TEXAS.

SKETCHES OF CHARACTER;

MORAL & POLITICAL CONDITION OF THE REPUBLIC;

THE JUDICIARY, &c.

BY MILAM.

The deeds of past ages are signally reflected on the advancing clouds of the future.

Landor.

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1839.
THE FOLLOWING CHAPTERS,
ON A COUNTRY WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES HIS
INTREPID VALOUR,
AND RANKS HIM AMONG THE FIRST OF HER SONS;
ARE RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO

COLONEL KARNES,
OF THE TEXAN ARMY,
BY THE AUTHOR.

Lake George, August, 1839.
TO THE EMIGRANT.

To those whose course is Westward, the following "Sketches" are offered by the Author in a book form, from the columns of the "Herald & Sentinel" of Philadelphia. The writer trusts, that should they be found entirely uninstructive, they may at least serve to beguile a leisure hour, as they float down the stream of effeminate criticism, in this wondrous age of deficiency of power, "and restlessness of pretension."
Right by chance and wrong by system, are things so frequently seen in the political world, that it becomes a proof of prudence neither to censure, nor applaud too soon; so amid the multifarious opinions and prejudices of our neighbouring Republic, we are left to eke out her true character and condition from the unbiased pen of the traveller, who has watched the progress, and beheld the march of improvement of this rapidly rising country. The writer of these chapters, professes to have a complete knowledge of the Republic; the state of society, its internal
police, the advancement of morality and religion, its fertility of soil, extent of territory, geography, and unbounded resources of wealth and happiness; and assures the reader that his communications will be tinctured, with no ideal fancy; no preference of character for leading men of the country; nor be garnished with illusory fiction, or ridiculous exaggeration. A year's residence has made him somewhat familiar with the country of which he purposes writing, and trusting that his statements will meet with the response of the unprejudiced visiters of Texas, he closes his Exordium with the pledge, that truth shall guide his pen.

It has been justly remarked by a sage politician, that if we look back, our greatest blessings appear to have had a very confused beginning; and as the government of Texas arose out of chaos, the formation and establishment of civil and moral jurisprudence in a frontier country; the wonderful improvement; the rapid advancement, and the alacrity with which all classes join in the administration of a wholesome and effica-
cious code of civil government; the triumph of the popular will; the force of integrity, and the influence of morality in every part of this young nation will appear truly astonishing to those familiar with important achievements; but such is the fact, and in an insuperable degree superior to any part of the south-western states of the American Union. Society is better regulated; there is more refinement of taste; and much more respect to the sabbath, ten-fold in Houston and Galveston, than either in New Orleans, or any of the petty court-house towns of Mississippi or Alabama. In fact the tone, and feeling, for the establishment, on a solid basis, and the seeds of a good government, and a permanent Republic, are sown in Texas—they have started right, the pedestal will bear the structure. I appeal for the truth of this assertion, to those who have remained long enough—and are honest enough to speak unprejudicedly—if the sabbath is not a silent and respected day in the two cities named. But, to less important perhaps, but more striking features of the Texan character.
It will be the object of the writer in the next chapter to endeavour to disabuse the minds of many, in relation to the claim the people of Texas set up to the territory now acknowledged to be theirs by the United States, and if the premises assumed be not strictly just; indisputably legal, then the enemies of Texas may still adhere to their narrow notions; Texas is now beyond the want of their sickly sympathy; the tears which have been shed by the widows and the children of the brave band who perished on the plains of the Alamo, or fell at San Antonio de Bexar, have more of encouraging virtue in each drop, than the trembling voices of effeminate weakness, or pale faced fanaticism. Enough that Texas—like our Saviour's example in the parable of the vineyard—receives all at the eleventh hour, with open arms to her inviting domain—who that has sought an asylum there has ever looked back? None, but the idle, and profligate—for there is a determined spirit abroad in Texas, to crush vice in the bud, the verdicts of intelligent juries have told this—and the
execution of those verdicts, and the force of example will perpetuate the system—for 'tis easier to prevent than to cure contagion.

The civil departments of Texas, with which the writer has been somewhat familiar, will next claim a passing notice in this chapter.—The State Department under the control of the late Secretary, the Honourable James Webb, long and favourably known as Judge Webb, of the District Court of the United States for Florida, is now as systematized as the State Department of Washington City, and Mr. Amory, the chief clerk, is certainly as valuable an officer as any in the government of Texas. The Navy Department, formerly under the care of that just, honourable and highly esteemed citizen, Gen. Memucan Hunt, is assuming a power, which is much required, in the growing navy of the Republic. The other Departments are equally as well organised. Before we take leave of this part of our subject, we will first beg pardon of the reader for the introduction of any personal references here, but the name of General Hunt demands every where the
acknowledgement of gratitude for his kindness and hospitality to strangers in Texas, and the just appreciation of his worth and usefulness in that country—his zeal for her abroad—his labours for her at home—entitle him to the warmest friendship of all good Texans and good men.

Let it be remembered that though Texas is as yet, with her undeveloped resources, but scanty in finances, she has paid to the United States the debt and indemnity due to that government in the current money of the United States. Let it also be borne in mind that she has a contract for a sufficient navy, and that the vessels are now being built for the Republic at the city of Baltimore. Let it be also recollected that the government of Texas has Five Hundred Thousand Dollars to her credit in one of the Banks at New Orleans, and that she can number among her citizens now, James Hamilton, Pierce Butler, Joseph M. White, and others alike distinguished for integrity and talents, for these gentlemen are now associated with Texas. The long agitated question of
boundary between the United States and Texas, is at rest, and the Minister from our father land, the Honourable Alcee La Branché, will leave Houston with the approbation of all those who have had the honour of his acquaintance. The United States could scarcely have selected a more suitable person for their representative in Texas.
CHAPTER II.

The introduction of men of character and wealth from the southern States of the United States, and capitalists from the north, have changed the face of things essentially within the last few months, yet with this addition of society, the bigot still seems unwilling to overcome his hatred for the young land of promise, and though unfelt, and unregarded by Texans, yet the contemptuous sneer of the ignorant has not wholly fled the officious coterie of the untravelled puritans. Most of those unfriendly to Texas, however, have had no opportunity to form very correct estimates of things out of the smoke of their own cots—much less can they then do justice to a people and a country they have never seen—yet, should one of these pre-
tenders visit the new Republic, he would quickly assume a thorough knowledge of every thing and every body. Ignorance and impudence are twin-born, and go Siamese-like through the world. This prejudice, however, is not confined to one continent. Even the Irish demagogue, O'Connell, in the very midst and middle of want and misery, stretches out his neck, and observes with much alarm the dangerous policy of the U. States and Texas. His officious intermeddling with American Institutions will cost the country which allows him such scope and interference, some day or other, much trouble. Were he as contemptible in the eyes of Englishmen as he is in the eyes of Americans, he would not dance long, the puppet of the nation.

Among the distinguished visiters of Texas, and one who has done the country justice, and spoken, and written of it with an unprejudiced mind, is the Rev. John Breckenridge, formerly of Princeton, N. J., whose pen and tongue, ever foremost in the cause of truth, have given a faithful and unexaggerated de-
scription of the country, much to its advantage. "But much remains unsung," for while reason and ignorance remain the antipodes of each other, the great bulk of mankind will be influenced by the latter; yet with even all these prejudices to combat, with all her toils and dangers, Texas will soon, with her whitened fields and waving valleys, be the home of the exile from over populated cities of the north, for the same spirit of fortitude that insured success to America will insure it to Texas—*for it is impossible to conquer a country determined to be free*—and Texas is industriously using that best means in her present tranquillity, to secure and perpetuate her civil government: a vigorous preparation for war,—and the army under that accomplished soldier, (who many years ago left West Point,) General A. S. Johnston, is systematising and becoming all it should be in discipline and science.

Man is ever a stranger to the ways of Providence; but the same manifestation of Heaven to the people of the United States in her early struggles, must be humbly acknow-
ledged by the new Republic. A handful of men, (the bones of many of their comrades have whitened the plains of Goliad and the Alamo,) without discipline, without the common necessaries of life, grappling with, and utterly destroying a well organized army, with all the appurtenances of war, and the President General of Mexico at its head—sure the hand of Providence was visible in this! But to our conclusion of this chapter.

