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John C. Maloney

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"THE FABRIC OF AMERICAN EMPIRE OUGHT TO REST ON THE SOLID BASIS OF THE CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE."—HAMILTON.

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Improvement of St. John's Bar.

Mr. Editor:—In a communication in a former number of your paper, a suggestion was made for improving the St. John's Bar by the pneumatic system of pile driving; a process which has been successfully employed for the last three or four years in England, under circumstances similar to what exist at the bar of our river. This process has not, so far as I have been informed, yet been introduced into use in this country, and although it is represented as being a cheap one, yet it is presumed to be attended with a considerable amount of expense in its application, and would be used only in those situations where other methods are impracticable. Such was believed to be the case at the mouth of our river at the time when the former proposition was made, and I have full confidence that success would attend the application, if means for accomplishing the improvement could be obtained, and the importance of the project in its beneficial results to the prosperity of Florida would warrant almost any amount of expense required for its accomplishment.

But if a cheaper and more effectual mode can be discovered to bring about the same result, it of course will be a preferable one. Since the former communication was made, and while endeavoring to inform myself respecting the causes in operation which produce the obstructions at the mouth of our river, and why the sands at the mouth of the St. John's were more disposed to shift, than at the mouth of the St. Mary's, where there is always a good channel, facts were presented of a character affording a strong presumption, amounting almost, if not quite, to positive proof, that this improvement can be accomplished by a comparatively cheap process. Every one must admit that the quantity of water discharged from the St. John's is much larger than from the St. Mary's, and will naturally come to the conclusion, that there are causes in operation at the mouth of the former to produce the effects observable, which do not exist at the latter; and such unquestionably is the fact, which we now propose to point out. If the reader, who may not be familiar with the localities described, will consult the map of Florida of 1846, which is on a sufficiently large scale, and quite accurate in its delineations of the facts under discussion, he will be better enabled to understand the views which I propose to advance. I have hitherto hesitated to give them to the public, because many of the facts upon which they are based, were received from report, and I had had no opportunity of verifying them by personal inspection, and was unwilling to advance anything for which I could not vouch. And after having visited the localities described, for the purpose of demonstrating the existence of the facts themselves, might still hesitate to give my views to the public on such a subject, had they not been favorably received by those whose occupations have made them familiar with the phenomena observed at the mouth of our own, and of other rivers upon the Southern coast, who have expressed it as their opinion that the conclusions to which I have arrived, are fairly deduced from the facts, and should be known to the public.

The course of the St. John's from the Light-house to the outer bar, a mile and a half distant, is E. N. E., and by casting your eye Northward, you will observe that the inlet between Fort George and Talbot Islands comes out in the direction of E. S. E., and running diagonally across the mouth of the river, and you will observe too, that from the position and direction of this inlet, it must give exit to a considerable amount of the waters of Nassau river, and the inland passage coming from St. Mary's. The peculiar *déboûche* of these two streams, gives the appearance of their having a common mouth; which to a considerable extent is the fact, and which mouth is the outer bar (as it is called) of the river.

We should expect, under such circumstances, to find larger accumulations of sand at this point, than would exist if a single stream only had its exit here; but we might suppose also, that, after the junction, and commingling of the waters of both streams, a channel common to both would be formed out into the ocean, of a depth sufficient for all practical uses. And such, most probably, would be the result, if the tides in both were concurrent, or running in the same direction, at the same time.

But this concurrence of tides, unfortunately only exists to a very limited extent, for it is a fact well known to the Bar Pilots, and to others resident in that vicinity, that the flood tide makes into the inlet for full two hours before it does into the St. John's, and while the ebbs are going out of the river with a strong current. Now, what result might be expected from the action of these alternate or opposite tides? It will be remembered that the course of the inlet is diagonally across the mouth of the river, and the waters of the ocean are now sweeping across into it, and meet the strong ebb tide coming out of the river. The direction of both currents would be diverted from their original course, and would, conjoined, sweep around in a curve into the inlet; and such is known to be the fact in this case.

This direction, or whirl of the waters, issuing out of the river, would form a tendency to create a recurrent channel from the main channel extending around towards the inlet; and this channel is found to exist.

