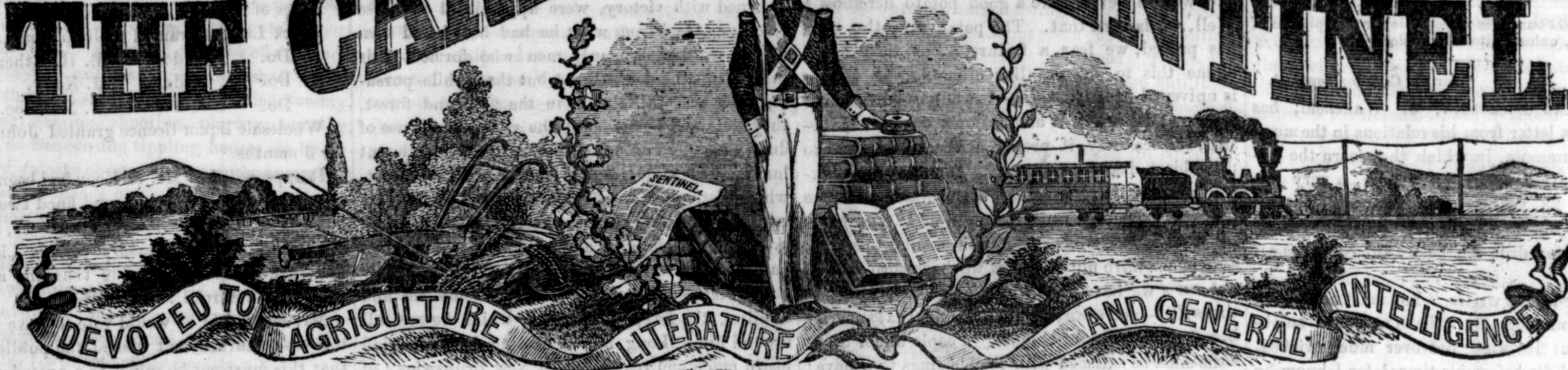


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"Our Queen and Constitution."

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General News.

WHAT WE SHOULD DO IN REFERENCE TO SPAIN.

The now indisputable fact that French forces are on the march from various points for the frontier of Spain is one which pointedly refers us to the history of our century, the principles of our constitution, and the bases of our foreign relations.—All these may be studied together by a simple recurrence to the incidents of the Congress of Verona, and their antecedent facts.

It was at the beginning of 1820 that Riego proclaimed in the South of Spain the Constitution of 1812. Of course, the attempt was vain. A Spanish Revolution was presently heard of all over Europe. Ferdinand put forth hasty projects of reform which were not less too late for being hasty; and he was compelled to withdraw his propositions in favor of the Constitution of 1812, which he accepted on the 10th of March 1820. As has usually happened in the case of Spanish revolutions, other countries, and especially Italy, immediately followed the incitement. Naples and Piedmont demanded Constitutional Government—Naples still in the anguish of political torture; and Piedmont, now so redeemed, so thriving, progressive, and politically virtuous, under true Constitutional Government, and a King worthy to administer it.—For a time, Liberalism succeeded in Naples, as well as in Spain; and the despots of Europe were alarmed at the wide demand for Constitutional Government. The French King was the first to move against it. He took possession of the passes of the Pyrenees in 1821, and, by collusion with Ferdinand, left only one road open. Every coat-pocket, and every ass-pannier that passed that road was examined; and every person who attempted to pass without leave was shot. The pretext was a bilious fever which had appeared the previous autumn at Barcelona; but the world understood very well the real object. Constitutional Europe was then honeycombed with Secret Societies, as every country now is, and ever will be, where speech and action are crushed under Government repression. There was the same talk of Carbonari and Anarchists than that there is now of Socialists and Red Republicans; and there was the same fatal error common among despots of confounding the most calm and enlightened demand of Constitutional Government with the uproar of the wildest anarchy. The difference is that the Liberals of Europe were without the experience that they have since gained. They were too sanguine. It was the kind of correspondence which made the French Bourbons fear for their recovered throne, and which caused them to take possession of the frontier when the Constitutional cause triumphed in Spain. It is important for us to remember that in those days other nations were so far vigilant and cautious as that every ally of either France or Spain insisted on knowing what was meant by the assembling of an army on the frontier which divided them. Further than that, the Congress of Verona was held, under false pretences it is true, but so as to cause every Government to declare its intentions, or at least to show its leanings. The pretence for the Congress was a consultation on the affairs of Greece: but out of it came the avowed policy of England of the Canning policy, which it particularly behooves us to remember at this day.

