[illegible] advantages we happen to possess.—Position and climate, and the bounteous resources that nature has scattered with so liberal a hand—even the diffused intelligence and elevated character of our people—will avail us nothing, if we fail sacredly to uphold those political institutions that were wisely and deliberately formed, with reference to every circumstance could preserve, or might endanger, the blessings we enjoy. The [illegible] framers of our constitution legislated for our country as they found it. [illegible] with the eyes of statesmen and patriots, [illegible] at the sources of [illegible] but they [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] endanger the [illegible] carefully weighed and the [illegible] government had [illegible] concession and [illegible] which the [illegible] allowed for a rule [illegible] equal [illegible] to remain [illegible]

A general fear that the breed [illegible] been upon [illegible] drawn around the [illegible] authority; and to the [illegible] was left unimpaired [illegible] power over the innumerable [illegible] on the internal government of a [illegible] public exempting such only [illegible] to the concerns of [illegible] or its [illegible] a united community. [illegible] nations of the world.

The last, and perhaps the greatest, of the prominent sources of discord and disaster supposed to lurk in our political condition, was the institution of domestic slavery.—Our forefathers were deeply impressed with the delicacy of this subject, and they treated it with a forbearance so evidently wise, that, in spite of every sinister foreboding, it never, until the present period, disturbed the tranquility of our common country.

Such is result is sufficient evidence of the justice and patriotism of their course; it is evidence not to be mistaken that an adherence to it can prevent all embarrassment from this, as well as from every other anticipated cause of difficulty and danger.—Have not recent events made it obvious to the slightest reflection, that the least deviation from this spirit of forbearance is injurious to every interest that of humanity included?—Amidst the violence of excited passions, the generous and fraternal feeling has been sometimes disregarded; and, standing as I now do before my countrymen in this high place of honor and of trust, I cannot refrain from anxiously invoking my fellow-citizens never to be deaf to its dictates.

Perceiving, before my election, the deep interest this subject was beginning to excite, I believe it a solemn duty to make known my sentiments in regard to it—and now, when every motive for misrepresentation has passed away, I trust that they will be carefully weighed and understood. At least they will be my standard of conduct in the path before me. I then declared that, if the choice of my countrymen should fall upon me, my course would be guided by the principles of the Constitution, and by a firm but temperate and conciliatory perseverance in every attempt, from the [illegible] to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, against the wishes of the slaveholding States; and also with a firm determination to resist the [illegible] with it in the States where it exists. I repeated also to my fellow-citizens, with fullness and frankness, the reasons which led me to this determination. The result numerises me to believe that they have approved and are confided in, by a majority of the people of the United States, including those who in my most misguided zeal I fear only remains to add, that no full conviction with these views can ever be given, any constitutional sanction.

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These opinions have been adopted in the firm belief that they are in accordance with the spirit that actuated the venerated fathers of the republic, and that succeeding experience have proved them to be humane, patriotic, expedient, honorable and just. If the agitation of this subject was intended to return the stability of our institutions, enough has occurred to show that it has signally failed; and that in this as in every other instance, the apprehensions of the timid and the hopes of the wicked for the destruction of our government, are again destined to be disappointed. Here and there, indeed, scenes of dangerous excitement have occurred; terrifying instances of local violence have been witnessed; and a reckless disregard to the consequences of their conduct, has exposed individuals to popular indignation; but neither masses of the people nor sections of the country, have been swerved from their devotion to the bond of union, and the principles it has made sacred. It will be ever thus. Such attempts at dangerous agitation may periodically return, but with each, the object will be better understood. That predominating affection for our political system which prevails throughout our territorial limits; that calm and enlightened judgment which ultimately [illegible] our people as one vast body; will [illegible] at hand to resist and control every [illegible] domestic, which aims, or [illegible] to overthrow our institutions.

* * *

[illegible] policy has been so [illegible] constitution a [illegible] leaves little [illegible] were willing [illegible] experience [illegible] friendship [illegible] compatible [illegible] welfare [illegible] and [illegible] advantages resulting [illegible] We endeavour to conduct our intercourse with openness and sincerity, promptly avowing our objects and seeking to establish that mutual frankness which is beneficial in the dealings of nations as of men. We have no disposition, nor do we claim a right to meddle in disputes whether internal or foreign, that may arise between other countries; regarding them in their actual state, as a social community, and practising a strict neutrality in all their controversies. Well-knowing the tried valour of our people and our exhaustless resources, we do not anticipate or fear any designed aggression; and in the consciousness of our own [illegible] we feel [illegible] that we shall [illegible] to [illegible] rights, without [illegible]

In approaching, [illegible] the [illegible] honoured country [illegible] promise that [illegible] myself that I will [illegible] office I am about to fill, I [illegible] settled purpose to maintain [illegible] of my country, which, I trust, will [illegible] the errors I commit.

