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ROLT. H. MILLER, "LIBERTY AND UNION NOW AND FOREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE." EDITOR & PROPRIETOR

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To Magistrates!

☞Just printed, and for sale, for cash, all kinds of Magistrate's Blanks, and Blank Deeds.

More Awful Still!—*The Yellow Fever.*—A private dispatch from New Orleans to Louisville, forwarded to-day to the Merchant's Exchange, of this city, says, that on last Saturday there were *three hundred and fifteen deaths*, from the prevailing epidemic, and on Tuesday, (day before yesterday,) upwards of three hundred from the same cause.

This is appalling beyond anything ever before heard of in the land. Our fair Southern city must barely escape utter depopulation at such frightful and terrific rate of mortality.

The dispatches, too, to our morning papers, bring the sad news that Vicksburg and Natchez are suffering heavily from the spreading of the Southern Scourge.—*St. Louis News, 25th.*

Joaquin, the California Bandit, is dead! Thanks for the riddance. One-third of the usual California bore in the shape of 'news' will now be cut off.—[News.

More Gas—*Santa Anna.*—H gentleman in to-day from New Mexico, reports that some excitement prevails in that Territory, in consequence of a rumor that Santa Anna is raising an army of 90,000 men, and means, to take Califordia, New Mexico, Texas, &c. —[News.

No Burning the Dead.—The N. O. True Delta, of the 16th, says that no dead bodies have been burnt in that city during the pestilence. This is reasonable. It would cost more to burn them than to bury them.

The Yellow Fever is still raging with dreadful fatality in different parts of Cuba; principally among the slaves lately imported from Africa.

The Boston taxes amount to seventy-six cents on the $100.

Dr. James Jones has announced himself an independent Whig candidate, in opposition to the regular nominee, for Congress, in New Orleans, Col. Hunt.

Crops in Europe.—The last accounts from Europe are of a character to awaken much interest. The circular of Joseph Sturge & Co., state that crops are worse than in any year since 1816. That potatoes will be shorter than since 1846; that the wants of England will equal 15,000,000 qrs. of grain, a quantity larger than ever before. France will also want a large quantity, although the Government has foolishly made arrangements to have flour quoted less in August in order to allay fears. But England has exported 8,000 lbs. more of her products the six months of 1853, than last year in the same period, and these are to be paid for from all quarters, and continental exports are depended upon to sustain the exchanges under the corn imports.

Professional Brevity.—"I say, Doctor, when I raise my arm up in this way it almost kills me."

"You devilish fool! what do you raise it for then!"

The last time the yellow fever prevailed in New York as an epidemic was in 1822, thirty-one years ago.

Grain is shipped from Chicago to Buffalo for one cent per bushel. In fact, it is stated, a number of vessels have taken the grain merely for the ballast.

Pension Provisos.—In the Senate of the United States, recently, a pension was granted to Betsy Norton, a widow of 90 odd years, "to continue for life, unless she marry again."

Milton was asked by a friend whether he would instruct his daughter in the different languages; to which he replied: "No, sir, one tongue is sufficient for a woman."

There is a man living in the backwoods, who, being invited to dinner, ate so much bear's meat, that he went home and hugged his wife—an act he had never been guilty of before.

An Outline of Senator Atchison's Speech at Parkville, Aug. 6th, 1853.

Fellow-Citizens:

Permit me before I proceed, to return my thanks to Col. Summers for the kind and courteous manner in which he has presented me to this meeting of my fellow citizens. I appreciate it the more because I have known him and he has known me since we were young men; he a very young man. I have known him always to have been a good citizen and a sound democrat. He has said truly I am here at this time in accordance with your invitation to address you upon the subjects of the organization of the Nebraska Territory, and the construction a railroad by the Federal Government, to connect the valley of the Mississippi with the Pacific Ocean, both subjects of vital importance to the people of the United States and particularly so to the people of this State.

I will now proceed to give you my views upon each of those subjects. You have a right to them and that too without equivocation or reserve on my part. First because I have the honor, in part, to represent the State in the United States Senate. You are my constituents and I am your representative in that branch of the federal legislature, and upon all subjects of public interest, all objects of National legislation you are entitled to my opinions, and it is my duty to consult and advise with you and so far as I can, ascertain your wishes and opinions and act accordingly. Secondly you are my countymen and neighbors and friends. Many of you have stood by me and sustained me in all my political trials from youth until this hour when I am on the verge of the downhill of life. All of you are personal friends, for I do not believe I have a personal enemy in the county.