Among the truly useful and valuable men of Texas—among the coolly brave at San Jacinto—is General Mirabeau B. Lamar, the President of the Republic; the descendent of a Hugunot, and a native of Georgia. In person General Lamar is short and heavily made; he has a fine eye, which in repose lacks lustre, and needs excitement to call forth its fire. In manners he is simple and unaffected, plain in dress and of very retiring habits; but too taciturn to delight the crowd, who mistake his silence for vanity—a trait of character as foreign to Mirabeau B. Lamar as any man living. In all his relations of life he has been peculiar—perhaps eccentric
—yet high-minded, honourable and just; with an utter aversion for display of any kind, and whose sole motive at this time seems to be, to render even-handed justice and to administer sound principles of civil and moral government to the country of his choice and adoption. His ambition is to do good, and his hope the prosperity of Texas. General Lamar (then Colonel) commanded the Georgia battalion of Cavalry, under Major-General Samuel Houston, commander-in-chief of the Texan Army at the defeat of Santa Anna and his entire army on the plains of San Jacinto, and won on that day imperishable laurels.

Col. Lamar, it will be remembered, was one of the foremost advocates for the death of the merciless tyrant, Santa Anna, and his report on that subject is a paper of great ability, sound sense and genuine equity, which subsequent events, if the history of the Alamo needed any other, have sufficiently proven. Under any code, civil or military, the despot had forfeited his life, and his death would have been as just as it would have
been politic, and even his assassination by the soldiery would have been winked at by the eye of mercy and humanity.

In my next chapter, I purpose devoting some time to the Judiciary of Texas, which claims the earliest attention of the legislation of the Republic, as the conflict of laws and the little legal ability of the present Judges, afford a strange incongruity of opinion just now in the young nation in her civil code. A State may have an inefficient Governor and Council, an untalented legislation; but an unsound Judiciary is more fatal to her prosperity and happiness, than any other branch of her administration. The criminal code of Texas is better digested and understood by statuary laws than the civil; and crime of any kind is soon overtaken and punished. Duelling in Texas is punished by death, and Congress have passed such laws against this systematised butchery, that the survivor of a personal combat will certainly, if taken, suffer the penalty of murder. The seconds are made, under the act "acces-
An observer in Texas, will soon discover that there is a large proportion of talent for the population in that country. At the bar, there are some ten or twelve attorneys of distinction; several of whom have had some celebrity in the southern States for legal ability. Mr. Hemphill, late of South Carolina, Mr. Watrous, formerly of Mississippi, Judge James Webb from Florida, the late Chief Justice Birdsall, William H. Jack and Mr. Robinson, from New Orleans, may be ranked foremost in the profession in Texas, and enjoy the largest share of practice. Judge Scott from North Carolina, located at Houston, has among the members of the bar, quite a reputation as a Common-Law lawyer, but as an Advocate, Wm. H. Jack, Esq, of Brazoria, I think the most successful and able.
CHAPTER III.

GALVESTON ISLAND.

The city of Galveston, the principal commercial town of Texas, is distant forty hours from the city of New Orleans, and the constant communication by steamers, and other vessels, the rapidity of passage, and the facility for transportation of goods, and the regularity of foreign intelligence, by the mail boats, makes one forget that he is out of the United States. This beautiful Island is situate on the Gulf of Mexico and the beach which spreads itself for miles before the roll of the ocean, is the resort of the citizens in the summer weather; the ride is indeed more pleasurable than any I have ever taken in my travels; which have not been very cir-
cumscribed. In conversation with several gentlemen at New Orleans, I learned it was the intention of many persons of that city to erect summer establishments at Galveston, similar to those at Sullivan's Island, in the harbour of Charleston. The Gulf is usually smooth in the season for visiting the Island, and as regards health and sea-bathing, it is a paradise to some of the far famed resorts of our Northern and Middle States. The Island has been transformed from a barren waste, tenanted alone by the seabird, into a magnificent city. Upwards of a mile, you may perambulate among well built houses, stores, warerooms, hotels, theatres, superb private dwellings, and at evening time, the scene will be much relieved by groups, hand in hand, of maidens and lisping children. The society of Galveston is made up of some of Kentucky's, Alabama's, South Carolina's, and Virginia's best material, not to mention the ruby lip and sparkling eye of far New England's daughters. But to the location of the city. Buffalo Bayou, which empties into the bay of Galveston, is navigable for steam
boats as far up as Houston, (the present seat of government of the Republic,) on which are some dozen fine boats—the Emblem, the Putnam, the Friend, the Sam Houston, &c.; the time of trip is usually from ten to twelve hours. The banks of the stream abound with wood; and though near Houston, the Bayou is narrow, it would, in any part of it, float a seventy-four gun ship. There are two sand bars, which at low water mark interrupt the navigation between Houston and Galveston, when the boats are deeply laden. Cloppers and Red Fish bars, with these exceptions there cannot be superior natural facilities between two cities. At the time the writer was at Galveston, there were but few vessels in port, it being late in the summer. The barque Embassador, from Liverpool, which sailed in May last, was the first pioneer from Briton's Isle to the petit Republic of the Gulf of Mexico—where first was planted the Anglo Saxon germ; and who, of true philanthropy, but hails the hour that gave to the race so beautiful a home: a land hitherto inhabited by the savage and the wolf, un-
valued, unprized and untouched by the semi-barbarian Mexican, from whose swarthy grasp and enervated foot-step, the sons of the Heroes of '76 first received it under a specific colonial grant from the mother country—but last, and forever, by conquest, a home, blood-bought and won, where the single star, the proud type of liberty and civilization; the emblem of a free government, and the symbol link in the chain of free institutions, proudly floats; one of the Pleiades which now twinkles the way, for its coming sisterhood.

The march of civilization must be onward, else why open the founts of learning; else why are the eyes of the world turned to that great first essential of humanity—education? Ask now where is the North American Aboriginal? And the far mountains of the "Far West," will answer you, he has receded for the white man; the smoke of the city, the busy clink of the artizan's hammer, is rising from his once forest home, and worn down and pursued by the fiend, Civilization, will terminate ere long the red man's suffer-
ing; and the cliffs and dells of the Pacific must witness the dwindled extinctions of a once populous race; and think you, ye of the crowded mart, the brick pent city, that your sons and your daughters must ever breathe the same air; walk the same narrow limit, and sleep in the same hillock with yourselves? No! room, room for the race, 'tis the purpose of Religion and Education, that they shall go out as teachers to the world, knowing no bounds, worshipping one God, and doing good to mankind. It were a selfish world to hide the light of truth, and love, on the same spot, where its blaze was first lighted. Let its beam shine to the broad Pacific. Let its march be onward, onward.

Who so limited in intellect, but may not already see that what the United States once was, Texas never has been. The currency of the Texan government has never been valueless, even in another country; and never will fall worthless on the hands of its holder. The Republic will never prove bankrupt, and allow its issues to float over the world, as evidences of her want of faith.
There is no Continental money there; the people are too continant ever to endanger their currency. Texas has resources, which when properly developed, will make her the richest country, for her territory in the world. Her climate and her soil will soon place her, a troublesome competitor with the United States cotton grower. Her lead and iron mines, (to say nothing of silver and gold, which are a curse to a country when sought through that illegitimate channel, the fissures of the earth,) will also give Texas increased wealth. But I promised facts, not theories, to the reader, which pledge my next shall more fully redeem. Yet the eye of intelligence nor the human intellect need not be strained to believe that the Anglo Saxon, always improved by adversity, will cause to ascend from his new home a young Eaglet, whose new fledged pinion may yet soar high in the world’s welkin, and whose gleaming eye may yet flash its fire over the land of priestcraft and voluptuousness, bearing in his beak, the emblem of might, to the crest fallen capital of the Montezumas.
The traveller of Texas, who visits Galveston and Houston, (and very few go farther,) learns as much of the value of the soil and the condition of the country, as did Lardner of the source of the Nile. Let him visit the Trinity, navigable for nearly six hundred miles through as picturesque and fertile a country as any in the universe; the Brazos, the queenly Colorado, the pelucid San Antonio, the La Baca and the Sabine, and he will be somewhat compensated for his journey. A country so interspersed with prairie, woodland, meadow, mountain and plain, must in the common course of things, supply itself with every necessary product, while many articles of export will give the Republic a perfect independence of character. Among these may be classed cotton, sugar and coffee. It has been admitted by planters of experience from the southern states, that for the culture of cotton, the climate and soil of Texas is vastly superior to their own, with this paramount advantage, that the soil will not wash and it is too deep for exhaustion. San Antoine de Bexar must become the grain
and cattle growing portion of the country; while the Brazos, Colorado, La Baca, Trinity, Navadad, Neusces and Sabine will be devoted to cotton. We hope to redeem our pledge in our next, by devoting the entire chapter to the early settlement of Texas; the colonial grant to the lamented Austin; the violation of said grant by Mexico, and endeavour by facts and truths to disabuse the public mind, and wipe away the pellicle from the strained and prejudiced optics of some of our readers. Texas was first under the tyranny of Priestcraft, second under the government of conquerors, and last under a free constitution and reason.
CHAPTER IV.

