

war!

WAR

1846.05.29

The War! – Our readers have all heard, before this time of the war of this country with Mexico; and probably they know, too, what has been done, thus far, by both parties, so we need not, like all the rest of the papers, religious as well as secular, fill up our columns with war news. The upshot of the whole matter will be, that the Mexicans will get most soundly whipped; the Americans lose many valuable lives; the Treasury be drained of its spare money; business deranged; and, finally, after much hard fighting, the difficulty between the two nations will be settled as it would be better to have had it settled in the first place – by negotiation. War is a bad concern, when one looks at the evils it occasions, but we don't know how it is to be avoided so long as it is considered the honourable way for nations to settle disputes. The most curious part of war is, that both parties, before they begin to kill each other, most solemnly invoke the Lord to bless the work and lend a hand to help it on, just as if they relied upon him for victory, instead of depending upon their powder and balls.

- Ex. Paper

1846.05.22

Why are we at War?

A Washington correspondent of the N.Y. Herald speaks right out in meetin', as follows:

"Why, or wherefore were the troops of Gen. Taylor pushed forward to the Eastern branch of the Rio Del Norte, is a question frequently asked but rarely answered satisfactorily. I will now give you the true solution to the question. By the terms of Annexation with Texas, that State held its own hands its public lands, in order to cover its floating debt. On investigation, it was found that in Texas proper, the whole public domain had been squandered away by the Government of the Republic, and consequently the holders of the

great amount of Texas scrip, lost all hope of being paid from that source.

It then became necessary to plunder Mexico of a large portion of the three States of New Mexico, Coahuila and Chihuahua, and of all New Mexico which lies between the Bravo del Norte and the river Nueces, West of which stream the Republic of Texas never had either civil or military jurisdiction, nor even the shadow of a claim other than that arising from an act of its Legislature, which declared the Bravo to be the Western boundary of the republic; yet, if at the cost of so much blood, treasure and national honor, the United States will plunder Mexico of the vast territory lying between the Necces and Bravo, the State of Texas will claim the whole territory, and then be able to pay her national debt. Who can tell what amount of Texas scrip is held by the members of the present Cabinet, who have projected this species of plunder and robbery?"

1847.06.25

INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS ON WAR

Address of the Industrial Congress to the Citizens of the United States.

The Industrial Congress, deeply impressed with your fatal connection with the war system, deem it their duty to address you on the subject.

It is obvious that there is implanted in the human organization, both physical and mental; propensities of combativeness; and that evidently these elements were destined as sources of protection to our race, at least against the aggressions of the lower animals, and, not improbably, against the violence of our own race, individually and collectively. But, notwithstanding this admission, it is due to consistency, and to the intelligence, civilization, and humanity of the day, to say that, in our opinion an enlightened people should not make the lowest propensities of the race the justification of National acts, and schemes of aggrandizement and War, emanating from the highest

councils known to our laws and constitutions. We cannot, however, conceal from our own, nor the eyes of the public – nor would we – that the whole organization of society, as at present existing, is a *State of War*, in which fundamental rights are invaded, and men are made the victims of injustice and wrong with the sanction of Law.

The working men of the United States should ever keep in mind that they belong to the class who bear all the burdens of War, which draws its supplies from industry, and loads with taxation the producers of wealth. That the poor are mainly exposed to its dangers, and receive few of its so called honors. Working men, Resolve, Never to fight for despots to enslave you, or for territory which, without a change in our governmental policy, you will only be permitted to occupy as serfs or slaves.

A Standing Army must meet your decided disapprobation. Ever subservient to despotism, it endangers your liberty, keeps from you the enjoyment of your just rights, is a chief item in the expense of government, corrupts the morals of the people, encourages idleness, is a gross departure from the principles on which our government was founded, destructive of the social equality that ought to exist between citizens of a Republic, by all the difference there is in the absolute authority of the Officer, and the slavish obedience of the soldier.

Famine, the Plague and War are said to be the three greatest calamities that can befall the human race. But War, in which the evils of famine and plague are concentrated, in addition to the horrors and vices peculiar to itself, occurs oftener and is frequently of longer duration than either Famine or Plague, and as a necessary consequence more prolific of suffering and destructive of life and property, as the pages of History, abundantly testify.

PATRIOTISM

1846.03.13

FEAR. – Fear is implanted in us, as a preservative from evil; but its duty, like that of other passions, is not to overbear reason, but to assist it; nor should it be suffered to tyrannize in the imagination, to raise phantoms of horror, or to best life with supernumerary distresses.