I will now proceed to give you my views of the Nebraska Territory.

At each session of congress for several years Mr. Douglass, a Senator from the State of Illinois, a gentleman well known throughout the whole Union as a man of high order of talents, a Statesman and a devoted friend to the West, and progress generally, has introduced a bill in relation to this territory. I believe he first gave it the name of Nebraska. Sometimes he gave it one boundary, sometimes another at all times looking to its organization and settlement by white men. These bills he urged with zeal and great ability but was unsuccessful. At the last session of Congress my colleague and friend, the representative from this district introduced a bill to organize a government for this Territory and to promote its settlement. To the introduction of this bill I was opposed, of which Mr. Hall was advised by me. But he differed in opinion with me, as he well had a right to do, and this difference of opinion could not make any change in our relations either personal or political. The reason why I was opposed to the introduction of this bill at that time are first, I believed it should be preceded by treaties with the various Indian Tribes to obtain their consent to the organization of a Territorial Government and to extinguish their title to the land in whole or in part, so that white men might settle there. It is a fact well known that much the largest portion of Territory of any value for agricultural purposes is in possession of the Indians and their lands are designated by metes and bounds. Indeed I am informed by gentlemen who have explored the whole country and know all about it, that with the exception of a narrow strip on the banks of the Missouri river, from the mouth of the big Sioux to the Kansas there is but little land upon which our people could or would settle for agricultural purposes.—Then there is a good country upon the Kansas on both sides, extending to the new Fort now about being established. Then again there is some good country on the head waters of the Osage and on Neosho and other small streams which discharge themselves into the Arkansas. But nearly all this country is laid off by metes and bounds to various Indian tribes as will appear by Col. Benton's map when it shall be lithographed and distributed. But more of this map before I have done. Now one thing I do know that some years ago a delegation of Wyandotts explored that very country on the Kansas and the streams above mentioned to ascertain whether they could select 140,000 acres of land or thereabouts to which under treaty they were entitled for the settlement of their small tribes. They reported that they could find no country there upon which they could settle. That there was not good Agricultural land enough together for the subsistence of their small tribes, about seven hundred in number, men, women and children, and they were too weak to scatter their settlements and defend themselves against the wild tribes. They then purchased 39 sections from the Delawares at the mouth of the Kannsas where they are now settled. In one word I have been told often and again by gentlemen who know, that in all the country called Nebraska, that there is not as much good tilable land as there is in the six counties constituting the Platte country. And many persons in this assembly know that this information is substantially correct. Then take out the country actually occupied by the Indians how much good land will there be open for settlement even if Col. Benton's view of the law be correct?

I thought and still think that the first step to be taken is to treat with the Indians first obtain their consent to the organization of a Government and the cession of all or a part of their lands.

Then again I had great doubts whether it would be to the interest of the State of Missouri and particularly of the Western and Frontier parts of the State. We have ever since the settlement of the State enjoyed, and almost monopolized the frontier trade of every kind, the fur trade, the New Mexico and Chihuahua trade, and have been greatly benefited by the necessary Government expenditures on our borders and of late days by the California and Oregon trade, of vast importance to every part of the State, but especially to the frontier counties.

The western counties of this State are the wealthiest and most populous in it except St. Louis. The people of the Platte country have achieved in fifteen years what it has taken other parts of the State thirty years to do. Not that we have a much better soil, not that we have more enterpise and industry, not that we are nearer the Eastern or Southern markets, not that we have any advantages of navigation or manufactures; but from the *frontier trade.* It gives us the very best market at home for all our products. What is it that has built up our counties and towns but the frontier trade: the towns of St. Joseph, Weston and this flourishing town of Parkville, situated here at the mouth of Platte river, in sight of Nebraska, on the banks of this monarch of all rivers? what is it that has built up the flourishing towns of Kansas, and Westport and others? It is the frontier rade.

Here permit me to mention one fact.—This town of Parkville, although situated on the banks of the Missouri and commanding the commerce of a large and beautiful country could not have reached her present flourishing and porsperous condition without the frontier trade which she enjoyed.—Parkville has almost as much population, or much wealth, and more commerce, although but five or six years old than Liberty, the Seat of Justice for Clay, a rich and populous county and thirty years old. This trade, this commmerce will go west with the settlement of the country. It will accompany our population to the frontier, wherever that shall be. Was it strange, that I should hesitate, that I should doubt, that I should be opposed to the introduction of the bill.