The prevailing question in the United States, with many who contemplate emigrating to Texas, is, "Is it not certain that the central government of Mexico, will again invade, and possibly, repossess the country?"

To the first part of this enquiry, I answer, that it is very probable that Bustamente, or whoever may be the fixed head of the Republic, may raise an army and attempt to reconquer Texas. It is the chance of war, and how successful an invading army of Mexicans might be, is of course problematical; but the sooner the attempt is made, the more satisfied will be the people of Texas, who will not be taken by surprise, should twenty thousand men march into the country to-morrow, with all the engines of war, and
with the capricious Santa Anna at their head. But before they had crossed the Rio Grande they would find some warm fighting with the federal party of Mexico, which is as inimical to the priest-ridden nation, they do not acknowledge, as are the Texans themselves. At any rate this question is exceedingly unimportant at present with the people, who, it is highly probable, will take care, that such an entrée would be the valedictory visit of the Mexicans to Texas. They still retain some faint recollection of San Jacinto, but enough of this. Yet to those who will not take the hazard of this imaginary danger, and who are waiting the issue of the Indian and Mexican difficulties with Texas, I intrude, without any intention of wounding their too magnanimous feelings, this small piece of advice.—Stay at home, you are not constitutionally, morally nor physically qualified to become citizens of such a dangerous country, either in peace or in war. You will be out of the latitude nature and valour intended for you. Of course I especially refer to
the valiant *unmarried* young men of my native land.

That the Indians will long remain troublesome to Texas, there can be but little doubt, but the country has much more to apprehend from the recently emigrated tribes of the United States, than from the Cumanches of Mexico. The Creeks, Cherokees, Seminoles and Muscogas, are quite as contiguous to the borders of the Republic as we wish to see them. The government of the United States will doubtlessly regard very faithfully the treaty, and keep an eye on her red children, in that quarter.

The army of Texas is, at this time, quite efficient, and well supplied with munitions of war. A company of cavalry is stationed at San Antoine, and a detachment of infantry, at various and more exposed parts of the frontier, while Generals Rusk and Douglass, with Colonels Burleston and Woodleff are now battling with the Caddos and Kickapoos in Eastern Texas. There will be a demand for powder for sometime to come, no doubt in the "Single Star" country. There is
little to be apprehended ultimately, from the Cumanche Indians, although very numerous; they certainly are an inferior race to the United States' tribes; they have not the strongly marked and resolute character of their northern brethren, nor do they settle in villages and towns like the Creeks and Cherokees, but live wandering lives. They are said to be remarkably fine horsmen, and excellent shots at game, but have not the character of being brave or bold in battle. I have this from experienced officers of the Texan army. Perhaps the American Indian, originally, had as little courage, or desparation, as the Cumanche, but eternal emigration, the unwise acts of government, and the repeated cruelties and injustice from the whites has made the art of war, a very necessary and requisite qualification. The Creeks and Seminoles have given abundant proof, and painful evidence of their aptness and skill, from a short tuition in the fighting way.

A large portion of the Cumanche Indians, are said to speak the Spanish language.
This is perhaps unfortunate for Texas, as they will be the more likely to confederate with, and become allies to Mexico, and their intimacy with the Ranches—a low order of the Mexican people in the remote parts of Texas, and on the other side of the Rio Grande; will perhaps open a new door of danger to the Republic. The government should use every possible means in its power, to open a speedy trade and friendly intercourse with the federal Mexicans in the South-West. This has been promulgated by Executive proclamation, and many of the Ranches with droves of mules, mustang horses, &c., have been at Houston this spring and summer. A fair and honest system of trade with these people will be productive of immense advantage to Texas, and secure through this agency the good will and friendship of the Indians. It will be as politic as just, to treat with them as fairly as possible, and thereby obtain their co-operation in time of peril. They are, however, a people not overburthened with honesty, but may be
made as useful to Texas as their rough edged dollars, or more portable doubloons.

A commerce with this community will soon give the Republic a metallic basis for a sound governmental issue currency. But the fiscal condition of the United States, I apprehend has been a sufficient experiment, to avert a similar attempt in Texas, to establish a *general metallic* currency. A scheme, as weak, impracticable, unwise, and ruinous as could possibly have been devised. The Sub-Treasury policy, at any rate, has tolled the last knell of the great Southern political Demosthenes, and his everlasting dirge has been chaunted by a mourning nation. Who ever preferred an hundred *specie* dollars to a Bank note of Stephen Girard's, or an issue of the United States Bank? But this is over the line, and out of my geographical jurisdiction.
CHAPTER V.

To go back then to Texas, I have quite an opinion of my own to advance, which has occurred to me many times in my tour through the woods of the new Republic, and I know of no profession or trade that I would prefer, were I to change my vocation, than that of a practical Tanner; for, estimating an ounce of fact to be worth a pound of theory, I believe that a fortune could be more rapidly acquired in Texas in tanning the dry hides of the country—a present article of export—than any other pursuit. The freight of the leather would be less than the raw hide, it being much more compact, and bark requisite for the tanning—oak and hemlock—is very abundant, and costs only the gathering. These hints to the trade may pro-
duce some thought, and thought may lead to emigration, and the result must be perfectly plain to be seen. Leather Making, is but another name for money-making almost everywhere—and the supply of dry hides, barks, and the facilities of transportation to market must assuredly ensure success to the Tanner in Texas.

Leather, I believe, is considered as near an equivalent to cash as any other article of traffic and if such fortunes can be made in the manufacture of leather from the imported Brazilian and South American raw hides in the United States, it certainly must appear reasonable to all, that with the superior advantages I have pointed out and where the necessary materials are so abundant, that it must be a more profitable pursuit, than the shipping of the dry and unworked hide to the American dresser; at any rate I will allow any industrious mechanic, who will attend to his tannery and live frugally, the privilege of tanning my own hide, if he fails to succeed in his calling in Texas; should I not be vat-ed down before. I have met with many
persons in New Orleans and elsewhere, who have visited Galveston and Houston, and others who have been at Nacogdoches, in the East, and all of them fancy they have seen and have a correct knowledge of Texas. Galveston is a commercial town exclusively; though a number of artizans and mechanics will do well there, particularly house-carpenters, joiners, &c. Houston is an active, busy little city, full of stores, shops and offices, like all other new towns, and Nacogdoches, much older, smaller and more uninteresting than either; and those who suppose an acquaintance with these places is an acquaintance with Texas, are sadly mistaken. Branch out, with a nervous energy, into the interior, visit San Augustine, Fanning, St. Philip de Austin, Refugio, Robinson's colony; and forty other places infinitely superior for the settler than your towns and cities. The frontier villages, just rising into name and notice. The new seat of Government, Austin, on the head waters of the Colorado, all present field enough for the emigrant, and with proper conduct, and sufficient nerve all
must do well. The new city of Sabine,—Live Oak Point, Columbia, Valasco, the growing spots along the Brazos, all have enchantments for the new comer. Be not influenced then, those of you, who scan these pages, by reports of the superficial tourist, who has looked in at Galveston, or some other town on the coast, and gone from a country dissatisfied he knows no more of, than yourselves, denouncing what he has not seen. It is true, a man requires more sinew, and nerve, when he seeks to carve out a new home, in a new world, and while he feels a thrilling delight, and a new life creep through him, calling forth the whole man in a frontier country, which is full of strange and vivifying incident, he also regenerates in health and spirits, and becomes a different being, and has higher and nobler aspirations than he would have had, in the narrow pathway of his native valley, or by the winding track of his mountain home. There is a freshness, and newness of existence, which springs up, involuntarily as it were, as you tread the forest, or traverse the prairie, and you feel no
inclination to look back to the old haunts of a distant clime, or disposition to return to the corporative limits, of an over-populated city. Young men should go to a young country, and by slow, and continued efforts grow with, and identify themselves with its history, and its institutions. But the people of the United States need no suggestion of mine, to induce them to travel, they are naturally erratic enough, as all parts of the habitable globe, can bear witness. Texas, in a few years, will be an old story, and the cream of enterprise will soon cease to rise.