The last of the ebb tide in all streams is more instrumental in moving the sands on the bottom, than the earlier portions of the tide, because the moving current of water is in more immediate contact with them, and the velocity is greater from having acquired a momentum, in consequence of the stream having been moving in the same direction for a considerable time, and all the waters being in motion the same way, and the waters before, propelled by those behind, all struggling for an exit into the ocean. This is the condition of the waters of the river at this point of time; they are sur-

charged with the sands washed from the bed of the river, and meeting with the waters of the ocean, at an angle which will have the effect both to turn them from their original course into the recurrent channel, and also to densen their velocity, so that the sands held in suspension will be deposited upon the sides of the current, forming banks on either side. Upon examination, all this will be found to exist. The inner or western bank of this channel is that extensive sand bank on the north side of the river, constituting Fort George beach, which has been annually increasing, and to such a degree as to be constantly encroaching upon the river, forcing its bed over upon the south bank, which is as constantly washing away. The other, or seaward bank of this recurrent channel, is a rim, or narrow bank of sand, running across the mouth of the river, extending around in a curved direction towards that portion of Talbot beach, which constitutes the bank of the Inlet, and seems to be a mere prolongation of it. At a point, however, bearing W. S. W. from the outer buoy of the St. John's, and a mile, or a mile and a half distant, there is a depression of this sand spit, where at high waters the tides may pass, and which might be termed a mouth of the inlet, did it not perform its office so imperfectly, for at very low waters it is nearly or quite passable from Fort George to Talbot beach; but the narrow bank of sand is covered only by a few feet of water, and to all intents may be considered a continuation of Talbot beach, and extending around across the channel of the river, and has its terminus at the banks south of the river. Upon this bank the surf breaks, and inside of it is the deep water occupying the recurrent channel. We are now enabled to comprehend some of the causes in operation to create obstructions to navigation at the mouth of our river.

We have thus far noticed the effects produced by the last two hours of the ebb in the river being diverted from its natural course by the flood setting into the inlet. There has been little opportunity for an exit of the waters of the river over the outer bar into the ocean, thus far. Let us follow the tides to a change. The tide has been ebb for two hours in the river, while it was flood in the inlet. You must not suppose, however, that the tide is flowing into the inlet before the waters of the ocean are higher than those of the inlet, for they of course have risen high enough to run in, and so they have into the St. John's also, were it not for the resistance offered to their entrance by the mass of waters rushing down the river, struggling for an exit. This being a powerful stream, and discharging a larger amount of waters, it will require a longer time for their discharge than it does from the inlet, and the force with which they move will be greater in the former than in the latter, because they will have acquired a momentum by the pressure of waters behind urging on those before, which will require a great amount of resistance on the part of the waters of the ocean, so completely overcome, as to be able to flow into the river, and this is not done until it is half flood at the mouth. On the contrary, the inlet being a small stream, the waters are soon discharged, and no impediment exists against the waters of the ocean flowing into it; so that the water has risen so as to be higher. We have now flood tide in both streams; but the concurrence lasts but a short period, for the course of the ebb tide from its natural course over the Bar; its sands which it holds in suspension will not be deposited until they have been carried into the deep waters of the ocean, and the ebb tide will be allowed to perform its legitimate office of deepening the Bar, which it will effectually accomplish; the recurrent channel, running just inside of the sand spit, which extends from Talbot beach across the mouth of the river, will no longer have a sufficient current to keep it open, and will be filled up by the action of the surf, beating the sand spit over into it, making a continuous beach of St. George and Talbot upon which the surf will break. The outer Bar will be brought nearer the Light-house, and like that of the St. Mary's and other rivers whose streams pass out isolated into the ocean. There will be no more wash across the sand banks of St. George's beach from the inlet, to deposit its sands in the channel over the river; it will crowd its bed over upon the south bank, to wash it away, and endanger the pier-work of the Light-house in its present locality. This is a point of this subject upon which I promised to speak again, and which I will now discuss. There are other results which might be enumerated, but want of time forbids. There has been going on for years, and perhaps for ages, a progression of the bed of the river to the south. The land has been forming on the north side and washing away on the south. To such an extent has this been done within the memory of many of our citizens, that one of the most prominent landmarks on the southern coast, known as the "General's Mound," that stood on the south bank, (and is still recorded on most charts,) has been for years washed away, and the bed of the river now occupies the site where it once stood. We have seen the causes in operation which produce the southern progression, to wit, the accumulation of sands on the north bank of the river, and the precipitation of them into the channel by the wash of the cross currents from the inlet. These depositions of sand are in part carried away again, I admit, by the action of the ebb tide, but they are more than supplied by the subsequent wash across the banks of St. George's beach. The river has already approached within 150 feet of the Light-house, and just above the house there is a place where there is only a sand bank of twenty-five or thirty feet, which prevents the river from breaking through into a sink or lagoon, which extends south and west of the Light-house, into which the tide ebbs and flows from below. Should this breach be made, the river would pass around the Light-house, and near its base, and the work of destruction would be short and complete.