But there was another difficulty of a graver character. Col. Benton, Mr. Webster, Mr Clay and others, told us that the act of 1820, commonly called the Missouri Compromise, excluded slavery from this Territory and that Congress had the power to pass such a law; that it was Constitutional &c. Benton in one of his speeches declared there was no slave territory belonging to the United States.—That Mexican law excluded slavery from the Territories acquired by the treaty with that Republic at the close of the war; that the Missouri Compromise excluded slavery from all the Louisiana Territory north of 36 ◦ 30, not included in the limits of the State of Missouri (this very Territory of Nebraska) Was it then strange that I should hesitate about sustaining Mr. Halls's bill. Missouri is and always has been a slave State. A large portion of my constituents are slaveholders—could it be expected that I would be very anxious about organizing a Territory from which a large portion of my constituents would be excluded. The State of Missouri is now bounded on two sides by free States; organize this Territory, then we are bounded on three sides by free States or Territory.

What would be the effect upon slave property in Missouri and in this neighborhood it requires no prophet to tell. It is a problem not difficult to solve; a pious and philanthropic class of men who observe the "higher law" and whose duty it is to attend to otheers business and think that they are rendering god good service in stealing their neighbors negroes.—But, fellow citizens, that I may be clearly understood in relation to this point, I *now declare to you that I will not vote for a bill to organize a Government for the Territory of Nebraska unless that bill leaves the Tetrritory open for settlement to all the people of the United States without restriction or limitation; open to the slaveholder as well as nonslaveholder.* I will vote for no bill that directly or indirectly makes a discrimination between the citizens of the different states of this Union; North or South; slaveholding or non-slaveholding; no bill that strikes at the equality of the States of this confederacy.

This very Territory was acquired by purchase; the money of the free and the slave States was alike expended in its purchase.—The money of the slave holder and the nonslaveholder was alike demanded and expended in its acquisition.

Let me ask is there any one of this large assembly who is so unjust, so illiberal as to desire his neighbor to be excluded from going into and settling this Territory and taking with him his wife and children, his man servants, and maid sevants and all that he has? If there be one such may the Lord have mercy on his soul!

Yes, fellow citizens, I will say nothing about the power of Congress over this question, although I do not believe that Congress has power to make such discrimination. But this is a veiled question about which wise Statesmen and true patriots differ, but I plant myslf upon the external principles of justice and equality as understood between man and man—the South, the slaveholder and the nonslaveholder have alike advonced and expended their money. They have alike shed their blood for the acquisition of Territory and justice says let them alike joy it. Am I not right in this position? is there a man among you who will arise from his seat and say that I am wrong! I pause for an answer,—then we all agree in this.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation was made to enable the President to negotiate treaties with the Indians, for the purpose of obtaining their consent to the organization of a Government, and to purchase their lands for settlement by white men. This was the object of the appropriation, and I voted for it; and I doubt not but that the object of the appropriation will be carried out by the President before the meeting of the next Congress. If so, then I will vote for and use all the influence I have in favor of a bill to organize a Goyernment and to promote its settlement upon the principles I have indicated.

I know that the red race is doomed to extinction. They will be absorbed and taken up or extinguished; and it will not be long before it will be difficult to trace one drop of their blood running in the veins of any human being. It is a decree of God; one of his eternal purposes, made according to the counsel of his own will. I have have no Indian tears to shed or "dry up."

When Nebraska shall be settled and people shall desire to enter this Union as a State, it is the right of the people to form their institutions to suit themselves. They may adopt slavery as one of their institutions or they may exclude it, as they shall deem expedient. If it is the will of a majority of the people of the Territory at that time to exclude slavery, be it so. It is their business, not ours. Let them present us with a republican form of Government; this is all that should be asked. I would vote its admission into the Union. The Territories of the United States, preparatory to their admission into the Union as States, have the right to form their own institutions; as much so as States of the Union have a right to change their institutions.

No person will doubt the right of South Carolina to abolish slavery? None will doubt the right of Massachusetts to establish slavery. The Territories have the same right when they form their Constitutions and ask admission into the Union as States. Now am I understood? If there is anything doubtful in my position? I will thank any gentleman to catechise me, that I may be clearly and distinctly understood, for I desire upon this question to be understood.—I know that my opinions upon this subject have been by some misunderstood, by others misrepresented. No person questions me. Then I am understood.

