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(From the Liverpool Courier.)

An article in the *Quarterly Review* for April embodies some important extracts from a remarkable pamphlet by Dr. Channing, on the annexation of Texas to the United States. The doctor vehemently reprobates the iniquitous dismemberment of Texas from the Mexican confederation, and the disgraceful cupidity of American citizens in promoting the revolt, partly from "an unappeasable hunger for Texan land," and partly because a resolution of the Mexican government had planted a barrier to the extension of slavery and slave interests in any portion of the territories subject to its authority. He dreads the evil consequences which may flow from the contemplated introduction of the new state,—internally, by threatening the dissolution of the empire, and externally, by bringing it into collision with foreign powers, interested in the commerce of the Mexican gulf, and particularly with Great Britain, who has not only her West Indian possessions to protect, but is like wise engaged in an armed interference for the suppression of the African slave trade, an aggravation of which, Dr. Channing argues, must inevitably follow from the carrying out of the views entertained by the Americans in the seizure of Texas. He then proceeds to some general reflections upon the condition and prospects of his country. The following observations on the moral aspect of America at the present moment, from such a man as Dr. Channing, are worthy of the deepest attention:

I have said that we shall expose our freedom to great peril by entering a new career of crime. We are corrupt enough already. In one respect, our institutions have disappointed us all. They have not wrought out for us that elevation of character, which is the most precious, and, in truth, the only substantial blessing of liberty. Our progress in prosperity has indeed been the wonder of the world; but this prosperity has done much to counteract the ennobling influence of free institutions. The peculiar circumstances of the country and of our times have poured in upon us a torrent of wealth; and human nature has not been strong enough for the assault of such severe temptation. Prosperity has become dearer than freedom. Government is regarded more as a means of enriching the country than of securing private rights. We have become wedded to gain, as our chief good. That, under the predominance of this degrading passion, the higher virtues, the moral independence, the simplicity of manners, the stern uprightness, the self-reverence, the respect for man as man, which are the ornaments and safeguards of a republic, should wither, and give place to selfish calculation and indulgence, to show and extravagance, to anxious, envious, discontented strivings, to wild adventure, and to the gambling spirit of speculation, will surprise no one who has studied human nature. The invasion of Texas by our citizens is a mournful comment on our national morality.—

Whether without some fiery trial, some signal prostration of our prosperity, we can rise to the force and self-denial of freemen, is a question not easily solved. There are other alarming views. A spirit of lawlessness pervades the community, which, if not repressed, threatens the dissolution of our present forms of society. Even in the old States, mobs are taking the government into their hands, and a profligate newspaper finds little difficulty in stirring up multitudes to violence. When we look at the parts of the country nearest Texas, we see the arm of the law paralysed by the passions of the individual. Men take under their own protection the rights which it is the very office of government to secure. The citizen, wearing arms as means of defence, carries with him perpetual proofs of the weakness of the authorities under which he lives. The substitution of self-constituted tribunals for the regular course of justice, and the infliction of immediate punishment in the moment of popular frenzy, are symptoms of a people half reclaimed from barbarism. I know not that any civilised country on earth has exhibited, during the last years, a spectacle so atrocious as the burning of a coloured man by a slow fire, in the neighbourhood of St. Louis! and this infernal sacrifice was offered not by a few fiends selected from the whole country, but by a crowd gathered from a single spot. Add to all this, the invasions of the rights of speech and of the press by lawless force, the extent and toleration of which oblige us to believe that a considerable portion of our citizens have no comprehension of the first principles of liberty.

It is an undeniable fact, that, in consequence of these and other symptoms, the confidence of many reflecting men in our free institutions is very much impaired. Some despair. That main pillar of public liberty, mutual trust among citizens, is shaken. That we must seek security for property and life in a stronger government, is a spreading conviction. Men, who in public talk of the stability of our institutions, whisper their doubts (perhaps their scorn) in private.

The diabolical outrage at St. Louis, to which allusion is made in the above passage, we brought before our readers some time in 1826. The wretched victim of republican ferocity was a mulatto named Mackintosh. And to show that such monstrous barbarity as that of roasting a fellow-creature alive, without even the pretence of a trial, can in America find palliators amongst the higher classes, as well as perpetrators amongst the lower, we quoted the expression of a learned judge at the ensuing assizes, in reference to this foul proceeding, namely, that, "after all, the sentiment which prompted the people to burn Mackintosh was a generous sentiment!"