In view, then, of the prospective contingency of the Government being obliged soon to replace the structure by a new one upon another site, if the causes endangering its safety are permitted to operate, is it not our duty to call the attention of Congress to the subject immediately, before it is too late? The causes which endanger the safety and permanence of the present edifice are identical with those which furnish the obstructions to navigation at the mouth of the river, and the remedy for one is a remedy for the other; and the expense of applying it is small indeed in comparison with the object attained, and not much, if any, greater, than would be required for the construction of a new Light-house. Have we not a strong ground of appeal to the General Government for aid and immediate action in this matter? We need and should earnestly urge the immediate appointment of competent persons to make a survey and examination of the mouth of the river in relation to these subjects. And there is probably no more capable and efficient corps of scientific persons

than those engaged in making the coast survey of which Prof. Bache is the superintendent, and an invitation extended to him by our citizens might induce him to pay us a visit, when he could soon make himself acquainted with the existing state of the facts, and his representation to the Government would have great influence. The precise mode of closing the inlet should be left to the selection of a competent engineer, whose occupation has made him familiar with this kind of business. There are various modes by which it could be accomplished, and the magnitude of the project is not greater than has been achieved by many planters simply for the purpose of reclaiming their waste lands; for the distance across the inlet is only from an eighth to a quarter of a mile. The accomplishment of this project will most probably have the effect, in addition to what has been mentioned, also to force more water through the inland passage into the St. John's a few miles above its mouth, and improve the navigation of that channel, and also to force more water through Nassau inlet, so that that Bar will also be deepened. In any and every point of view, this project is deserving of our attention.

In conclusion, I have to tender my acknowledgments to Capt. Willey for important information, and to the Pilots, Messrs. Johnson, Latimer, Lamee, Brown, and Houston, for their efficient aid in making extensive soundings, and for information of facts upon which my views are founded.

I shall not estimate of the expense of accomplishing this project, for that would depend upon the plan decided upon; and not being familiar with such matters, I could not give any in which I could have confidence unless I should take more trouble to examine the subject, and it is not necessary. For the facts above stated I can vouch, and can bring proof of their existence, so that they can be relied upon; and the conclusions deduced from them are submitted to the public for their approval or rejection, whichever they may deserve. If they meet with the approval of the citizens of Florida, who have a great interest in this subject, there is imposed upon them an important duty to perform in bringing this matter in an earnest manner to the attention of the General Government, now when there is not only a possibility of its being induced to extend a helping hand, but a strong probability, if properly represented, Congress would feel bound to give immediate attention to it, and provide the means for its speedy accomplishment. We have, then, a duty to perform, which to leave undone, betokens an insensibility to our own interests quite inexplicable.

[From the Journal of Commerce.]

To the Right Reverend John Hughes, CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NEW-YORK.

BUFFALO, N. Y., 31st March, A. D. 1852.

Right Reverend Sir,—My attention, a few days ago, was called to your circular letter of the 16th inst., printed in the New-York Freeman's Journal; and, since you have been so pleased as to set me and others before the public as irreligious and worthless beings, permit me to answer you in setting before that same public our proper character, and the motives of your animadversion towards us—"the pretended Catholics of Buffalo and Rochester."