In receiving from the people a trust twice confided to my honoured predecessor, and which he has discharged so faithfully and so well, I know that I cannot expect to perform the arduous task with equal ability and success. But united as I have been in his counsels, a daily witness of his exclusive and unsurpassed devotion to his country's welfare, agreeing with him in sentiments which his countrymen have so often supported, and permitted to partake largely of his confidence, I may hope that some thing of the same cheering approbation will be found to attend upon my path. [illegible] I but express, with my own, the wishes of all—that he may yet long live to enjoy the brilliant evening of his well spent life, and for myself, conscious of but one desire, faithfully to serve my country. I then [illegible] without fear, on its justice and its [illegible]. Beyond that, I look to the gracious protection of the Divine Being, whose strengthening support I humbly solicit, and [illegible] fervently pray to look down upon [illegible] May it be among the [illegible] prerogatives to bless [illegible] with happiness and with [illegible] [illegible]

MARTIN VAN BUREN.

[illegible]

[illegible] TO PORTUGAL.

Candia is worse than [illegible] possession of it [illegible] gives jealousy to the Greeks, and weakens them in every possible way. In the event of a rupture with Turkey, a large force would be required for its defence, which might be much more advantageously employed elsewhere: in the case of a rupture with Greece it would be subject to constant marauding visits, which his cumbersome line of battle ships would never be able to prevent; and, whenever a general war again convulses Europe, far from being allowed to remain quietly in his hands, it would be one of the points first contested for by the belligerents. Mahommed Ali is too clear-sighted not to be aware of these circumstances, and to see that it is merely the mutual jealousy of the European powers that causes this valuable island to be placed as a kind of deposit in his hands; and there can be but little doubt he would willingly barter away the honorary distinction of being its governor for any personal benefit, however slight. The advantages offered to Great Britain by the possession of Candia, are, on the other hand, incalculable; and since the boundaries of Russia may now be considered as advanced to the Dardanelles and Cape Matapan, (for the impotent kingdom of Greece, if suffered to exist, must always act in obedience to the Czar's dictates,) it behoves Great Britain to take up a position, to be at hand to frustrate the further ambitious projects of that power. Malta is no longer sufficiently near the Levant to protect our trade and give timely support to Greece, Syria, and Egypt, in case of need; particularly, keeping in view the change that will be effected in naval warfare by the application of steam. The same may be said of all the Ionian islands, except Cerigo, which, however, does not possess a port that could contain a collier, much less shelter a fleet. Candia, whilst it is so situated as to watch the whole of the Levant, the entrances to the Dardanelles and Adriatic, and the northern coast of Africa, possesses, in the Bay of Suda, a port which might be rendered as strong as either Port Mahon or La Valetta. The island is capacious enough to contain a force of sufficient strength to have [illegible] service, in the event of an armed intervention being necessary; and it would not be most of the British possessions of Great Britain in the Mediterranean, be independent upon other countries for its supplies. The expense attendant on its occupation would, doubtless, in the first instance, be heavy, considering the wretched condition of the fortified points, harbours, roads, &c.; but the extraordinary fertility of its soil would, under proper management, soon enable it to repay this outlay; and, in the meanwhile, England might spare herself the expence of protecting five of the seven islands composing the absurd Ionian republic. Whilst Great Britain would thus improve her own position by the acquisition of Candia, she would, at the same time be [illegible] Egypt, (which it is clearly her policy to do,) by adding that power of an [illegible] and allowing it to direct its undivided energies towards Syria. From what [illegible] [illegible] Russia remonstrate, having, without her concurrence, possessed herself successively of Poland, Bessarabia, Moldavia, Wallachia, and Georgia? Could Austria or Prussia, both daily interfering in the petty affairs of Germany and Italy? Could France, which continues to occupy Ancona, and in contempt of the [illegible] retains possession of Algiers? The best answer to our [illegible] is, that the surest way of avoiding a war is to be prepared for one; and if our preponderance in the east be worth preserving, it can now only be upheld by occupying Candia and supporting Egypt.

Morning Chronicle.