I now, fellow-citizens, call your attention to a letter of Col. Benton's to certain gentlemen of Cole county; then more especially to a letter of his to citizens of Monroe county, (the Col. is indefatigable in writing letters). In the former letter he gives it as his opinion that certain portions of the Nebraska Territory is open to settlement by white men, and advises them, if not directly, at least indirectly, to settle it. I was called upon for my opinion in relation to this matter. I gave it as my opinion, that there was no portion of that country open to settlement by white men, and that is the issue. It is a mere question of law, about which there is a difference of opinion, not only between Col. Benton and myself, and others. Col. Benton is a man of great experience, learning and industry—a man of "head and thought," and upon all subjects in which he has no feeling to bias his judgment, I freely admit that his opinion should far outweigh mine; but where there was the *least tinge of interest*, anything that would do him good or harm, such is my want of confidence in the integrity of his mind that I would not place the most implicit confidence in it. But it is not my intention, on this occasion, to use epithets and apply abuse to the Col., for I must do him the justice to say that his letter to the citizens of Monroe county breathes a milder spirit than anything I have seen from him lately. I will not therefore permit him to "out do me" in courtesy of bearing.

In that letter he only charges me with ignorance or misrepresentation, and all the members of both Houses of Congress with ignorance. He does not once use the term nullification, disunion, treason, conspiracy, or anything like it, and these terms generally constitute the warp and woof of his chaste correspondence upon political subjects, This question is not to be settled either by Col. B.'s opinion, or that of your humble servant. It is the province of the executive and judicial departments of the Government to construe and execute the laws. If the officers of the Government, whose duty it is to administer our land laws and to enforce treaties and execute the laws regulating intercourse with the Indians, shall declare the country mentioned in Col. Benton's letter open for settlement, then it will be safe for you to act upon that declaration, and not until then.

Col. Benton says in his Monroe letter, "That connected with the road, and as one of the facilities for making it, is the desirable object of settling the country west of Missouri to New Mexico and Utah; and I have the gratification to inform you again, (as I informed the people in my speeches at Kansas, Westport and Independence) that there is nothing in the state of our Indian relations to prevent it. I informed them that that the Osage and Kansas tribes in 1825, and the Pawnees in 1833, ceded to the United States all their lands south of the Platte and out to Red river and up to the head of the Kansas; and that after reserves to some tribes and grants to others, there still remained belonging to the United States the greatest part of the Territory so ceded; and that it was a violation of no Indian right for our citizens to go and settle any where within the limit of that great cession which had not been included in a reserve or grant to the Indians. Mr. Atchison has denied all this and made a great parade of the pains and penalties, military and civil which any citizen would incur by acting on my representation of the state of the country.

"In consequence of this contradiction and not because he contradicted me, but because it was calculated to do a great injury to the people of the State I have applied to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs here for the information which his office contains, and which being official may deny contradiction from any quarter.

"I sent him a map of the United States with the request that he would mark upon it the outline of the three cessions by the Kansas, Osage, and Pawnee's, and lay off within it the reserves and grants made in favor of Indians. This he has done and I have sent the map to St. Louis to be engraved and published for the public information. It shows that a much less portion of the country has been reserved or ceded to the Indians than I had supposed—that the long narrow strip to the Delawares does not touch the Smoky Hill Fork or the Grand Saline Fork many miles above its mouth, and barely crosses Solomon's Fork; and that all the rivers above that, up to its head, on a line with Bent's Fort, and across from the Arkansas to the Platte and down to the Missouri line in one place and very near it in others; the whole great cession is free from Indian title and open to settlement without any infringement of Indian rights. I say this with a full knowledge of the Act of 1834 which has been so ignorantly or perversely quoted as constituting all this Territory into an "Indian Territory." The Act does no such thing. It neither gives it to the Indians in general, nor to any tribe in particular, nor makes it Territory for Indians. It leaves all belonging to the United States except what was reserved by treaty or ceded by treaty. The only effect of the Act was to have it considered in law as Indian Territory and to annex it judicially to the Missouri Judicial District, for the single purpose of regulating Indian trade upon it and punishing crimes committed upon it."