I am not at all surprised, sir, that you should feel indignant at the boldness of these "pretended Catholics," for their trying, by respectful remonstrances, to destroy the Bill which you have caused to be presented in the House of Assembly of this State; but, what surprises me, is to see one of the high dignitaries of our Church so far forget himself as to make use of such unbecoming appellations towards us, as are contained in your said circular letter.

The Bill which you have caused to be presented to the Legislature for its adoption, having no other object in view but to make you more wealthy, in giving you and your Bishops the exclusive control and administration of Church property; surely we, to whom that property belongs, since we have paid for it, have a right to remonstrate against any law likely to take it away from us; for this is not a question of religion, but merely one of dollars and cents, which you want to possess, to the exclusion of their owners.

You say that "the Catholic Bishops of New-York, Albany, and Buffalo, are now owners in fee simple of nearly all religious and charitable property existing within their respective ecclesiastical jurisdictions;" but, sir, you do not say how all this came into their hands. Your spiritual power is immense; and, if I must judge by all the misery you have inflicted upon us, to force us to annul our Act of Incorporation, I must believe that at least one-half of that property came into your hands through the compulsion which you have exercised. In France, sir, all Church property belongs to the people, and they have its temporal administration; yet they are not considered bad Catholics for holding the same.

We, sir, of the St. Louis Church of Buffalo, were born in France, or are of French descent, and are, therefore, used to the temporal administration of Church property, as it exists in that country. All this we respectfully represented to you; but it was of no avail—your mind being made up to crush us down rather than to abandon that possession which you coveted.

We were incorporated in the year 1838, under the late and worthy Bishop John Dubois, a Frenchman by birth, who did not oppose it, and with whom we remained in peace to the last of his days. It was a severe loss to us; for you succeeded him, and, not being of the same nation, trouble and misery became our lot. Our resistance to your wishes concerning our Act of Incorporation, was the cause of your withdrawing the Clergy from our Church—of its being interdicted—and, by these acts, we were deprived of all those consolations derived from our Holy religion.

You say that we of Buffalo and Rochester, whom you know well, "call ourselves Catholics;" but the faith has departed from us, except shadowy remembrance, which makes cowards of us still—not having the courage openly to declare ourselves Protestants." Oh! sir—what language from an Archbishop of our Church!

Further, you say, "the Church would gain by their forsaking her, and their adhesion to any Protestant sect would be an acquisition not much to be boasted of." There was a time, sir, when a Missionary of our Church would shed tears of blood for the

loss of a single sheep from his flock; but, at that time, it seems, their minds were more bent upon the acquirement of souls to their faith than of wealth and temporal power.

Brought up in the Roman Catholic religion, we maintain ourselves good and true Catholics, notwithstanding your opinion and assertions to the contrary—it being out of your power to destroy that faith inculcated in us by our fathers and more tolerant pastors. If we are deprived of hearing Divine Service through your will, we consider it as a cross which we are bound to bear, religiously and manfully, leaving our depinations upon your conscience, and for which you will have one day to answer before God.

But to return to your Bill. By a rule lately adopted in the Synod of Baltimore, as we are told by the Right Reverend John Timon, Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, no Church or Cemetery is to be consecrated, except the property is previously conveyed to the Archbishop, or Bishops of the Diocese where said property is situated. And it is after the adoption of this rule that you have thought fit to cause your Bill to be presented to the Legislature!—no doubt, to sanction your doings, fearing some contestations at law.

It is a grave question for the Legislature of this State to decide; for, were your Bill to pass, it would not only give you the control and possession of an immense wealth, but also a political power, so great that no person could be elected to any function without your consent.

We have had an example of this meddling with the elections, in Buffalo and the whole county of Erie, by Bishop Timon's ordering the Pastors of all the Catholic Churches to preach to their congregations against the election of Lester Brace, Esq., as Superintendent of the Poor!

You conclude your letter by saying, "We have no reason to doubt the justice and liberality of the Legislature in our regard, more than in regard to any other denomination." We, sir, will confidently hope for that same justice, to maintain our rights to the property which we possess.

In hope, also, that you will one day be inspired with better religious feelings towards us, permit me most respectfully to subscribe myself,

Right Reverend Sir,
Your most obt. serv't
WM. B. LECOUTURE.