- Johnson.

1846.07.03

OUR COUNTRY – RIGHT OR WRONG!

Although this sentiment is repudiated and denounced by many as unjust and absurd, when applied to “our country,” who can deny that it is the very spirit and basis of our present social, legal, financial and political actions.

Are we not taught to protect and defend, our own selves first, under all circumstances, and do we not do it, right or wrong; next, are we not taught to protect and defend our children, families and particular friends, their interests, property, characters, positions and occupations, right or wrong, and do we not aim to do it? Are not our lawyers bound under oath, to protect and defend their clients, right or wrong? Are we not bound to obey the laws of the country in which we live, right or wrong? Do we not swear to support the Constitution of *our* country, right or wrong, good or evil? Does not the successful gambler claim his wager, right or wrong? the hungry, avaricious lawyer his exorbitant fees, right or wrong? the “Shylock” miser and money-monger, the very extreme of his bond, right or wrong? and the master his slave, right or wrong?

...

Do not the pirate and highway robber claim our money and obtain it if they can, right or wrong? Does not the avaricious speculator claim all he can get in trade and monopoly, whether of goods, money or land, (the free gift of God,) whether right or wrong? Does not the politician claim all the advantage

he can gain by fraud, deception, abuse, intrigue and duplicity, justified by the motto – “our party, right or wrong? Must not our military men rush to the battle field at the command of a superior officer, without liberty to inquire whether right or wrong? Sufficient for them, “their country calls,” – let innocent millions be sacrificed – ‘tis for “ourselves” that we fight.

Until we can strip the bandage from the eyes of Justice, we shall govern and be governed by force and fraud. Our private and our public interests will clash, and we shall sustain the relation of enemies to each other. Man will continue to be the worst enemy of man; individuals, families and nations will be arrayed against each other; capital and labor will clash, force them into large competitive bodies, compel them to work for less than will sustain them, force them to dive into the dock, kill and destroy each other, as the late history of the oppressed labor in Brooklyn has clearly proven.

All this proceeds as naturally and inevitably from the established principle of ‘our cause’ whether right or wrong, as does heat and light proceed from the sun, the great fountain of light and heat; for who expects a bitter fountain to send forth sweet waters, “or a corrupt tree to bring forth good fruit.” There is no fraud or abuse which might not be justified under this banner.

The rumseller takes our money from us in a far more objectionable way, than the pure, unmitigated thief; as he gives us back a destructive dose, worse than the Mexicans’ copper bullets – which destroys us and often our families; and all this he does for his own supposed especial benefit; and surely he cannot stop to consider whether this is right or wrong!

May God protect the Right; and may men soon learn to do the same.
JUSTICE.

- New York, June 22, 1846

1846.02.06

Men easily believe what their passions suggest to them, and the

weakest reasons which persuade them, are to them demonstrations. – After they have thus deceived themselves, the decisive way wherewith they discourse of what they believe, serves to deceive others, or at least they fancy they have persuaded them with reasons the weakness whereof would be palpable, if they were free passion.

- Le Clerc's Parrhasians.

1846.05.29

PATRIOTISM!

Who'll Fight? Now is your time, war spirits! you that love the smell of gunpowder, and are fond of human butchery! do ye not hear the growl of the accursed demon in the dying cries of seven hundred of your brethren in the South West!

Up, up and be doing; you have missed something already! hundreds have been slaughtered and you were not there to enjoy the feast of blood.

The widows and orphans’ wail is heard and *you have* not the satisfaction of being instruments in the cause. Towns and cities are to be sacked, and where will be your *share* of the Plunder! Te Deums will have been sung for the glorious achievements of that gallant and *Christian* bard, and you are not among them.

Come, arouse yourselves; your brother butchers will be reveling in the halls of the Montezumas, are you have awakened from your lethargy; then grid on your bucklers beat your ploughshares into swords, and pruning hooks into spears, (for the Savior was mistaken when he taught the reverse) fling your caps into the air and shout for liberty; Oh! glorious! glorious! let the world know how Godlike it is to stand up as a mark to be shot at and receive ten dollars per month for standing fire.

The area of freedom must be extended, then let your watchword be Blood! Blood! Blood!

WAR AND POLITICS

46.05.22

THE MEXICAN WAR - Let those who make the war, do all the fighting, make themselves marks for all the bullets, and received all the glory.