The Col. informed the people in his Kanzas speech that the Osage and Kansas tribes in 1825 and the Pawnees in 1833 ceded all their lands south of the Platte and out to the Red River and up to the head of the Kansas &c. Well, this is true and every body knew it before the Col. told them of it.—But for what purpose was the cession made? Did such treaties open the land for immediate settlement by white men at that time or at any time since? This is the question. I say no. Col. Benton says. The terms of the treaty with the Pawnees in 1833 are in these words: "Art. 1st. The confederated bands of the Pawnees aforesaid hereby cede and relinquish to the Uuited States all their right, title and interest in and to all the land lying south of the Platte river. Art. 2nd. The land relinquished and ceded hereby, so far as the same is not and shall not be assigned to any tribe or tribes shall remain a common hunting ground during the pleasure of the President for the Pawnees and other friendly Indians, who shall be permitted by the President to hunt on the same.

Surely there is nothing in this treaty with the Pawnees which favors Col. Benton's views. On the contrary every thing is against it. All the land ceded by the Pawnees which "is not and shall not be assigned to any tribe or tribes, shall remain a common hunting ground, &c." The land was granted not for the purpose of settling white men in it, but for other purposes.—The treaties with the Osages and Kansas ceded their lands after making certain reservations to the United States without reservation on the face of the treaties it is true. But I will venture to say without having access to the documents at this time that the object of the purchase of those lands by the United States from the Kansas Osages and Pawnees was for the purpose of locating other Indians; and that it was by both parties so understood, and not for the purpose of settling white men. And in pursuance of this understanding and purpose, very many tribes of Indians were removed from the Northern, North-western and Southern States and settled on those very lands. Such was then the avowed policy of the Government. The object of the Government and the Indians both, was to get the latter peaceably and quietly from the midst of white men and to settle them West of the Mssissippi river in a country where they would be remote from white men, and where they could indulge their ancient manners, customs and habits of living. But the wave has followed them; they are about to be swallowed up. I think I may venture this remark without shedding an Indian tear or being under the necessity of drying it up.

Now Col. Benton says that since 1825 and 1833, the dates of the treaties with the Osages, Kansas and Pawnees, much the largest portions of that country has been open to settlement by white men and is still so. Is it not strange then, fellow citizens, if Col. Benton is right in his opinion thus expressed that the discovery has for the first time been made by him within the last few months? Is it not strange that all the country in the boundaries of Nebraska has been deemed and treated as Indian Country by our Government and by our citizens? But now all at once our old Senator has broken out, as we say, in a "fresh place." He has found a "mare's nest." But now, in what I have just said, I may have done one General Sutherland (commonly called Old Nebraska) injustice; who as I am informed, was among you a year or two since beating up recruits to settle Nebraska; declaring that this country which will be designated on Col. Benton's map open for settlement. But you declared the man crazy; and the officers of the Government threatened him with the penalties of the law. But now all is changed. I do not mention Sutherland's name for the purpose of depriving Benton of the glory of being the discoverer of this new doctrine.