As my readers will perceive, I have not taken up in the order promised, the more important parts of the condition and history of Texas, I have been compelled to postpone this part of my subject, for my after chapter, to give place to more matter of fact enquiries, nor can I answer through the public press, the thousand questions daily put to me concerning Texas. But my pledge will be fully, and I sincerely hope satisfactorily redeemed in good time. But should any of my readers consider this chapter as being too leathery, 4*
I beg to remind them, that it is no unimportant consideration to the mechanical arts of the country, and working men in any land are very preferable to an idle and lazy people, who pass half fed through the world, sooner than make trial for a full subsistence. I am not writing a novel, to amuse the vain and workless part of humanity, but endeavouring to describe honestly another country for the mechanic, the artizan, and the farmer. And to those who expect to live at ease in Texas, without toil, I advise them to carry the means of such indulgences with them—they won't find money on bushes in Texas; and industry, and employment are the end and aim of the people, who have sought out a new home on the other side of the Sabine. Many young men without means, go to Texas expecting public employment of some kind; but the great number of the early settlers, who have contributed to form, and protect the Republic, will, and should be provided for, by the government before strangers. To be candid, I do not think that Texas offers much inducement for young gentleman,
who have no other means of subsisting, but with the pen. One hundred dollars and the 320 acres of land which the government by congressional enactment gives the emigrant, would start very prettily, a New England lad who has followed the plough, while those who have followed the quill must be more dependent upon others for support. Refinement, literature, the fine arts, and the occult sciences come in, in the common course of things and take their ulterior places as a country becomes settled. But the pioneers secure the wealth and property, and are the first and most important workmen in the hard quarry of a frontier existence.
CHAPTER VI.

It is the prevailing belief in the United States that debts due, and contracted elsewhere, are not collectable in Texas. This is an error; the debt always follows the debtor; and all that is required is the note, contract, or evidence of the demand or debt, with the necessary foreign vouchers, to recover in Texas. A foreign judgment however, can only be made a cause of action, and does not facilitate a collection, more than a promissory note. The exemplification of the record of a foreign court establishes the debt more fully, but the original cause is just as good in Texas to recover upon. The defendant to an action in *assumpsit or debt*, if he denies the signing, is put upon his oath, and very few persons will risk an indictment for perjury, to avoid a
civil suit, where the body cannot be taken; a ca. sa being useless under the constitution, except in presumed fraud, for says that instrument, "no person shall be imprisoned for want of ability to pay!" Bail process, is however granted, and a party may be incarcerated who cannot give bail, and refuses to assign his effects and property for the benefit of his creditors. It is not the general practice of the Judges to grant bail writs, against the bonafide citizens of the country, and the writ is in disuse, except where the party owing, is about to remove himself, or property, beyond the jurisdiction of the court. The "attachment law," is operative before a note is due; taking the property as collateral security till after judgment. This process is only in presumed fraud, or transfer of property with the intention of absconding; and the oath, or affidavit of the party suing out the attachment must be very positive, as to the intention of the defendant, which is rather a hazardous and unusual order of legal proceeding, and only in cases of palpable dishonesty is it exercised. If a party in Texas,
owing monies abroad, has become able to pay his debts, there is no difficulty to collect by a due process of law, and without the delay, and the loss of time, as in Alabama and Mississippi. The most of parties on whom I have had demands, sent for collection from the United States, have satisfactorily secured the debts to me without suit; and the moral obligations of the people of Texas, generally, are more faithfully observed, than in many places more famed for systematic morality.

Stern equity, with undoubted evidence of the justice of the action brought, is very preferable in a country like Texas, where the Judges are not of the first rank of the profession, than an entangled mystification and charge, on what the bench may deem "the law of the case."

I have seen actions, *in personam*: actions *in rem*, and *in admirality* disposed of, in the Republic, by the learned Judges, quite amusing to one familiar with the profession, and with old and long established courts.

It appears to me, that if A owes B an hundred dollars, and the debt is due, and unpaid,
and no offset pleaded in debar; and no denial of the signing or demand by A, that judgment with costs and interest, on principles of common sense and common justice, should be awarded without comment from the bench to B; and if before a jury, to be so clearly charged in the equity of the case, as not to doubt their verdict for the plaintiff. The "law's delay" has given very great dissatisfaction to the people of Texas, who have had simple actions of debt, and assumpsit, and litigations have grown out of the most trifling causes. When the time arrives that the Republic has a wise, understood, and properly digested civil code, special pleading, and the pure requisitions and forms of law, will be necessary and proper, and all informal proceedings be set aside by the Courts. But the laws must not be in the conflict condition, nor the law expounders be of the same order of legal acumen as the presiding Judges of the Republic now are, and have been generally. From the absolute legal talent now in the country, there is no doubt that a wholesome judiciary, and an efficient civil and criminal
code, will be established very soon. The Common Law is in force, in the absence of Statutary law, now in Texas, but the Statute seems the text book of practice. My brethren of the bar may consider this rather unfeasible doctrine, but the common sense people will reverse the opinion, when carried to the high Court of Sovereignty. The very best laws Texas can have in her infant condition, and until a code is established, is to make by an execution, A pay B, if he owes him, and the evidence of the debt is undoubted by the Court. And C, D and F who commit offences against the Statute, be made, on clear proof of guilt, to suffer the penalty imposed, without such irrelevant harangue as the edifices to Solon and Lycurgus exhibit in the new Republic.

There is but little doubt of the recognition of Texas, by France very soon. Admiral Baudin, in his recent visit to the seat of government—Houston, spoke in high terms of the people and the country, and will undoubtedly represent Texas very favourably to the French government. His visit will be
of benefit to the Republic, while the distinguished avant coureur, who peregrinated the country last winter, from Galveston to Houston, (about eight hours’ travel) will not be likely to impart much information to headquarters. Though I am informed from a very high source, that this gentleman has forwarded an able report in favour of the General Government of Texas, in which he has rendered justice to the country. The noble bearing, and manly deportment of Admiral Baudin—his venerable brow, and the honoured evidence of his early devotion to his country at Trafalgar*, produced on the bosoms of all who were honoured with an interview, emotions of reverence and respect. The officers of the squadron were all of them accomplished gentlemen, and their visit for a week at Galveston Island, was rendered very agreeable, and their departure much regretted by the citizens. They were entertained by General Baker, in a style not unworthy the hospitable mansion of this highly esteemed

* Admiral Baudin lost an arm at Trafalgar.
gentleman; and Major Allen, the worthy Mayor, was elected to the municipal office he now holds with so much dignity, in good time to offer the city's freedom and honours to this truly distinguished veteran, returning from San Juan de Ulloa.

Since the first of these chapters, the Republic of Texas has been deprived by death of one of its first citizens, the late Chief Justice Birdsall, formerly of New York; and I little thought when I placed his name among the numbers of the Texan Bar, that I should so soon be called to record his death. Judge Birdsall was in the meridian of life—perhaps forty-five years of age, of delicate constitution, and slender frame. Few persons were more distinguished for their mild and amiable deportment than the late Chief Justice. His mind was of a clear and logical order, and his death is an irreparable loss to the country and to the profession, of which he was an ornament.

They've gather'd to the sepulchre,
The upright and the just,
They've given earth a noble heart,
And goodness to the dust.
And they will mourn, and deeply,
    The spirit that has fled;
And when a man like Birdsall dies,
    A nation's tears are shed.

Honour and truth, and excellence
    Were attributes of him,
Then wonder not the heart is sad,
    And that the eye is dim.

And now afar from where they've made
    His grave upon the plain,
Friendship deplores the broken link
    It cannot mend again.

But ah! cold world! this strain of death
    Is all unfelt by thee;
Ye little know what sorrow is,
    Or human sympathy.

Birdsall, sleep on in deep repose!
    Men will lament thy doom;
And youth will mourn that one so just
    Was gather'd to the tomb.

Mothers will come with those thou lov'd,
    To nature's vernal bed,
And linger where the myrtle throws
    Its fragrance o'er the dead.

There let the earth enfold thy form,
    Beneath the icy sod,
'Tis but the outline perishing—
    The spirit is with God.
CHAPTER VII.

THE PROMINENT MEN AND EARLY FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRY.