Notwithstanding the heated eulogiums of the partial, the visionary, or the factiously discontented on this or the other side of the Atlantic, the truth is becoming every day more apparent, that America has not proved, and will not prove, democratic institutions to be the best calculated for insuring the stability of political society, or for promoting morality, order, and happiness amongst its members. To conclude that, because the Unit-

ed States have existed and flourished so long as a republic, therefore they will continue to exist and flourish while they retain the same form of government, is in the highest degree rash and fallacious. The United States are peculiarly situated. The vast expanse of uncultivated land to the westward, affording an outlet for the utmost accumulation of human enterprise and activity, together with the ample return, in almost every department of industry, for capital and labour, has hitherto gone far to divert the attention of the Americans from the defects of their political institutions, and to prevent any great disproportion of labourers to employment, which wherever it exists, is found a fertile source of social grievances and mischiefs.

The antagonist interests of the northern and southern states, which have already produced unpleasant and even dangerous consequences, from one of the most potent of the elements which, in the estimation of the clear-sighted judges, are gradually working towards a dissolution of the Union. And another of the seeds of division, and therefore of probable ultimate separation, is SLAVERY. A more egregious solecism could not be pointed out, than that of a nation which boasts of its liberal institutions, and passes itself off as a model of a free community nourishing within its bosom, and protecting by savage laws, one of the worst forms and causes of human degradation. A growing disparity of feeling on this point, between the free and the slave-holding states may lead to more serious disagreements; or jealousy and alarm, on the part of the former, at the greedy, aggressive policy of their southern rivals, may bring on the catastrophe still earlier.

Texas (says Dr. Channing) is to be annexed to us for the avowed purpose of multiplying slaveholding states, and thus giving political power. This cannot, ought not to be borne. It will justify, it will at length demand, the separation of the States.

Speculations, however, as to the probable destiny of the United States, must consist, for the most part, on vague conjecture. In tracing the features of American society as now presented to us, under the influence of causes already in full operation, we tread upon sure ground. The picture before us is drawn by no unfriendly hand: it is the work of one who is himself a republican—a citizen of the country of which he writes—a man of acute observation, and of high character and attainments. The view is humiliating enough, no doubt; but there is too much reason to believe, that it is by no means overdrawn. Generally speaking, the only measure of re-

spectability in the U. S. is wealth. The universal object of pursuit is gain; and the tendency of such a pursuit, when it takes precedence of every other, is to contract the mind, to blunt the moral perceptions, and to beget a grovelling and sordid taste. The absence of religious feeling is to be accounted for, partly by the absence of any public recognition of a settled form of belief; in other words, by the want of a Church establishment. When the state shows itself of no religion, by being indifferent to all, nothing else is to be expected, than that the people, who always copy from their superiors, should be of no religion likewise. Another great cause of the low state of morals in America is the want of a respectable aristocracy, which in England, whatever may be its private or individual vices, certainly gives a tone to society which is of the highest use in counteracting the baser spirit which is engendered by an exclusive devotion to the acquisition of wealth. Comparing Dr. Channing's account of the state of society in the United States, with the rational freedom and salutary legal restraint to which we have been accustomed under our own mixed constitution we think we see greater reason than ever to avoid the specious theories of dreaming philosophers, and to prize more highly those tried institutions which afford a larger share of real and permanent liberty, and of social security and happiness, than has ever been enjoyed on any other portion of the globe, at any period of the world's history.

The Royal plate at Windsor is kept in one tolerably-sized room and an adjoining closet, and is valued at £1,750,000 stg. ! There is one gold service, formed by George IV. to dine 130 guests; some pieces were taken the Spanish Armada, some brought from India, Burmah, China, &c. One vessel belonging to Charles XII. of Sweden, and another to the King of Ava; a peacock of precious stones, valued at £30,000; & a tiger's head, (Tipoo's footstool, with a solid ingot of gold for his tongue, and crystal teeth; numerous and splendidly ornamented gold shields, one made from snuff boxes, value 8,000 guineas; and 30 doz. of plates, which cost 20 guineas each plate. The magnificent wine cooler, made for George IV., is enclosed with plate glass; its superb chasing and other ornamental works occupied two years, and two full grown persons may sit in it without inconvenience.

The most certain cure for a Tooth Ache, is to fill the mouth with cold water, and to sit on the fire till it boils.

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