1846.12.11

'THE DOGS OF WAR, LET LOOSE, ARE HOWLING.'

President Polk is getting wrathful; Secretary Marcy is issuing his mandates: Uncle Sam is in a bad pickle; Mexico is showing her teeth, and all creation looks astonished. More men are wanted, to butcher and be butchered; and if all accounts are true, there will soon be a chance for all those who wish to distinguish themselves by cutting the throats of their fellows. One regiment only is wanted from Massachusetts at present. 'Who'll enlist?' is the cry. Not the Workingmen, for they have nothing to fight for; not an inch of land is theirs, though the United States should acquire the whole of the western continent - let their blood flow free as water, let them murder their thousands, still they will be men without homes. There is nothing to be gained - much to be lost in this infamous war, by those who are so foolish as to engage in it. That clique of demagogues at Washington, speculators, gamblers in stocks and Texas script, only will reap the spoils: those who do the murderous work may pocket what little glory there is, but precious little of anything else will get; save hard knocks, mutilated bodies, broken constitutions and seared consciences; all of which can be obtained at a cheaper rate and nearer home, if necessary; then let President Polk, Secretary Marcy and Governor Briggs give their orders and issue their proclamations, and all the 'Bombastes Furiosos' in the land reiterate the call, and tell what a glorious thing is 'war,' and how willing they are to die for their country! - Stand back and give them a chance - stay at home and attend your own affairs; - they can be spared as well as not. Most of them can say as did the man sentenced to Botany Bay, that they leave their

country for their country's good.' But no; when the pinch comes, these valiant souls, so ready to speak 'war, pestilence and famine,' find their 'courage has oozed out at their fingers ends,' and they, 'beg to be excused,' by paying a fine or procuring a substitute. But the poor laborer cannot raise 'the ready,' and must either fight or go to jail. Brother workingmen, at this time choose the lesser evil, and patronize that 'peculiar institution,' the prison, rather than pay a visit to that 'human slaughter house' and cripple manufactory in Mexico, to help sustain that 'very peculiar institution of our *free and glorious Republic*, Negro Slavery. We have concluded to spend a season (should we be drafted) at Samuel's romantic villa, near Mechanics Mills, for we think that 'skilly' and a clear conscience is better than all the glory that can be obtained by murdering our fellow beings in any war, much more such a thieving, abominable, unjust one as is the present. Mechanics, laborers, and everybody else, DON'T ENLIST.

1846.01.30

The World as it is. - In this world men thrive in villainy; and lying and deceiving are accounted just and to be rich is to be wise, and tyranny is honorable; and though little thefts and petty mischiefs are interrupted by the laws, yet if a mischief became public and great, acted by princes and effected by armies, and robberies be done by whole fleets, it is virtue and it is glory.

- Taylor

FINANCING WAR

1846.05.29

The battle field is a theatre of immense cost, for the exhibition of crime upon a grand scale.

1846.11.20

COST OF THE MEXICAN WAR - The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says: - "Were the war to be brought to a close forthwith, the best judges compute the aggregate of all its expenses, to say nothing of the thousands of our brave officers and soldiers who have been slain in battle, and the thousands that have perished by sickness on the Rio Grande, at no less than *one hundred and fifty millions of dollars*.

"This sum in silver, it is computed, would load **FOURTEEN HUNDRED SIX-HORSE WAGONS**, and would require a train of teams to draw it more than **TWENTY-ONE MILES LONG!**

"All this expended in carrying on the Mexican war *thus far*, under the management of this economical, this self-styled "Democratic" Administration, when it is generally believed that we could have obtained Peace, California, and the Rio Grande for a boundary for a sum not exceeding ten millions of dollars. *A beautiful business.*

1847.07.30

DIRECT TAXATION FOR WAR EXPENSES

The people must pay these villainous war expenses. We say, then they should be justly apportioned among the States and upon the people according to their property. This, can only be done by direct taxation. "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the States, in proportion to the numbers of all free persons." That is the Constitution, and we hold the Slaveocrats to it. The doctrine of the whigs and democrats to the contrary are outrageous.

This war was got up for the slaveholders, for their especial benefit - let them not then creep out from under its burdens, and throw them upon the North. We hope the Freemen of the north are not

sufficiently servile to bear this. The South have their representatives upon their slaves upon the three-fifths principle - let them pay taxes upon the same principle. Let the representation and taxation go together.