It had been the policy of the English Sovereigns to represent England as favorable to the Holy Alliance, though not engaged in it. It was the object of England then to dissolve the Holy Alliance, quietly and peaceably. Canning would have been glad to do it by leaving England unrepresented at the Verona Congress; but there was no time or facility for so decisive a measure. The Duke of Wel-

lington had no other idea than that the Congress was really assembled to settle the affairs of Greece; and when he left London for Verona, Mr. Canning had been in office only forty-eight hours. In a few hours, Mr. Canning did something as decisive as if he had kept the Duke of Wellington at home.—At Paris, the French Minister, Villele, informed the Duke that the affairs of Spain, as well as Greece, would be discussed at Verona; and the Duke wrote home for instructions. This was at the close of 1822, when constitutional government had existed for between two and three years in Spain. "If there be a determined project to interfere," wrote the British statesmen, "by force or by menace, in the present struggle in Spain, so convinced are his Majesty's Government of the danger of any such interference, so objectionable does it appear to them in principle, as well as utterly impracticable in execution, that when the necessity arises (or I would rather say, when the opportunity offers), I am to instruct your Grace at once frankly and peremptorily to declare that to any such interference, come what may, his Majesty will not be a party." By this declaration the Verona Congress was prevented from interfering, in spite of the arguments and entreaties of France. When France avowed her intentions of marching to Madrid to put down the constitution, the Czar Alexander and some other potentates declared their delight; but the Duke of Wellington carried in his pocket a further intimation from Mr. Canning, which put a stop to the mischievous conspiracy. "If," wrote Mr. Canning, "a declaration of any such determination should be made at Verona, the Duke of Wellington should, come what might, refuse the King's consent to become a party to it, even though the dissolution of the alliance should be the consequence of the refusal." The Duke therefore dissented, and withdrew from the conference, at the hazard of the English and French alliance, among others. It was this course of action which disabused Europe of the notion that England was favorable to the Holy Alliance. It was this which turned the hopes of the Liberals of Europe towards England.

One of the results of the withdrawal of the Duke of Wellington ought to be remembered; the correspondence which it caused between Mr. Canning, Chateaubriand, and Polignac, in which the French Ministers expatiated on the blessing it would be to the Spaniards to receive from the bounty of their Sovereign such a constitution as would be best for them; while the English Minister replied that the doctrine that free institutions were to be conferred by an absolute Sovereign as a boon was "one which the Spanish nation could not be expected to subscribe to, nor any English statesmen to uphold or defend." As well as we remember, the French overran Spain, and restored Ferdinand and despotism.

When England thus openly condemned the intermeddling of the French Sovereign with the Government of Spain, the ruler of France was one whom she had assisted to place on the throne; and the French nation was supposed to be, in foreign affairs, one with its ruler. It is, as we need not say, far otherwise now. The Sovereign who is now assembling the armies of France on the frontier of Spain attained the throne by just such a *coup d'etat* as has now happened at Madrid; and the world believes that the attachment of the French people to him may match with that of the Spanish nation to O'Donnell. That a good understanding and sympathy would be found to exist between the British and French people, in regard to Spain as to other countries, if only they had means of communicating, there can be no serious doubt; and if the Emperor should declare himself in favor of O'Donnell's *coup d'etat*, he will find himself in opposition at once to his own people and his most important ally.—*London Daily News*.

UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

The comments of the European papers show that the present contest in the United States is regarded as one that concerns, in the highest degree, the whole civilized world. On the one hand is the extension of slavery, and the encouragement of that bad ambition which prompts nations to encroach upon their neighbors; on the other is a distinct repudiation of all attempts at disturbing existing territorial limits by fraudulent or forcible courses, and the reprobation of any extension of the curse of human bondage. There is a distinct and well-defined difference between the two candidates, as well for the external as for the internal policy which the United States are to pursue, if placed under their guidance, or rather, under that of the party of whose views they are the exponents. On the one side, a just regard for the rights of other nations, and respect for the more sacred rights of humanity; on the other, grasping selfishness as a rule to be carried out by any means, and in spite of any amount of human sufferings. Mr. Buchanan was a member of that celebrated Ostend Convention of American diplomatists, in which it was agreed that, by all rights human and divine, the United States had the right to seize Cuba by force if they could not prevail on Spain to sell it; and for his chief supporters he has the "border ruffians" of Missouri, who have overridden the legal voters in Kansas. Col. Fremont distinctly disclaims any right even to force a sale of territory on an unwilling nation, and grounds his hopes of success on his pretensions to maintain the ballot box sacredly against all unlawful attempts to subvert it. In such a struggle, no one who is interested in the United States, or the progress of sound and humanizing principles of government, can fail to take sides; and, while the best intellects of Europe range themselves for Fremont, though they have a comparatively slight and distant interest in the result, thinking men in Canada can certainly not remain indifferent.