Mr. Webster and the Compromise.

MR. G. A. TAVENNER, of Alexandria, having addressed Mr. WEBSTER on the subject of the Compromise, has drawn from him the following reply, which is published in the Alexandria Gazette:

WASHINGTON, April 10, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, and thank you for what you have pleased to say of my fidelity to great national Whig principles. I trust there is not a man in the country who doubts my approbation of those measures, which are usually called "Compromise measures," or my fixed determination to uphold them steadily and firmly.

Nothing but a deep sense of duty led me to take the part which I did take, in bringing about their adoption by Congress; and that same sense of duty remains with unabated force. I am of opinion that those measures, one and all, were necessary and expedient, and ought to be adhered to by all friends of the Constitution, and all lovers of their country. That one among them which appears to have given the greatest dissatisfaction, I mean the Fugitive Slave Law, I hold to be a law entirely constitutional, highly proper, and absolutely essential to the peace of the country. Such a law is demanded by the plain written words of the Constitution; and how any man can wish to abrogate or destroy it, and at the same time say that he is a supporter of the Constitution, and willing to adhere to those provisions in it, which are clear and positive injunctions and restraints, passes my power of comprehension.

My belief is, that when the passions of men subside, and reason and true patriotism are allowed to have their proper sway, the public mind, North and South, will come to a proper state upon these questions. I do not believe that further agitation can make any considerable progress at the North. The great mass of the people, I am sure, are sound, and have no wish to interfere with such things as are, by the Constitution, placed under the exclusive control of the separate States. I have noticed, indeed, not without regret, certain proceedings to which you have alluded, and in regard to these, I have to say, that gentlemen may not think it necessary or proper, that they should be called upon to affirm, by resolution, that which is already the existing law of the land.—That any positive movement to repeal or alter any or all the Compromise measures would meet with any general encouragement or support, I do not at all believe. But, however that may be, my own sentiments remain and are likely to remain quite unchanged. I am in favor of upholding the Constitution, in the general, and all its particulars. I am in favor of respecting its authority and obeying its injunctions; and to the end of life shall do all in my power to fulfil honestly and faithfully all its provisions. I look upon the Compromise measures as a proper, fair and final adjustment of the questions to which they relate; and no re-agitation of those questions, no new opening of them, no effort to create dissatisfaction with them, will ever receive from me the least countenance or support, concurrence or approval, at any time, or under any circumstances.

I am, with regard,
Your obt. servant,
DANIEL WEBSTER.
G. A. TAVENNER, Esq.

MISSIONS IN ARKANSAS.—It is stated that the Church Missions in Arkansas have not kept pace with the population, nor satisfied their spiritual wants.—About twelve years ago Arkansas was but a Territory, now a populous State, with an area of nearly 400,000,000 of acres, and a population of 200,000. The increase in ten years has been more than 100,000, and the ratio is increasing yearly. It is nearly twelve years ago, since the pioneers with the Church penetrated this wilderness with the glad sounds of responsive worship. During this lapse of time, eight or nine missionaries have come and gone, (none have died,) and thousands have been expended upon missions in this State alone.

From the N. O. Picayune, April 1st.

The Aztecs.

About three weeks since, a gentleman, who had recently returned from Tehuantepec, placed in our hands a volume composed of a number of layers of parchment bound together with brazen clasps, and presenting appearances of great antiquity. It was obtained from an Indian curate—there are many such in that part of Mexico—and the history of it, as related by himself, is this:—He said that he had purchased it from a native trader who once a year was in the habit of visiting a city among the mountains towards the south, which is inhabited exclusively by Aztecs. The name of this city is Coaxcochingo, which, in the language of the tribe to which the curate belongs, signified "the mystery of the mountains." Within an inner apartment of the grand temple of Coaxcochingo are kept about fifty volumes similar in appearance to the one referred to, which, it is said by the priests, were preserved from the extensive collection of records known to have existed in Mexico at the time of the conquest, and which were destroyed by Cortez in the heat of his intemperate zeal against the paganism of the Aztecs. The volumes preserved at Coaxcochingo are regarded as holy things and are only to be seen on days of great public rejoicing or solemnity. It was on an occasion of this kind that the Indian trader succeeded in abstracting one of them.