David G. Burnet, the Vice President, and acting Secretary of State, may be justly esteemed one of the first men of Texas. Judge Burnet was the first President, and has been identified with the civil government since its first adoption; he is a brother of Mr. Burnet of Ohio, late of the United States Senate. In argument, Judge B. is not as logical as many of the leading men of the Republic, but is considered the most eloquent speaker in Texas. His oratory is of a smooth and pathetic school, and peculiarly impressive in eulogy. The U. S. Senate, since Mr. Calhoun occupied that distinguished station,
would appear much more parliamentary, and dignified under Mr. Vice President Burnet than the present incumbent. The Judge is of slender form and constitution; in the neighbourhood of fifty-five years of age, and is regarded as a safe and judicious politician, and of sterling integrity. I believe he is the present President of the "Auxiliary American Bible Society, of Texas," founded since the Lamar administration, and in a flourishing condition.

General Thomas J. Rusk. This gentleman who is now in eastern Texas battling with the Caddo's and other Indian tribes, is one of the strongest men in the nation, with the people. He is almost constantly in the field, and is as strongly devoted to the country as any man in it—if peril, hardships, and privations be any evidence of devotion. In person, General Rusk is large, and of a commanding figure; cool, determined, and efficient. The army are not less attached to him than the citizens generally. His long life in the camp, has given him a regular frontier complexion, and his total indifference
to dress, the appearance of an unsophisticated farmer. To use a *local* phrase, General Rusk is a man of "*your real hard horse sense,*" which means in other words—what he certainly is entitled to—a man of sound, reflecting judgement. General R. was elected the last session of Congress, Chief Justice of the Republic; but the Supreme Court has never yet met, and the frontier difficulties are likely to keep him in the army, which I should presume the General likes quite as well as the library.

General Felix Houston, formerly at the head of the army, is yet a resident of Texas, and highly esteemed for his great personal worth, and his military acquirements. He is at present in the United States, at his plantation in Mississippi.

Perhaps it is not generally known, that Gen. James Hamilton, of South Carolina; Ex-Governor Butler of the same State, and Col. Joseph M. White, late delegate in Congress from Florida, filed, with several other gentlemen of the South and West, their declarations of becoming citizens of Texas, last win-
ter while in the Republic. I mention this, and might add many more worthy names, to convince the good citizens of the North, whose prejudices are founded solely in ignorance, that Texas will soon be the finest agricultural country on the face of the globe. Climate, soil, and industry. What more is required? These, with the positive experience gentlemen carry with them, agricultural, political and fiscal, will give the institutions of the Republic, a solid basis.

Fugitives from justice, are said to "bring up in Texas." Europe seems the depot of those of the accomplished school; your magnanimous democratic defaulters. The Governor of the State of Mississippi through the American Minister, Mr. La Branche, made application last winter to the Texan government, for the surrender of a man named Johnson Cook, charged with murder. He was given up to the State authorities of Mississippi by an executive order, and carried back to answer for the crime alleged. It is too late for felons to take refuge in that country. Oregon would do better, or the other
side of the Rio Grande. Some of the United States’ Sub-Treasurers, and receivers of “public monies” for private uses, have a town, I am credibly informed, called “new Swartwout” or the City of Refuge. But leaving men and towns, I conclude this chapter with some more important detail.

The Brazos country, one of the favourite cotton growing portions of Texas, is populating with planting forces more rapidly than the other parts of the Republic.

The river empties into the Gulf at Valasco and Quintania, two towns on the opposite banks of the Bay. Valasco is the port of entry for the Brazos, though I am informed the Quintania side is the best anchorage ground. There are unimproved lands on this stream that cannot be purchased for twenty dollars United States funds, per acre; and are esteemed by old planters, the choicest spots in creation for cotton. The “Caney lands” are of the highest cost, and most value; the low prairies come next, but the undulating country of San Antoine de Bexar is the most beautiful by far, and sufficiently
rich. It is decidedly the finest grazing country imaginable, and well watered. The river San Antoine, is really the most lovely stream with its soft and shining water, and rolling banks, I have ever seen. For bathing it has no equal. This is the opinion of all who visit this Jordan of the far South-West. The Savage and the semi savage Ranchee have washed long enough, in this Siloam which was never meant by nature to flow through a howling wilderness, "and waste its beauty" on a soul-less race. It is time the yellow harvest waved upon its hills; and the mellow church bell echoed through its dells. The principal inhabitants of the town of San Antoine, are Mexicans, though the Courts, and the legal and municipal officers of the place are American Texans. It sends a Senator, Col. Seguin, a Mexican gentleman and scholar, and two members, to the House. A metallic currency is only in use in this part of Texas or rather it is very preferable to the paper issues among the old Mexicans, who value money solely by its weight and purity. Doubloons and dollars are there
currency and have been from time immemorial. Before taking leave of the personal character of which Texas has a large share, among the men in public employment, I must not omit the name of Barnard E. Bee—the late Secretary of State, in the Lamar administration, and Secretary of War, with President Houston. Col. Bee is now Minister to Mexico, is a native of South Carolina, and son of the late Judge Bee, of Charleston, who was distinguished not the less for his legal reputation than for his excellence as a man. His son, the Colonel, is very popular in Texas, and justly esteemed as one of its first citizens. Texas is indebted to Barnard E. Bee for the aid and influence of Gen. Hamilton, in her behalf, for it was through his agency that the General was made familiar with the resources and character of the Republic. "Honour to whom honour is due."

Quarter Master General, William G. Cooke, late of Richmond, Virginia, is another of the popular men of the country. His conduct at San Jacinto, has given him a high standing in the army, as a brave and judi-
cious officer, and his amiable deportment as a gentleman, has won for him the respect and esteem of the people at large. Col. Cooke is not over thirty years of age, and a man of very retiring habits and character.

To close this essay, let me introduce Mr. Moore, recently the first Lieutenant of the sloop-of-war Boston, of the United States Navy. Mr. Moore is well known as a scientific and superior officer. He is now the Commodore of the navy of Texas, which consists of one sloop-of-war—one steam ship of fourteen guns—two brigs of fourteen—and four schooners pierced for six guns—all new vessels, built expressly for the government—except the steamer Zavala, which was formerly the Charleston, and purchased by General Hamilton. If Mexico does not extend the hand of fellowship, or send the olive branch soon, her petty towns on the Gulf will be forced to pay heavy contributions to Texas. Col. L. P. Cooke at the head of the navy is making ample provision for this source of metallic revenue.
CHAPTER VIII.

By an act of Congress an alien is prohibited from holding in his own personal right and title, the soil of Texas. Land holders must be bonafide residents, or resort to the aid of a second party in the country; which very few persons like to do. Consequently the large real property purchasers, must become actual settlers in the Republic, or employ agents. This prevents a speculating monopoly from wielding an undue influence, and from controlling the prices of lands, and from exercising and encouraging exorbitant profits. At any rate, the emigrant, until 1840, will receive from Government 320, and if married, 640 acres of land, which he may remove to and settle, and in three years receive his patent for it for five dollars, Com-
missioners' fees. This right he may locate in any part of Texas, from the Rio Grande to the Sabine, on untaken lands, which are to be found without trouble.

There have been respectable fortunes made in Texas, and are now making from comparatively indifferent capitals. For example: soldiers' head rights for a "league and labour,"—over four thousand acres of land—were purchasable last winter for three hundred dollars, promissory notes of Texas, or one hundred and fifty dollars New Orleans money. This, the purchaser gives on shares, to a locating Company; or may himself, with very little trouble locate it, on the untaken lands. Frequently such claims, with vouchers of positive location have sold for one thousand dollars in gold and silver. I have known a claim of the kind in two months from its purchase, sold for two dollars and fifty cents per acre. Four thousand and four hundred acres, is not a very small estate. The good city of Philadelphia might be put in one corner of it.

The "League" where the new city of Aus-
tin is permanently located, under the mountains at the head waters of the Colorado, a perfectly paradisal spot, could have been bought for one thousand dollars, a year ago. Lands within five miles, are now selling at from one to five dollars per acre.

The lots in the new towns, are good speculations. The city of Galveston, as lovely an Island as the ocean washes, now numbers something like two thousand inhabitants.—Four years ago, the Kerlew and the Pelican, laid their eggs in peace by the sea shore, and were but little interrupted on their gulf fisheries. There are lots now in the town that cannot be bought for three thousand dollars.

