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FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 19.

GENERAL HOUSTON.

One of the most remarkable political events of the day is the election of Gen. SAM HOUSTON as Governor of Texas, together with the success of most of the candidates nominated on the same ticket with himself, and of a quasi-opposition majority in the State Legislature. People are asking what it means? how it happens that the all-powerful Democracy of Texas have been overwhelmingly defeated by one who but two years ago, as the representative of the American party, was himself consigned to apparently hopeless obscurity? There is, however, no very occult mystery in the triumph of Gen. HOUSTON, and it will cease to excite astonishment when properly explained.

That the Commonwealth of Texas is devoted to the Democratic party is indubitable. On all occasions when a regular contest has occurred between the Democracy and their opponents, the latter have been worsted. Even HOUSTON himself, with all his brilliant antecedents, his powerful claims upon the public gratitude, his long and eminent services, was unable to win the popular suffrage when fairly and squarely arrayed against the Democratic party. In all human probability, therefore, had the late contest been an open one with clear issues dividing the Opposition from the Democracy, the latter would have been enabled to chronicle another victory.

How then did HOUSTON succeed? Simply because the Democracy advocated doctrines which had little or nothing in common with their own principles. The Convention which nominated Gov. RUSSKS passed resolutions having an awful squinting towards the reopening of the slave trade, and the prospective dissolution of the Union. The ultra State Rights element had the ascendency in that body, and believing itself irresistible, carried matters with a high hand. Nevertheless in its zeal it overshot the mark. The action of the Convention failed to encounter the unanimous assent of the Democracy of Texas. Numbers of good Democrats who were invincibly hostile to the revival of the slave trade, and devotedly attached to the Union, steadfastly declined committing themselves to candidates who stood upon such a platform. To the disaffected segment of the Democracy must be added a very considerable proportion of Whigs and Americans, who naturally were entirely willing to make any compromise, and unite upon any individuals by which the dominant party might be beaten. Consequently when the dissentients assembled in Convention and placed SAM HOUSTON before the people as the Union and anti-slave trade candidate for Governor, it was a settled fact in advance that he would be supported by every man of the Opposition. If then he could obtain a few thousand Democratic votes, his election was sure. SAM this is exactly what occurred. The skillful and eloquent old man canvassed the State with great energy and activity, and in all his speeches he sustained the living issues of the campaign. His adversaries strove hard to overwhelm him with the record of his Americanism, and his votes and speeches on the Kansas question—but in vain. The people looked upon the former as a defunct question, while they regard the latter with more of favor than of censure. The result was that when the election took place, old SAM distanced his competitor, and by the sheer impulse of his own strength secured the triumph of most of his associates on the ticket.

The experiment of the free-soilers has proved disastrous, though it was attempted in a State so pre-eminently Democratic as almost to warrant the expectation that the party managers might have done with it as they pleased. But old SAM HOUSTON has compelled the chivalry to lower their defiant crest, and has unhorsed the stalwart champions of the slave trade and disunion. One of the immediate effects of this signal victory is that sundry Democratic journals of the North, and especially that shrewd intriguer, the New York *Herald*, begin to assert his claims to the Presidential nomination of the Democracy. The *Herald* concludes an elaborate review of the Texas election with the following first-rate notice of General HOUSTON:

"Old Sam Jacinto" is the man to harmonize and save the distracted and crippled Democratic party. He has had nothing to do with their desperate and ruinous feuds of the last four or five years, and thus he is just as good as a new man. Let our Democratic friends of law and order, who expect to have a voice in the Charleston Convention, consider the superior availability of Houston, and remember that availability is the only word that can save the party. The right man to ship in between the Wilgerent Wise and Douglas is that solid old campaigner, General Sam Houston.

It would be curious after all if General HOUSTON—an eleventh hour man—should snatch the glittering prize of the Presidency from the outstretched hands of those who for months, if not years, have been eager to grasp it. Stranger things have happened. Remember the nomination of POLK and PIERCE.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.—We are informed that Jefferson College, in the parish of St. James, which for many years was a favorite seminary in our State, has become the property of Mr. VALCOUR AIME. This intelligent and enterprising gentleman has placed the college in complete repair, and intends very shortly to re-establish it as an institution for the education of the youth of Louisiana. The fine situation and other advantages connected with this splendid college are well known. We understand that Mr. AIME contemplates securing a highly efficient corps of professors, and have heard that he has proffered the important position of President to Mr. OSCAR DUCRE, of the parish of Jefferson. Mr. DUCRE is a gentleman of fine intelligence and rare scholastic attainments, who has devoted many years to profound study. He is in every respect qualified for the office, and we have no doubt that Jefferson College under his efficient superintendence would regain its former exalted reputation. We shall keep our readers informed upon the subject.

NEW BOOKS.—We have received from the publishers, T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS, through J. C. MORGAN & Co., Exchange Place, the following works:

Memoirs of Vidocq—the principal agent of the French police. Written by himself, and translated from the original French expressly for this edition. With illustrative engravings from original designs by Cruik shank. This is a work of extraordinary interest and power, and exhibiting an immense variety of incident and adventure. It affords another illustration of the axiom that truth is often stranger than fiction.

The Betrothed; the Four Maid of Perth—forming part of Peterson's cheap edition of the Waverly novels. They are only 25 cents each, or the complete set, 26 volumes, may be had for $5, and sent free of postage.

Thanks to the officers of the steamship Alabama for late Florida and Havana papers.

PERSONAL.—Private letters from Paris, received by the Arabia, state that Madame Mario! has nearly, or quite, made up her mind to visit the United States, for the purpose of giving a series of dramatic *matinées*. This intelligence will be welcome news to all lovers of the dramatic art; and we trust it may be confirmed by the speedy arrival of this now unquestioned Queen of Tragedy.

It is rumored that the Rothschilds contemplate an early retirement from business.

During a late debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Bright incidentally mentioned the fact that some time since he and Mr. Cobden had each a legacy of £1500 left by a person they had never seen, as some compensation for their efforts to oppose the Russian war.

A letter from Milan, in the *Independenti* of Turin, contains a rather curious anecdote. According to the writer, when the Marquis *Mari Gorsini* at Lejatico, who, as is known, was a prime mover in the revolution at Florence, heard of the preliminaries of peace having been signed at Villafranca, he waited upon an "exalted personage" to ask what had been stipulated with regard to Tuscany. Exalted Personage—Nothing. Marquis—Then the Grand Duke is at liberty to return. Exalted Personage—I don't see why not. Marquis—But then you will interfere to protect him, and re-establish his Government? Exalted Personage—Not I, assuredly. Marquis—But, then, I fear you will allow Austria to receive him. Exalted Personage—That concerns not me. Marquis (rather nonplussed)—But? That means? You will permit me? I mention this conversation to my friends? Exalted Personage—With all my heart; you will oblige me (*cordial*). The moment, walked backward out of the room, with profound bows, and entering Bettinesi with the famous last news. The Bettinesi other moreover of the Italian Bank, have greatly contributed to calm down the first feeling of exasperation which the first feeling of exasperation which the first feeling of exasperation which