This volume, which we have now before us, is filled with hieroglyphical characters, almost all of which are, of course, perfectly unintelligible to us. But one circumstance connected with it is of the highest importance, and tends to confirm the theory that the Aztecs are descendants of a race which migrated to this continent from the eastern shores of Asia, about twenty centuries ago. It is remarkable that on one or two pages of the volume, immediately beneath the hieroglyphics, there are inscriptions in Greek characters, forming words in that language, but written backwards, in the Oriental style. On the first page these inscriptions run thus: (we give English characters for want of Greek)—*not nap not so go!* which reversed reads, *O'logos ton panon*—literally, "word of all," or "of all things." It is to be presumed from this that the book is a history of the mysterious people among whom it was found, and could be thoroughly deciphered, it would, no doubt, completely solve the problems of our aboriginal archaeology. On another page there is a picture of a water, and under it the word *sessalcht*, which is evidently *theolasses*—Greek for the sea. A representation of a vessel full of men accompanies this, and conveys the impression that it refers to a voyage of migration from beyond the sea. The existence of these Greek words in this volume is a very singular circumstance, and proves conclusively that it must have been the work of some nation from the old continent which had sufficient communication with Greece to learn the language. That it is Asiatic is proved by the fact of the reversed writing, which method is used by all Oriental nations. A coincident fact with this one is the discovery lately made of a Hebrew volume found in the possession of a western tribe of Indians, an account of which has already been given in almost all the newspapers, and will doubtless be remembered by our readers. We understand that it is the intention of the proprietor of the strange volume referred to, to submit it to the inspection of Professor Gliddon, whose hieroglyphical attainments may enable him to make some interesting discoveries in this new field of investigation.

Land for the Central Railroad.

In the House of Representatives, on the 9th, Mr. Orr reported from the Committee on Public Lands a bill granting lands and the right of way to the State of Florida to aid in the construction of the Florida, Atlantic and Gulf Central Railroad, and also for exempting railroad iron from duty. Mr. Houston, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, took exception to the latter provision of the bill, as transcending the duties of the Committee on Public Lands, which had no right under the rules to propose an alteration in the revenue laws. The Speaker sustained the point of order made by Mr. Houston, and his decision was confirmed by the House. The great number of railroads now in progress of construction rendered it very desirable that the duties on railroad iron should be renitted. A suspension of the duty for three years is so strongly talked of, that a Committee of Iron-masters have visited Washington to remonstrate against it.

WHERE PADDY INTENDED TO LAY HIS LAND WARRANTS.—In one of the cities of the upper Mississippi, a worthy Minister of the Gospel, after dwelling upon the beauty of holiness and the hatefulness of sin, took occasion to impress upon his hearers the danger of occupying the neutral ground—trusting to a merely moral walk, without faith or works—as being sufficient to ensure them a rich reward in the "good time coming." Just as the reverend gentleman touched upon this portion of his sermon, a sturdy, weather-beaten son of the Emerald Isle entered the room, and with that politeness peculiar to the Irishman, quietly helped himself to a seat and least an attentive ear to the speaker. The clergyman portrayed, in an able and very striking manner, the beautiful and attractive scenery which everywhere meets the enraptured vision throughout the boundless plains and delightful groves of this neutral ground, leading the senses captive by their exceeding loveliness, and filling the soul with sweet contentment. The picture seemed to have a magical effect upon the Irishman, like the sudden and unexpected realization of some fondly cherished hope; for, without waiting for an application of the figure—of which he was not dreaming—he all at once rose to his feet and exclaimed in all the richness of the brogue, "I thank your honor for the same news, for its meself that has two of the most beautiful land warrants that a man ever fought for in Mexico, and its a notion I have to locate them in the same beautiful country of which you have been speaking." The effect was electrical. The congregation could not restrain their risibles—and the services were brought to a sudden termination by the singing of a hymn. Poor Pat was a thousand times sorry for his mistake—and said he mistook the congregation for a "blackguard political meeting entirely"—and that if any one would introduce him to the parson he would beg pardon "for having unintentionally played the deuce with his discourse."