There is a very important consideration, which I shall here suggest to the government of Texas. These pages may reach as far as Houston, perhaps. Travelling from New Orleans to Maine, has convinced me, that the Bonding system of revenue at the Customs of the Republic, was an unwise and in-opportunity enactment of Congress. The people, trading with Texas, were aware that the duties were payable in the promissory notes of
the government, before they sailed from the Northern ports. This created an active demand for Texas notes, and of course the money found its way back to the Treasury, and advanced its value every where. Now, they say, "we don't want Texas money"—"we can bond our goods for six months, and then have twelve months more before we pay the government." Independent of the great cause of the depreciation of Texas money, the country suffers from losses by the Bonding system. It costs ten per cent. to collect the Bonds and a large proportion is totally lost. Free ports sound very well; but they are ruinous to the currency. Dr. Moore must see this before now, I opine. Make your duties—as they are—light on articles of utility, and necessity, and let the users of luxuries pay a fair duty to the country. Yes—"Reform it altogether."

Texas, to many persons conveys in its name something horrible. They look upon it as the abode of a lawless and profligate people; a sort of a "Botany Bay." Pray, good master Shallow, does it injure the mar-
ble, for an immoral man to wash in a bathing tub; or does a dwelling house depreciate in value from the accidental occupancy of a worthless tenant?—Would not the soil of Wethersfield produce as spicy melons, as it would have done before the odorous onion wafted its fragrance from the earth? We see Churches turned into Theatres, and the Dome of Thalia metamorphosed to the Temple of Esculapius. Witness the Charleston Play house, now a medical lecture room—and the Chatham Garden Theatre, a Church. Then because A B and C thought proper before Texas had a name or a government, to depart from a less comfortable jurisdiction for its sunny soil, does this circumstance establish the after reputation of a whole nation, made up of character, virtue, piety, industry, integrity, and talent? Men preferring to give their children good and abundant homes, from lesser toil, than a barren, and exhausted soil would secure? We should think not. Yet the bigot, who dares not for a moment exercise the reason, little as it may be, God has given him, views in
his own predisposed vacuity of mind, this fast rising republic as the ultimate hub of all virtue, and goodness.

Look at home—"moral reformists;" your immediate neighbourhood presents scenes of disgusting immorality and shame-faced indecency at every corner of your streets, so soon as the mantle of evening is let fall on the Earth. The virtuous mind, and the human heart, sickens at the sight. Pale-faced philanthropy! "A rose by any other name might smell as sweet." The hills, and the valleys—the mountains, and the sea shore of Texas, are now, and long will be, the pure and spotless homes of frugality, and unpretending chastity.

Fortunes have been amassed—long standing moral obligations discharged, and happiness brought back from emigration, to many an oppressed and honest man. Iowa, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and the peopled West, would still have been the abode of the North American Aboriginal, but for the pecuniary transitions of human affairs. Texas is not unlike with many what
Mrs. Skipworth said of nullification, "she was an advocate for the doctrine," she said, "but she detested the name." Its great nomenclator, John C. Calhoun, certainly did not give "State Rights" any new advantage by the christening of 1830.

The constant intercourse between the United States and Texas, via New Orleans, by regular mail communication, and the determined spirit of the people of the new nation to inculcate pure principles of morality, makes the country more conspicuous abroad in its commerce, its agriculture, its police, its morals, and its political and judicial reputation, and the conduct of its citizens, than many places within the federal jurisdiction of the United States. When did a murder occur in Texas? and when in Mississippi and Alabama? A man must pass a very quiet existence, who is not known to reside in Texas. Few men become worse from adversity, whose principles are good; and emigration is the door mercy and benevolence has thrown open to misfortune. "Westward the star of Empire" takes its flight.
May none who have been induced to seek out new homes under the banner of the "single star" have cause to regret their migration, or just reason to blame the writer of these few chapters on a country which will soon take its place among the nations of the earth. May the guardian Genii of Liberty, there rest its wing; and the destiny of Texas, be co-equal with thine—"Land of the free, and home of the brave."
CHAPTER IX.

I CANNOT conclude these hastily written sketches, without recording the name of Milam! a name dear to every Texan, and worthy futurity. Mild in private life, he was the idol of his friends, and the delight of his associates. Brave and humane, in battle, he conciliated, and cemented, the crude and discordant material of an undiciplined army; and the brightest page of Grecian, or Roman history, records no deed of valour, more glorious for posterity than the storming and defeat of San Antonio de Bexar.

Colonel Milam, was the master Spirit of the Texan Revolution, and is embalmed in the hearts of his countrymen. He fell at San Antoine, in the meridian of his life and usefulness.
The victor of Santa Anna; and the Hero of San Jacinto, must not be omitted in these pages. General Sam Houston, and it has been observed by many who were on the field of battle, on the memorable day which decided the fate of a nation; that the Commander-in-Chief General Houston, was the only man present, capable of conciliating the army, and keeping it together in unbroken harmony. General Houston is now in the vicinity of fifty years of age, and few men have better persons, or more courteous manners. In address he is bland, and communicative, and in declamation at times exceeding-ly eloquent. In early life, General Houston was called upon in his native country to fill high and important stations. He has been Governor of a populous state—Representative in the United States Congress; and was with General Andrew Jackson, at the battle of the "Horse Shoe" against Manawa and the Creeks; and at last led the Texan army to victory at San Jacinto. General Houston is now engaged in the practice of his profession, the Law, at Houston; and has, I am inform-
ed, wholly withdrawn from public life. Napoleon at Austerlitz. Wellington at Waterloo. Jackson at New Orleans. Houston at San Jacinto, will each be associated in the grade of conquerors, while the fame of Washington will be the everlasting theme of humanity, and his name, the reverence of ages.

In the first chapters, the reader was promised a brief epitome of the history and formation of the government of Texas, and the right by which she assumes to be, a Free and Independent Nation. It must be, in so limited a place as this, but a synoptic history, as my time will not allow, nor the space devoted to these chapters, a lengthy detail, nor a constitutional argument, on the rights of governments.

In despite of the jaundiced opinions of self-constituted statesmen, and declamatory demagogues, no people on earth had a more natural and equitable claim to separate government, than had the States of Cohuala and Texas, when the Constitution under which they existed; the guarantee of Federal
Mexico of 1824, was overthrown by an iron-handed Priesthood—the rights of the people trampled under foot by a military despotism, and civil and religious liberty annihilated.

Let it be remembered by all who denounce, before they understand, that the "Colonization Laws of Mexico," were the invitations which that government offered to the whole civilized world, to come to her unpeopled territory,—that among others Stephen F. Austin—a name consecrated to memory's brightest page—sought out a home under those laws, and colonized a portion of the unoccupied lands of the States of Cohuala and Texas. Peaceably progressing, this lamented pioneer of civilization, was arrested by the mandate of a merciless despot, driven from a home, to which he had been invited by Mexican proclamation, in the promulgation of the edicts of 1824; and at last conveyed to the prison of the central capital, from which he was at length liberated, with ruined hopes, and broken constitution, to find a grave.

Surprised on the very earth which industry was awaking from solitude and desolation;
"the infidel colonists," were driven at the stilleto's point from the soil, by a merciless and savage soldiery under the ecclesiastic edict of the Pope's faithful; and infancy and age found a common grave. Freedom for a while stood still, to re-awake on the plains of San Jacinto, and Justice, civil and religious Liberty in the Anglo Saxon arms, triumphed over Despotism and Catholic domination, and Conquest, the last, best, and most sacred right secured to the Republic of Texas her Independence. The confederacy of the United States, hold their government by the same tenor; and derived it from a lesser persecution; and England has less divinity than either, when she looks back to her political origin—and to William the Conqueror, with an armed banditti, establishing himself King. Let not the right of the Government of Texas be questioned. Civilization opened the way in the discovery of America, as if the Almighty meant to give a sanctuary to the persecuted of future years, when home should afford neither friendship nor safety.

But though the achievement of civil liberty,
may give trophies to a nation, and laurels to its heroes, it derives its full radiance of glory, from the principle it inspires, and the object it accomplishes. Desolation, chains and slavery have marked the progress of former wars; but to conquer for liberty, is a new principle. To receive the degrading submission of a distressed and subjugated people, made the chief triumph of former conquerors; but to receive with fraternity, to break their chains, to tell them they are free, and teach them to be so, is a new volume in the history of man.