Unequal Mortalities.—It appears, that in London, when one person in 100 dies annually, two are constantly sick. Calculating on this data and the yearly mortality of England and Wales, the total number disabled by sickness, will be at least 600,000 persons annually; the same proportions be extended to Scotland and Ireland, 1,120,000. The [illegible] gives these results: [illegible] year [illegible] is [illegible] attack children under [illegible] by external injury [illegible] an average each [illegible] And from records it would seem that [illegible] labourers lose [illegible] of the lifetime. The [illegible] Company's labourers [illegible] proportion.—*Westminster Statistics.*

United States and Mexico.—We are not getting to understand the actual state of our relations with Mexico. All the letters by the last vessel from Vera Cruz, represent the state of feeling among the Mexicans as sufficiently hostile to this country. A letter of the 11th January, says,—"Affairs in this quarter continue in a most unsettled state, and bear an aspect of war with the United States. A resolution is now before Congress to pass a non-intercourse act as it said with our country, and another to declare a war. But I hope the leaders of the government may not act thus unwisely." Another letter says, "The prevalent opinion of the Mexicans is, that a rupture is about to take place between them and the United States, and they are so infatuated as to desire it." The *Washington Globe* intimates, that a special message on the subject of our relations with Mexico, is about to be presented to Congress by the President.—*New York Journal of Commerce.*

Lord Durham.—A private letter from St. Petersburg states that Lord Durham is shortly about to leave that capital for England, in consequence of the climate of Russia not agreeing with his constitution.

Lord De Roos.—The villa to which Lord de Roos has retired (his Lordship, it seems, is not gone to the continent) is at Long Ditton, and is the residence of Colonel and Lady Georgiana de Roos.

France.—The *Journal du Commerce* contains a minute description of a safety carriage building for the King.

Spain.—Mendizabal has published a statement of the supplies to the different armies of the north of Spain this year, and states that the sums remitted amounted to 29,345,000 reals (about £240,000).

The President of the French Chamber of Deputies has stated that "Algiers, the woful legacy of the Restoration, has already cost France 200,000,000 francs (£8,000,000 sterling) besides the lives of thousands."

Hanover is now suffering very severely from the grippe. In the city, above 12,000 persons are ill, and the number increase daily. The military hospital and barracks have not room for the sick, and the streets are almost deserted in the middle of the day.—In the country it is as bad. In the county of Kalenburg, there are hardly people to feed the cattle.

IRISH POOR LAWS

On Monday night Lord John Russell introduced the subject of Poor Laws for Ireland. He thought the relief ought not to be circumscribed. He considered able bodied men destitute and not able to obtain ought also to be relieved, consequently the principle of his bill would be that relief should be offered for destitution, and for nothing else. The relief should be in the workhouse, and on a system resembling in many respects the English Poor Laws as amended. No person is to claim relief as a right, but their commissioners or agents are to have a discretionary power of selecting cases. The law of settlement is to be avoided. The English Poor Law commissioners are to be employed in Ireland, to effect the union of parishes, and subordinate to them are to be boards of guardians chosen in each union. It is anticipated that the number of those unions may be about 100—that each union may relieve perhaps about 800 paupers upon an average. The expense is computed at about eighteen pence per week for each pauper, the whole being about £312,000 per annum. The guardians are to be exclusively laymen. The rate is to be applotted by the commissioners and the board of guardians, according to the value of the heriditament. When the tenant pays the full yearly value, one half of the rate is to fall upon the landlord and the other upon the tenant. Holders of tenements under £2 a year to be exempt from the rate. In the proposed measure, there is no allusion to bastardy or apprenticeship. It is intended to employ the able-bodied in public works, such as making roads, reclaiming bogs, &c. The question of emigration is to be kept distinct from this bill. Such is a cursory view of the plan as it stands at present. It was received with great satisfaction by all parts of the House. Mr O'Connell although not sanguine as to its ultimate effects, yet promised to contribute all in his power towards its success. Sir Robert Peel and Lord Stanley thanked the government for bringing forward a definite measure, and promised their most cordial support and assistance in maturing the plan; in doing which they declared their intention of approaching it divested of all party feelings. Thus an experiment is going to be tried, of establishing a system in Ireland, that has encountered considerable discussion and difference of opinion among political economists in England.

The motion for a new writ for the borough of Stafford was carried against ministers by a majority of one.

By accounts from Italy we learn the fire which consumed the greater part of the King of Naples' palace burned without intermission for twenty-four hours. The Royal Library