NEW-ORLEANS DAILY

BY BULLITT, BULLEN & MAGNE
Office 82 Chartres-st.

"TRUTH IS OMNIPOTENT AND PUBLIC JUSTICE CERTAIN."

NEW-ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 26, 1839

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR,

With the consent of the Senate.

Jno G Walker, sheriff of the parish of East Feliciana.

Jno. D. Harding, sheriff of the parish of Caddo.

J. B. Rills, sheriff of the parish of Iberville.

Hugh D. Tate, sheriff of the parish of St. Tammany.

Levi H. Bankston, sheriff of the parish of Washington.

Valamat Hebert, sheriff of the parish of West Baton Rouge.

Edmond Mustoe, sheriff of the parish of Lafayette.

Mr. CLAY'S SPEECH.—ABOLITION.

For the purpose of giving Mr. Clay's great speech upon the abolition question entire, we have been compelled to trench upon the space usually allotted to our advertising patrons, and exclude other interesting papers which were intended for insertion to day.

We ask our subscribers to take the speech home with them and read it attentively, and with deliberation. There is not a line of it which may not be committed to memory with advantage. It is the effort of a mind of a nature in all its magnitude, and brought out in a noble place eloquence, which must give the attention and convince the judgment. It is the dispassionate, that hideous monster may shake its gorgon head but it is twisted in vain in his vain.

FROM MEXICO.

The United States sloop of war Levant, Hiram Paulding, esq. commander, arrived at the South West Pass on the 24th inst., from Vera Cruz, whence she sailed on the 14th. After disembarking a quantity of specie, on board a lighter, she proceeded to Pensacola.* We are indebted to the politeness of one of her officers, who arrived in town last evening, for the Mexican *Cosmopolita* of the 24 ult.

Gen. Arista has been liberated, and was daily expected at Mexico.

At Rio Grande, 280 persons had declared for the federal government, as soon as it was ascertained that the federation was established at Mexico.

Col. Escalera was at Tuxpan, on the 22d Jan'y, and expected on a division of the army, and commence hostilities immediately.

The *Cosmopolita* contains several interesting documents, which the likeness of the hour prevents us from inserting. Amongst them is a letter from Gen'l Cruz, to Bustamente, under date of Tampico, 9th Jan'y, approaching the latter very severely for his official conduct, and laying to his charge all the internal troubles of the country, and the continuance of the difficulties with France. Also, the report of the *junta* held at Durango, to devise means for the expulsion of the French, which had been submitted to the nation for approval. It proposes to give the chiefs of the department authority to take such measures as they may think proper for the general good, to organize forces for the defence of the country, and to put the department into a state of defence.

Santa Anna left Vera Cruz for the city of Mexico on the 12th, to enter upon the duties of president of the republic. The *Cosmopolita* speaks of his installation, and gives an extract from his speech upon the occasion, which we translate:

"My sole consecration of my faculties, of my repose of my existence, and *above all of my honor* which my fellow-citizens have demanded, produce that impulse and that co-operation, which shall show that we are an irresistible mass, able to repulse enemies, and give them a just chastisement."

There were no American vessels at Vera Cruz at the time of the departure of the Levant. The block ade of that port was still maintained by an adequate French force.

SPEECH OF Mr. CLAY,

On the subject of Abolition Petitions.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1839.

Mr CLAY, of Kentucky, rose to present a petition and said I have received Mr. President, a petition addressed to the senate and house of representatives of the United States, which I wish to present to the senate. It is signed by several hundred inhabitants of the District of Columbia, and chiefly of the city of Washington. Among them I recognise the name of the highly esteemed chief magistrate of the city, and other respectable names, some of which are personally and well known to me. They express their regret that the subject of the abolition of slavery within the District of Columbia continues to be pressed upon the consideration of congress, and they have earnestly and fervently implored the representatives of the United States of the other parts of the United States, to give to the prayer of the petitioners, that, if at any future period the question of the abolition should arise the abolition of slavery within it, they will double the power of their wishes, when it will be time enough to take the subject into consideration, that they do not, on this occasion, present themselves to congress because they are actuated by any, many or even one, some of them are slaveholders opposed to slavery, but they appear to exercise only justly respect the rights of property, of every description, and I believe they entertain a deep conviction that the continued agitation of the question by those who have no right to interfere with it, is pernicious in its influence on the peace and tranquility of the community, and upon the well being and happiness of those who are held in supposition, finally protest as well against the unconstitutional intention of which they complain, as against any legislation on the part of congress in contemplation therewith. But, as I wish their respectable petition to be themselves heard, I request that their petition may be read. [It was read accordingly, and Mr. Clay proceeded.] I am informed by the committee, to whom I requested me to offer this petition, and believe, I express the sentiments almost unanimous sentiments of the people of the district of Columbia.