Freedom hath been haunted round the globe. Asia and Africa have expelled her, Europe regards her as a stranger, and England long since gave her warning to depart. O! receive the fugitive, Fellow Countrymen, and prepare in time, an asylum for mankind.
CHAPTER X.

The emigrant to Texas, perhaps is not aware, the latitude being so far south, of the necessity of providing himself with winter clothing; such articles being extravagantly high priced, and difficult even to obtain in the country. For a few months, from December to April, the climate of Texas may be said to be uncomfortably severe; and during this season it is frequently rainy for a week at a time. The spring comes in early, and a perfect uninterrupted sun light, and moon lit serenity succeeds the cold and dreary winter. The transitions of climate are very great; produced from the suddenness of the north winds—which come when least looked for, *sans ceremonie* with a howl and power, which make the very earth tremble. The
article of stoves are in great demand during the winter, and may be considered a safe article of commerce. Small size office stoves, and those used in small apartments in the United States, are the most wanted. Cast iron, and suitable for wood fuel. Blankets of a heavy quality are also a safe article of shipment to Texas. And articles of use rather than elegance. Heavy ready made overcoats, and clothes for service also, yield better profits to the shipper than fine articles in the dress way. Agricultural implements of all kinds. Shovels, axes, ploughmoulds; and tools of every description are always in demand. Jewelry, and fancy goods will not pay a profit, and are considered rather a drug by the vendors of merchandizes in Texas. There are absolutely less of these phantom extravagances in the country than in any place I have ever visited. A few good, substantial four wheel one horse wagons—and a half dozen well made, close, full carriages would find a market in Galveston; and drays, and wheelbarrows are always wanted. In short, those who design shipping goods to
Texas, may depend, safely, on a large profit on articles of use and utility, while other merchandizes of show and elegance, are more slow of sale. Curled hair mattrasses, single and double; and the clean moss beds also, are in great demand. Ladies' cloaks, and gentlemen's over coats, and garments of comfort will not remain long on the hands of the merchant. For a year or two, butter, the first quality, cheese, sperm candles; soap, a fine article of cider, and northern beer, will sell like hot loaves on arrival. The people of Texas are really, and truly economical, and do not want cheap wares, and spurious things; they pay a fair price, and prefer good goods, and the best articles; particularly those of consumption, such as butter, cheese, &c., must be of the first quality for the Texan market. Negro clothing, for winter and summer wear—heavy brogan shoes, woollen caps, and hats, command good prices. Under shirts, drawers, and labourers' wear, will pay well, and the adventurer will find, that these hints of the trade are pretty correct, should he visit the coun-
try with a stock of *useful goods*; while vendors of articles of luxury, and ornaments, must postpone their shipments for a year, or two, until the country is older. Muskets, rifles, pistols, axes, scythes, hoes, improved—not *reformed* rakes, will all do for the new Republic, and the invoice must be pretty generally of such things as I have enumerated, to ensure a good profit to the vendor.

*Seed,* of all kinds for culinary purposes, and the vegetable garden, is wanted, and if unquestionably good, will pay a large *per centum,* in the early part of the spring.

The Goddess of the flowery world, breathing fresh fragrance from her sunny home, asks nothing *there,* from the storehouse of art. She wakes with the early spring, in her robes of living light from the hand of nature, and from the mountain top, to the far off plain, spreads her rich banquet to the balmy breeze; and wild, solitary, and beautiful, murmurs in her thousand dies the name of *deity.* To the Florist—the lover of Botany—one of the most captivating of the studies of life,—for while looking through
"nature up to nature's God" we behold in the pursuit, the great architect of the universe in an almost celestial light—the Texan territory presents a rich field of contemplation and research, in the science. There are a greater variety of wild flowers from the early spring to the distant autumn, than I have ever seen in the States of the Union; and many of them of an order, which the most skilled of Flora's school would find difficult to classify; almost as diverse, as are the transitions of my subject matter, bounding as I have from brogans to violets. But my gentle reader will pardon the digressions, or flights of fancy, when he remembers the maxim: "variety is the spice, &c.," and if its tincture is not on these pages then I am no artiste, as the French cook told the Earl.

There is a commercial pursuit on the sea coast of Texas, which will soon be taken up by our northern Connecticut brethren, who are as locomotive, and erratic, as the very winds which waft there skiffs from clime to clime.

Freight from New Orleans to Matagorda,
Valasco, and Galveston can be had nine months in the year, and the fast sailing schooners of the yankees are in demand for this trade.

Freight a vessel of about 120 to 140 tons, with iron ware, hollow ware, tin ware—soap, candles, butter, cheese, cider, ale, beer, nails, shingles, boots, brogans, salt-fish, (no herring if you please) white beans, salt pork, pickled fins; pickles—hand-saws, and sounds and tongues, and if the invoice does not yield a nett profit of one hundred and fifty per cent. of the same money as that paid for the catalogue, I am no judge of markets, and no speculator; sell out; put the vessel in the coast trade until the first June, and go home with the proceeds to "wife, children and friends."

I have not yet seen in my peregrinations through Texas a "yankee clock" which are so common throughout the southern United States, a sort of letter of introduction for the seller; and I trust that old time will be measured in a different way in the Republic. For myself I had rather have a slight shake
of ague, than a visit from a pedlar, at any time. I shall conclude this chapter with a synopsis of my own for the emigrant.

If a farmer—take the necessary utensils and one hundred dollars—*if you have it*—and proceed to Texas; file your declaration of citizenship, get your certificate for 320 acres land—640 if you carry a wife—quite a *dissideration* with many—and locate it near some little town, which your own sagacity will point out as eligible, and promising for success and population; raise vegetables for market of all kinds and clear your land. If a boot and shoe maker, you will find *at last*, a place for your body; and a situation of much usefulness at Houston, Galveston—or San Antoine, where you may do good to *soles*. If a tailor, any where in Texas. If a boat builder, Galveston. If a carpenter, you will find your trade *plain* enough without *screwing* any where from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. But mind one thing all of you—money is rather easier made in new countries which are prosperous than those you leave, and as prosperity is too often the ruin
of many, beware of potations. The poorest man in the world is a rich drunkard; and the richest man, and the happiest, is the sedate, sober husband, whose throne is in the affections of his wife, and whose hope is centered in his offspring. Resort to the dram shops, and health, property, character, appearance, mind, body and credit, will as certain be the penalty as life is in you, and as regards the ultimate destiny of the immortal part of man, brought to its final account before mature age, I leave the question—confessing it to be out of my jurisdiction, farther than the fact, that the "way of the transgressor is hard." Vide et crede.

In wandering about the north—the frigid north—I frequently ask myself in my contemplations of human nature, whether the present age have any of the philanthropic, magnanimous—benevolent features of character which marked the earlier history of the settlers of the Colonies. Are there no men of wealth in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, who can look forth from the narrow confines of his castled treasures to a
broader field, and found a home for the thousand worthy but destitute emigrants from Germany, Poland, Switzerland, and the Rhine; naturally a good people and industrious, and most of them good agriculturalists. Ten thousand acres of the best land, well watered and in a healthy region, can be had now for ten thousand dollars—this peopled by a tenantry of working, frugal temperate people, would not only immortalize the founder—but do an act of mercy and charity worthy of posterity's warmest praise. "But alas for all the Howards" there are no Howards left. Twenty thousand dollars would place them on the land with every article of use and comfort to colonize the estate, and if these little sheets ever find there way to such a man, as I have named, who, ere he closes his career in life, wishes to do good to his fellow men, and his own soul, let him for a moment reflect how easy would be the accomplishment of so magnanimous, and glorious an undertaking as colonizing a Swiss or German estate; and let him too remember the value of such an
estate in ten years from its settlement. It is no illusion—it is a matter of fact, and common sense scheme, which ought to command the notice of men of enlarged and nobler pursuits, than living unnoticed and unknown in luxurious indolence, fearing to hazard a dollar from the rusty vault, where it has yielded its per centum for years and whose possessor is as little known from the smoke of his habitation, as are his charities to the indigent thousands, who travel daily by his door.

