subject of deep regret if any adverse views of policy should interfere to prevent the adoption of the resolution.—*Id.*

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