

From the Cincinnati Gazette.

### THE CRUSADE AND THE CURSE.

THE National Intelligencer quoted some days ago an article of ours on the crusade against Mexico, and the "Union," in transferring it to its columns, remarks:

"The facts, then, are these: the *London Times* was taking the part of Mexico against our own country. It sought to encourage Mexico, even into war, by telling her that she might worst us in the campaign; that she need not dread an invasion; that we had not more troops than were necessary to garrison our own posts; we had none to spare for the invasion of Mexico. Was it not right in us to expose the blunder into which the *London Times* had fallen? to warn the British ministers, to warn Mexico herself, against the consequences of acting upon these erroneous views? to entreat Great Britain not to meddle with us; not to stimulate Mexico to hostility; not to force us to take California, and there to keep it? Was the spirit of our article, in attempting to prevent all the injuries it would bring on us, wrong? Was it wrong in us to tell the *London Times* that, though we might not have troops enough, yet volunteers would start at the first sound of the bugle by the government of the United States sufficient to overrun Mexico, occupy the halls of Montezuma, and conquer the valleys of California? Whose spirit, then, is the best, and the most patriotic—his, who, seeing the blunder of the *London Times*, sought to correct it, and to point out the danger of provoking a war, or to encourage the resources of a free and enterprising people, or the *London Times*, who would encourage Mexico to plunge into war, by the hope of impunity and the prospect of success?"

Let us, on this question of peace or war, waive all minor matters. The Union need not fear the loyalty of any party, if conflict comes with any foreign nation. Americans will be Americans in that hour. Oppose its coming—regret it—dread it: all this may be with a portion of them. But there will be no fear, no division, when the hour is: we shall all move together as one man—as one party. Nor should the Union trouble itself about the *London Times*. That journal neither aways the British public, nor speaks for the British ministry. And if it did both, the Official misunderstands the real drift of its articles about Mexico, if we read them aright. But let the *Times* go. It was not the reference to that; it was not the notice of any blunders committed by that journal; it was not for any of the suggestions thrown out by the Union, that we were lead to speak and write as we did; it was the apparent seeming purpose of the Official, strong as his leading friends, to keep alive the spirit of the land; to inflame the people unnecessarily, only, against foreign power, in preparation for conflict; to excite, in speech, and pretension. This it was dreaded, both for the present and for the future, and this alone. And this dread is in nowise diminished by the explanatory article of the Union; for that assigns as the reason why it spoke as it did the purpose to "entreat Great Britain not to force us to take California, and, therefore, not to tempt us to keep it." Why should Great Britain fail for us to do wrong?

Why tempt us to excess—to a boundless ambition for conquest? But we shall pass by all these matters, and, if the Union (to whose general fairness and gentlemanly bearing we bear cheerful testimony) will lend us its ear for a few moments, we will give some of the causes for our anxiety on this important subject.

1. The social position of the West, as it knows, is somewhat peculiar. From a variety of causes the ambition with all to be first, to get up in the world, is as hot as ever inflamed or afflicted the human breast. The competition in trade—the intense, fierce energy with which business and labor are driven for money—not for its sake simply, but for the power it gives, and the rank it confers—these things are as marked upon the face of our society as the foam on the storm-beaten wave. What climate stops our adventurers? What peril, by land or sea, disheartens or damps their efforts? What scheme, however mighty, or bold, alarms their fears or retards their action? For self-advancement, for social power and position, they will brave anything and everything—disease, privation, famine, even death itself. This is a characteristic of the social temper of the west.

2. Our political ambition is, if possible, bolder and more reckless than our social ambition. We have been educated in strife. We love it, and look for it, as a necessary aliment of life. The people enter into it, indeed, as if it were all in all to them, and consequently party is carried into everything, and, with few exceptions, rules everything. For proof of this we need only look at the gigantic undertakings by western states—their failure—the manner in which that failure was met by them—and the character of their legislators, at home and at Washington. The latter consideration alone will explain all we would say. For one of the most alarming symptoms we have noticed is, the character of the representation, as a whole, sent by the west to their home legislatures and to congress. It is young, inexperienced, reckless, ignorant, coarse, revolutionary in spirit, and, in part, infidel at heart. It scrambles for office by using the most polluting means, and, when in office, puts itself in market for higher advancement, or a surer position, with the most corrupt policy. Let it not be said here that any party in the west lacks the necessary virtue or intelligence to prevent this state of things. They do not. They have enough of both, under a proper self-control, to meet any crisis in a wide and wise spirit, and to do for the country what the country might need in it. But they have been carried away, maddened and blinded by party excess and political ambition, and they have thus impulsively sacrificed, so far as they could sacrifice them, their immediate interests and the interests of the state and nation, for the present and future.

3. Our location—the very natural advantages we enjoy—give a vigor, an energy to human life, which, with these operating causes, surround us with peril. No man can be great without reverence, a love of home, steadiness and patience. No nation can be great or permanent without these same qualities. Look at the west, with this view, geographically. There is hardly a spot, distant or near, which may not be reached in a few days. If the wayfarer stands on the wharf at Cincinnati, he knows, as he hears the escape of steam, that he may be at the Balize or the Falls of St. Anthony ere he is missed almost from home; and