The performance of this service affords me, said Mr. Clay, a legitimate opportunity, of which, with the permission of the senate, I mean now to avail myself, of reaching not only on the particular objects of the petition, but upon the great and interesting subject of which it is intimately associated.

It is well known to the senate, said Mr. Clay, that I have thought that the most judicious course with abolition petitions has not been of late pursued by congress. I have believed that it would have been wisest to have received and referred them, without any opposition, to have reported against their object in a few and dispassionate and argumentative appeal to the good sense of the whole community. It has been supposed, however, by a majority of congress that it was unwise to offer either to receive the petitions at all, or to formally received, not to set definitely upon them. There is no substantial difference between those opinions, since both look to an absolute rejection of the prayer of the petitioners. But there is a great difference in the form of proceeding, and Mr. President, some experience in the conduct of this question taught me to believe that a neglect of the established forms is often attended with more serious consequences than the infliction of a positive wrong. We all know that even in private life, a violation of the established usages of polite society often takes place without serious prejudice. I fear, sir, that the abolitionists have acquired a considerable adventitious force by blending with the object which they have in view, a collateral and totally different question, growing out of an alleged violation of the right of petition. I know full well, said Mr. Clay, that nothing, that nothing was remote from the intention of the majority of the senate, from which I differed, to violate the right of petition in any case whatever, according to its judgment, that right could be exercised with safety to the tranquility of the union, or where the object of the petition could be safely or properly granted. Still, it must be owned that the abolitionists have acted, both in the fact of the treatment which their petitions have received in congress, and made injurious impressions upon the minds of a large portion of the community. This I think, might have been avoided by the course which I should have been glad to have seen pursued.

And I desire now, Mr. President, to advert to some of those topics which I think might have been usefully touched on in a report by a committee of the Senate, which I, for my part, would have shocked the congress, if it had not altogether greeted the efforts of a conclusion. I am sensible, sir, that this work would have been accomplished with much greater ability and much happier effect, under the auspices of a committee, that it can be by me. But, anxious as I am, to contribute whatever is in my power to the tranquility, concord, and happiness of this great people, I yield irresistibly impelled to do whatever is in my power, though incompetent as I feel myself to be, to disabuse the public from erroneous impressions, to litigate a subject with the most direful consequences.

There are three classes of persons opposed, or apparently opposed, to the continued existence of slavery in the United States. The first are those who, from sentiments of philanthropy and humanity are conscientiously opposed to the existence of slavery, but, while they are no less opposed, at the same time, to any violation of the peace and tranquility of the Union, or to any encroachment of the powers of the states composing the confederacy. In this class may be included those that peaceful and exemplary society, the Friends, one of whose established principles is an abhorrence of war in all its forms, and the cultivation of peace and good will to mankind. The next class consists of persons, who, if they have been, those who, having been persuaded that the right of property is violated by congress in the power to operate with the abolitionists for the sole purpose of asserting and vindicating that right. And the 3d class are the real ultra abolitionists, who are resolved to persevere in the pursuit of their object at all hazards and regardless of any consequences, however extensive they may be. With the sentiments of the philanthropists, the deficiency of the powers of the general government is nothing; the acknowledged concentrative powers of the states are nothing; even a dissolution of the Union, and the overthrow of a government in which are core afforded the hopes of the civilized world are nothing. A fanaticism has taken possession of their minds, and they pursue it, overlooking all barriers, reckless of all consequences. With this class the immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and in the territory of Florida, the prohibition of the removal of slaves from state to state, or their refusal to admit any new state, composing or forming a slave state, are but as many short stages in a long and slowly road to the distant goal at which they would finally arrive. Their purpose is abolition, peaceably if it can, forcibly if it must. Their object is no longer concealed by the veil; it is avowed and proclaimed. The District of constitutional or at her rightful power, is a totally distinct communities, as alien to the communities in which the subject on which they work, as foreign as the concerns political power over the subject, as if they lived in Africa or Asia, they are as reckless pronounce to the world their purpose to assault forthwith, and without comprehensive sagacity, without moral preparation, three millions of negro slaves, under jurisdictions altogether separated from those under which they live. I have said that immediate abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, in the territory of Florida, and the exclusion of new states were only means towards the attainment of a much more important end. Unfortunately, they are not the only means. Another and much more valuable one is that which this class is endeavoring to employ, of arraying one portion against another portion of the Union.

With that view, in all their leading private and public actions, the alleged horrors of slavery are depicted in the most glowing and exaggerated colors, to excite the imaginations and alienate the hearts of the people of the free states against the people in the slave states in the confederacy. Not satisfied with the publication of the most exaggerated representations of the evils of slavery, they have, in the pursuit of their object, made a direct attack upon the constitutional rights of the slave states, and