Col. Benton admits that there are acts of Congress forbidding settlements on the United States lands. But he says they are a dead letter on the statute book. Now this I deny, not for the purpose of contradicting him, but because he is mistaken; for these laws are every day enforced by the courts. I will not say he is either *ignorant or perverse.* I also deny that any person can under any law of Congress obtain a pre-emption right by settling on any land in Nebraska. I deny that Col. Benton's map proves any thing for him. His position is that there is Territory in Nebraska open to settlement by white men. I deny it. He may be right and I may be wrong. But one thing I cannot be wrong in, and that is his map proves nothing for him. Col. Benton says that I have made a 'a great parade' of pains and penalties, military and civil, which citizens would incur by acting on my (B.'s) representations of the state of the country." Now, I made no parade about the matter. "*Parading*" is the peculiar characteristic of the gentleman himself.—He has "paraded" a map which I say proves nothing for him. Instead of calling on the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the map why did he not simply ask him or the Secretary of the Interior for his opinion whether any country west of Missouri or Iowa could under the existing laws and treaties be settled by white men? If so, what country? This would have settled the matter with me and would have been more satisfactory to our people who desire to emigrate to Nebraska. But the Colonel has a map which is of but little service in settling the question at issue. The day after I read the Col.'s letter to the citizens of Monroe I addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Interior asking him his opinion as to whether any portion of the Nebraska Territory is open to settlement by white men? And if so, what portion? If the Secretary can consistently with his duty answer me; then the question is settled. He is the officer of Government who has charge of the administration of our public lands and Indian relations. The very man whose opinions are to be respected in relation to those subjects. They are to be observed unless the President orders otherwise or they are reversed by the decision of the Courts. I expect an answer from the Secretary in a few weeks. When I receive it, I will ask the favor of friend Park to publish it in his very respectable paper for the information of all concerned. I have no pride of opinion in the matter. I care not whether Col. Benton should be right or wrong. Indeed I rather hope he may be right. Many of our citizens are anxious to go into that coun'ry. I trust that they may be gratified. But Col Benton says that the opinion I expressed, dissenting from him was calculated "to do great injury to the people of the State."—Now I do not see how my opinion can do the least injury to the people of the State. If they act upon it they can sustain no injury, whether it be right or wrong. But if they act upon Col. Benton's opinion *and he should be mistaken in the law*, then they will sustain great injury. For it is no small matter for a poor man to leave his home in Missouri and travel hundreds of miles into the Indian country and then be driven back. I have witnessed such scenes; and would be very unwilling to bear the weight of all the curses of men, women, and children, which will be heaped on the head of the honorable gentleman if he should be mistaken in his opinion. I, therefore, again, at the risk of doing "great injury to the people of the State," advise them not to act upon the opinion of our old Senator until they hear further.

If Col. Benton should be right in his opinion he will have white men and red men mixed up together. Indeed we will have a belt of country on the borders of the States of Missouri and Iowa filled with Indians; and west of the Indians a layer of white and then again a layer of Indians.—We know without conjecture what will be the state of the case. There will be difficulties without end. The savage and civilized man can not herd together.

But, fellow-citizens, I will now give you briefly my opinion of the Railroad to connect the valley of the Mississipbi river and the Pacific coast. I am in favor of the construction of such a road by the General Government for that purpose. I will vote to appropriate land and money. I believe it absolutely necessary for the preservation of the integrity of this Union. I believe it necessary for the promotion of commerce and indispensably necessary for the defence of the Pacific coast in time of war. For the first and last reasons I am anxious for the commencement and consummation of this great work. As to where it shall commence or where it shall end, that is a matter to be determined when the surveys and operations now in progress shall be completed, And the route it must take between the termini is entirely dependent upon those surveys.

We may bluster about a Northern, a Southern and a Central route, but it all amounts to nothing. Nothing but the actual survey can determine it. When this preliminary work is done, then the best route and the one most conducive to the interests of all the States will be adopted. I have been represented by my enemies as being opposed to the whole measure. Then again I have been represented as being in favor of a Southern route commencing at Galveston Texas running by El-Paso; at another time in favor of one commencing at Memphis and running through Arkansas, Texas &c., or of any route that would be most inconvenient and prejudicial to the interests of Missouri. Now the man who originated these charges and those who published and repeated them know that they (I will not say lie) have "said the thing that is not so." It is false on its face. I am and have been a citizen of this State more than half of my years. All the interest I have on earth is here. You know it; and you scorn the men who conceived, uttered and published the falsehood. You know well that I have not and will not desert the interests of the State and the people amongst whom I live. The people who have from youth to manhood conferred the highest honors upon me, and confided their interests to my keeping. You know that I have received abuse from some for claiming all your rights, and perhaps demanding more than you were entitled to.