To feel all the emotions of a contest, however, it is necessary to know something of the laws of the game, and those of a Presidential election are rarely much understood outside the limits of the Republic. It is generally known that the President, and other officers of the American government, are elected by the people. But, out of the Union, people are seldom acquainted with the particular mode in which the various elections are carried on. It appears to have been the policy of the founders of the American Constitution,—or it was, perhaps, a necessity arising from the various elements of which the government was composed,—that the method of ascertaining the popular will should be varied according to the diverse kinds of election. Thus, the House of Representatives is chosen in a manner which we should call representation by population,—the country being divided into electoral districts having about the same population, without regard to the distinction of States; while, in the Senate, each State, no matter how small, sends a number of representatives equal to any of the rest.

The President again is elected in a manner differing from that which prevails for either of the other branches of the Legislature. Thus, New York, having thirty-three Representatives and two Senators, casts thirty-five votes for the Presidency, while Delaware and Florida, having but one Representative to add to their two Senators, cast but three votes each. A glance at the apportionment of representation in the several States will show how great the preponderance must be in favor of any candidate which the Free States should take up in a body as opposed to the Slave States. The Free States are Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, In-

diana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and California. They possess a population, according to the census of 1850, of 13,436,951, which gives them 143, as their share of 233 members. The Slave states are Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Missouri. Strange to say, these States, though they acknowledge their slaves only as chattels, yet claim a certain voice in the councils of the country, on the strength of this non-human population. Yet reckoning every five of the chattels as equivalent to one vote, they have a representative population of only 3,200,412, which gives them 90 representatives against the 143 from free States. The population is, however, somewhat reduced by the equal number of Senators from each State; the fifteen slave States send thirty, while the sixteen Free States only thirty-two. Thus the whole number of votes for the Presidency will be one hundred and seventy-five in Free, against one hundred and twenty in Slave States.

The votes are finally given in a "College," made up of the electors chosen, in the numbers already mentioned, by the voters of each State; but there cannot (unless in case of some gross treachery) be any division of the strength of any individual State between two candidates, because each voter votes for the whole number of electors to be sent to the College. The thirty-three votes of New York, or the twenty-five votes of Pennsylvania will, therefore, be all thrown for a single candidate.

Fremont's apparent strength, however, regarding the question as merely one between the North and the South, would represent his chances of success in far too promising a light. The South will give him no vote, and party spirit will in all probability detach at least some of the Northern States, from the rest. Mr. Fillmore's pretensions are much more likely to serve the cause of Mr. Buchanan, to than lead to his own election. Nevertheless it has happened, that in the elections for State Officers now going on, and which may be regarded as pilot balloons of the more important election of the head of the Federal Government, the important Slave State Kentucky has gone on the Know-Nothing interest. Should that example be followed in November it will detach twelve votes from the Southern phalanx.

The best hope of the Buchanan interest is probably placed in the possibility that there will be no absolute majority for either of the candidates, and therefore no election. In that case, the choice of President slips from the hands of the people into that of the Legislature. The House of Representatives is the first to choose; each state having one vote. This, it will be seen at a glance, places the Slave power in a much more favorable position than it occupies in the regular form of election; for, whereas the North has a majority of fifty-three votes in the Electoral College, it has but a majority of one in either branch of the Legislature voting by States; the number being fifteen Slave, and sixteen free States. Should the House of Representatives fail to make a choice, the Vice-President administers the government.—*Montreal Herald*.

A bookseller in this city informs us that he has sold 1000 copies of the Life of Fremont, and within the same time, 12 copies of the Life of Buchanan.—*State of Maine*.

The Messrs. Mott have an acre and a half of Oats in Darmouth, the stalks of which are positively six feet in height, and, what is better, beautifully filled.—*Nova Scotian*.

We regret to learn that Mr. John Earle, son of Dr. Earle, M.P.P. of Hampton, came by his death on Tuesday, by accidentally cutting the large artery in his thigh. Alas! how uncertain is life.—*Religious Intelligencer*.