It is a question of very apparent importance, to the people of the United States, whether England will recognize the independence of the Republic of Texas. The gross absurdities of the Irish Statesman O'Connell, and his consummate ignorance of the history and condition of Texas—the right she has by the law of nations to the territory, which is now an asylum for the starving children of Erin, whose bread he eats, and whose condition he is every hour making worse by his public acts, are truly astonishing to the enlightened of all countries. Has not the realm of England field enough for his rapa-
cious ambition? must he be permitted to attack the local polity of other governments, and no man answer him? Is he the Hercules of mighty England? Shade of Pitt and of Canning, rise from your dim caves, and banish from the land, your genius immortalized, the destroyer of your country. Spirit of Percy—of Fitz Gerald? did the boasted chivalry of England expire with thee? Is there no Richmond in the field of parliament to meet this tyrant Richard, in his ranting ambition? Know ye not that England holds her government from the right only of conquest? and that the Edicts of Mexico, of 1824, invited the Anglo Saxon to her shores, and under her colonization laws, and the constitution, gave them a home where they might worship God after the dictates of their own consciences; but revolted with the colonists, and drove them to Independence? Yes, this ye all know, but the blood of Wilberforce is yet in the council house of England, and the Agitator delights to see it boil. There are more slaves in Ireland, than in America, and less fed, less regarded and less
human. What cares O'Connell for principle? it is design—purpose, plot, that actuates him, and Texas will be soon enough recognized by England—she acts from policy only, and we make cotton in Texas—without which the loom stands still, and the people revolt—the age will not do for idleness in Europe, and Republican governments are no experiments now. Blast not then with your windy declaration, Ireland's incubi, the clime which has fed your countrymen for ages, and who are engrained on the parent tree of Liberty, but not Equality with the African. There is more genius, more reputation, more refinement and more real honesty in Shield—Ireland's brightest son, than in the demagogue, who, like Sampson would pull down the Temple of an empire in his rage and blindness.
CHAPTER XI.

Few men have departed for that "bourn from whence no traveller returns" more lamented than the late Robert E. Handy, who expired at Richmond, in Brazoria County in December last. Colonel Handy was esteemed one of the first, and best citizens of the country; amiable in disposition, benevolent, generous, and intrepid, he was beloved by all, and his death has been regarded a public loss, while a large circle of friends, of whom he was the idol; have felt that his place can never be filled in their affections. Colonel Handy was one of the band at San Jacinto, and where all were brave he was foremost in danger, and judicious in council.

"When Handy died I lost my best friend!" was the expression of General Lamar.
A nation deplored his loss; and "will sel-
dom look upon his like again." Sit tibi le-
vis terra prateneis.

The present representative of Texas, near
the government of the United States, the
Honourable Richard G. Dunlap; the former
Secretary of the Treasury—now resident at
Washington, is perhaps as familiar with the
general character and condition of Texas as
any gentleman now in the country; and
waving the etiquette of station he is ever
willing to give audience to those who require
any important information of the Republic.
In his official capacity it would of course be
expecting too much of General Dunlap to
enter into a detail of the government and coun-
try he so satisfactorily represents, yet in his
zeal in behalf of the land of his adoption, it
gives him pleasure to impart any intelli-
gence in his power of a country which has
risen from a wilderness, by the determined
spirit of its people, and in the illimitable wis-
dom of the Supreme ruler of nations, with
unprecedented rapidity to all the requisitions
of a free and prosperous Republic; where the
"weary and heavy laden" an honest industry may find a home from the storms of discordant polities, and wasting empires.

Long may the orb of day sink to rest in his unclouded beauty, to cheer the heart of the departing soldier when he looks for the last time on a blood bought land, where generations yet to come shall bless his name as the benefactor of mankind, and where freedom shall delight, in her benign influence, to rear her institutions and her monuments by the patriot's grave.

Doubtlessly the reader is by this time as weary of these pages, if his patience has continued him so far, as myself; but if it be any consolation "Know all men by these presents" that this is the valedictory chapter; and I doubt whether any manuscript matter has ever fallen into the compositor's hands with a more manifest impress of haste, and with stronger features of a rapid birth; for this little volume is but the hasty offspring of a tourist, who has scrambled off a page here, and a page there, in the different Hotels from the "White Sulphur" at Virginia to the
"British American" at Montreal; some in blue, some in black and two, or three, in brown coloured ink; and the third, or fourth chapter, absolutely written with a toothpick attached to a common skeiver. Consequently taking the time, places and material, for the mechanical part of my labours, there could be but little similarity in style, or little connexion of subject. In short the book is cast on the stream of life with all its defects by its unpretending author; a personage who has heretofore troubled the reading world with a more finished order of composition, and rather a better specimen of belles-lettres.

Texas, the subject of this work, perhaps has more abundant material and history, from the wildness and originality of its character and scenery, for the pen of the careful but imaginative writer, than any country on the face of the globe. The classic pen of the incomparable Irving, has stripped the Rocky Mountains of their sterility, and given the wildest abodes of nature a calm and tranquil beauty. No pen from Cervantes and Le Sage—down to the Antiquarian and Ivanhoe, has
ever travelled over foolscap to such advantage to the human heart as has the Author's of the life of Columbus. Would that his calm spirit was on the mountains, and the prairies of sunny Texas. The Colorado rising in green clad grandeur from the winding stream at its broad base; the ocean like prairie, where not a tree, nor plant rises high enough to break the monotony of distance in all its wildness, and silent solitude, is a joyous sight when you behold it as the golden sun goes calmly down by its far off edge, seeming to descend into the very earth, and to throw back its molten radiance from the mighty cave, even like his liquid light on the measureless wave as he sinks in the "world of waters" from the sea-boy's gaze. And then the Texas night,—months passing away without a variation of climate, when the early Spring comes, on the south wind's pinion, and the yellow moon succeeds the lengthened twilight over the flower-lit plain, all give the land of Austin a pleasing and satisfying charm, to those who are now set down under their own "vine and fig tree."
forego metaphor, Texas is indeed a lovely clime, and accursed be the wretch who would see this choicest gift of Him, who said, "let there be light," peopled by a servile race, and the god-like mind of man benighted by the demoralizing influence of priest-craft, under the cowl and mask of superstition, and the worst of tyrannies, and rank and bloated luxuriance not where Freedom was wont to plant the fair tree of peace and love, giving a christian home to the persecuted of all countries, under a free government, where human distinctions are predicated only on reputation, and where man is not elevated above his fellow men by an unholy usage, derived from a barbarous age, perpetuated by force, and secured only by a power unnatural, and unreasonable to humanity.

A Republican form of government is the most compatible with human happiness, for envy being a large ingredient in the admixture of the human composition; and the nearer men live in equality with each other, the less restraint and the less cause is there for hostility and animadversion; but as all dis-
tinctions are founded on public utility, the more simple the form of these necessary elevations the better; and the safest character of men for them, are the naturally unostentatious and unpretending.

Circumstances cannot change the natural man, and station, and place, frequently develope the real disposition, when life might pass away, and the absolute temperament or feeling never be known, in a less humble condition. I wonder if any reasonable, sound sense man living, doubts that at some time or other, all forms of government will be Republican? Now, not always reasonable myself—and seldom or ever overburthened with sense—I think my obtuse vision can discry such a state of society in the march of human improvements, and in the continuous advancement of civilization and science. Every age brings man nearer to an equality with man, than the last. History shows this, and the effects of education on the human mind will ultimately produce universal freedom, and an everlasting exemption from tyranny. Let there be such distinctions forever,
as arise from worth—industry, education, moral rectitude and wealth derived from labour; but none other. These suggestions are merely made, as Texas will soon be a powerful Republic with a large population, for the notice of the truly republican and philanthropich.

The constitution of Texas; the statutes, and the form of civil and legal government, is in substance borrowed from those of the Faderland, the United States; the term applying to the people, and not the territory, and the day is not remote when the eye of prejudice will lose its pellicle, and the tongue of truth accent her praise; for already is Texas a more moral country than many parts of the United States; and society, and the general tone of the manners of the people infinitely better. Crime is less frequent, and sooner punished than in the south and southwest.

All that is now required, is agricultural and mechanical industry, and a sufficient export, to meet the import of necessaries, and then Texas will regulate her currency at home,
and it become domestic. Five millions of dollars, as a basis of a National Issue, will be all sufficient, and hostile Mexicans and Indians are only an advantage to the country, for the army and navy would be uninstructed, and useless, with only a theoretical knowledge of military and marine tactics but for their strife, for no country on Earth is exempt from "wars, and rumours of wars."

The past History of Texas from the days of the overthrow of the constitution of '24, and the oppression of the central military despotism of Mexico, which gave its last gasp on the plains of San Jacinto, are conclusive enough of her destiny as a nation.

May her people long enjoy the blessings of a wise, and judicious government, and peace empire in the land.

THE END.