But, fellow citizens, Col. Benton says that the road to the Pacific, must commence at Kansas and run through a pass in the Rocky Mountains, the pass of which Leroux and Fremont speak and through which Beal is to travel on his way to California and no where else, and Benton and Benton men put me down against it "because of my dislike of Col. Benton." Now I do not love Benton; that is well known. But if his route shall prove a route at all and is the cheapest and best route and most to the interest of Missouri I will vote for and sustain that route. But fellow citizens, I doubt very much whether the Congress of the United States can agree on the exact point of beginning or ending this railroad, or the course it shall pursue between the termini. Let me ask you if the people of Platte Co. should they take the vote to-morrow, could agree as to the beginning, the end or the course of a road across the country from the Clay line to the Missouri river. Suppose that funds for its construction were given for that purpose. The northern portion of the county would to a man, say nothing of the women and children declare that the interest of the county required the road to begin at Smithland and run from there to New Market and terminate at Iatan on the Missouri river. Another portion of the people would say that it should commence at Barry run through Platte City and terminate at Weston. Another portion of you would say let it commence at Smithland or Barry and terminate here at Parkville, this beautiful and flourishing young town. Well when the votes are cast and counted you have about one third of the number for each route. So it will be with the thirty one States of this Union. We may bluster in Congress and out of it. We may call it the central route and bawl Leroux and Fremont's pass until we are hoarse and it will end in nothing there. *It may catch gulls here.* There is no doubt in my mind that a large majority of Congress and the people of the United States are in favor of the construction of a railroad. Col. Benton and his friends will have it, that Atchison, Phelps, &c., are opposed to the great road to India. It was proposed at the last sessing of Congress by amendment offered to Gwinn's bill to commence the road at Galveston, Vicksburg an I Memphis, All such propositions were voted down by large majorities. It was proposed by Mr. Chase of Ohio to commence the road at a point between the South West corner of Missouri and the Council Bluffs. This proposition was withdrawn. My opinion is that this matter of the termini and route of the road will of necessity be left to the discretion of the President, and there I am willing to leave it. General Pierce has no personal interest in it. He represents no local interest, but the interest of the whole Union is in his keeping. So much for the railroad.

I have been called by Col. Benton and his friends a Nullifier, a Disunionist, a Secessionist, &c., To these charges I plead not guilty and I have often called for the proof. I defy Col. Benton or any of his friends to put their fingers upon any vote that I have given; one speech that I have made, one act that I have done to sustain their charges. My approval of and signature to the Southern address is offered as evidence of the charges above alluded to.—That address contained nothing but a narrative of grievances inflicted by the North upon the South by their legislation and otherwise. This was all, a very large majority of all the Southern men then in Congress signed that paper, and among them appears the names of the most illustrious Statesmen and purest patriots of the South. At the head of the list stands the name of Wm. R. King, our late lamented Vice President, who was voted for and sustained for that high office by the very men who condemn me. I could mention others who hold the highest places of honor and trust in the Government, who signed that paper. Fellow-citizens, I will give an out-line of my remarks in writing to Mr. Park for publication in his excellent and useful paper, that my opinions on the topics discussed to-day may distinctly be understood and recorded. I have too long trespasssed on your time and will conclude by thanking you for the patient and attentive hearing you have given me; and my thanks are especially due to the ladies who have honored me with their presence on this occasion.

From the Plains.

Mr. John Seville, a trader, just in from the plains, corroborates the recent reports of the big Indian fight near Fort Kearney. The Chiennes, assisted by detachments from the Camanches, Kiowas, Snake, Crow and Sioux, comprised the army of the plains; and the Pawneos, Iowas, and others, composed the army of the border Indians.—This battle was brought about by no particular cause, except that the Chiennes had challenged the Pawnees to a pitched battle which the latter accepted. Our informant derived his information from both parties, the conquered and the conquerors, which computes the result of the battle at about one hundred and fifty killed and wounded on the part of the Chiennes and their allies, and about thirty on the side of the Pawnees and their friends. The Chiennes were advised against this battle by the Sioux, but did not heed their counsel. Both parties concur in the statement as to the result.—The Indians of the plains were badly whipped, losing the flower of their men. The Pawnees declare that they will exterminate the Chiennes. In the late battle the Indians of the plains had the advanthge until about one hundred riflemen of the Pottawatamies joined in the fight and put them them to the route!—*Platte Argus.*

"I havn't seen your wife lately," said a gentleman to another, in an omnibus. "No," was the reply; "she has retired from society for a while, for the purpose of attending to one of those little affairs which add to the duties of the census taker." Modest way of telling it, very!

Lodgings are so scarce in Australia that even lamp posts begin to bear premiums. A friend writes us that the night he arrived in Port Philip, he paid a dollar and a half for an out door lodge, a dollar for lying in the gutter, and fifty cents extra for resting his head on the curb stone. Steep prices, these.

Mr. Wayland, the Postmaster at Roanoke, recently arrested and taken to Fayette, charged with abstracting a check on one of the St. Louis Banking houses from the mail, was honorably acquitted after an investigation of the matter.

"Will you have some catsup?" asked a gentleman of Aunt Priscilla, at a dinner table. "Dear me, no!" she replied with a shudder. "I am fond of cats in their place; but I should as soon think of eating dog soup!"