We know that this rule will not suit the wealthy men of the North. Such men join the slaveholders of the South. Their interest is, to throw the expenses from property upon persons that they may escape the burthen. But this rule will suit the men of moderate means at the North, and it will suit all the poor of the north - it will suit the laboring classes of the North. It is exactly suited to *free labor* everywhere. Men should pay according to their means, and not according to what they consume, as they do under the tariff system.

Were men to pay for the cost of this robbery and piracy upon Mexico in proportion to their ability to pay, we should find the rich men at the North not quite so free to involve the men of moderate property and the poor in this guilty war and its amazing expenditures. Almost all rich men are ready to vote men and money for the war - to enlist themselves as officers, and prosecute the war with vigor - but that is the last thing they would do, if they were obliged to pay the cost of their blood guiltiness, according to their property. If they will have Mexico destroyed from the face of the earth, as they are now destroying her, then we protest against throwing the expense of that monstrous wrong upon the poor of the North. They would quick see in such case that justice and mercy was the highest expediency; if men paid their expenses in proportion to their ability. Let the national expenses be paid as our State expenditures are paid - as our town and country and school district expenses are paid - that is the true method.

- True American

1847.02.19

FOUNDATION OF NATIONAL DEBT - A bill providing for these issue of

twenty-three millions of Treasury Notes passed the House on the 24th, and will in all probability pass the Senate. They are to bear an annual interest of six per cent., and to be funded if necessary - that is, a permanent national debt is to be created. If the war should continue for a year or two longer, the different issues of Treasury Notes, consolidated after the English fashion, will furnish a pretty large sized millstone to hang about the neck of Labor in the present generation, and perhaps leave something of a balance for posterity.

- Western Citizen.

CONSEQUENCES OF WAR

1846.03.13

War - One of the most evil consequences of war is, that it tends to render the hearts of mankind callous to the feelings and sentiments of humanity. When we daily hear of the massacres of such numbers of individuals that memory cannot even recollect their names; when we contemplate the slaughters at Lyons, at Marseilles, at Bordeaux, at Toulon! the effect must be injurious to the morals of Europe.

- Fox

1846.12.18

SOMETHING STRANGE

The losses of some forty lives by the wreck of the Atlantic appalled the whole community. The sufferings of the unfortunate passengers and crew of the ill-fated steamer during the thirty-six hours preceding the final catastrophe, awakened universal sympathy, and, tears of bitter regret have been shed over the bodies of the lost. The Pulpit regarding the event as full of solemnity has sought to derive from it lessons of instruction and warning for the living. Everybody sees and acknowledges the property of these manifestations of sorrow for the dead and of condolence for those who have been called to mourn the loss of relatives and friends. No one questions the wisdom of our religious teachers in embracing the opportunity thus afforded to awaken the attention of the community to their spiritual wants and necessities.

Now looking at another picture. Thousands of our fellow men within the last six months have been killed on the battle field; wives have been made dependent widows and children hapless orphans, in a war waged for the perpetuation of Slavery! And yet strange to any, the mass of human suffering thus occasioned awakens comparatively little thought and calls forth little sympathy. We shed the blood of our fellow Christians, calling on God, to aid us in the murderous work, and shout exaltingly over victories which carry desolation and woe into

thousands of families; Is it not strange that the same men who are so deeply moved by the loss of a comparatively small number of persons in a calamity like that which has befallen the Atlantic can read the details of sanguinary war as coolly as they examine their price current or their bills, of trading? Do they believe that Armstrong and [Dristan] would have found surer prospect to Heaven if, instead of falling before the power of the elements, they had died struggling to destroy the lives of others?

Alas! what a stupendous crime is War, which thus perverts the intellect and smothers those feelings of humanity by which God has sought to bind the human race together as a family of brothers! It surely cannot much longer endure the light which reveals its hideous deformity. Where are the ministers of the Prince of Peace that they do not utter a testimony against it?

- N.Y. Tribune

1846.02.13

LIFE. - There is nothing of which men are so fond of, and withal so careless.

- Bruyer

[date]

A MEXICAN WOMAN - A correspondent of the Louisville Courier, writing from Monterey, under date of Oct. 7th says - "While I was stationed with our left wing in one of the forts, on the evening of the 21st, I saw a Mexican woman busily engaged in carrying bread and water to the wounded men of both armies. I saw this ministering angel raise the head of a wounded man, give him water and food, and then carefully bind up his ghastly wound with a handkerchief which she took from her own head. After having exhausted her supplies, she went back to her house to get more bread and water for others. As she was returning on her mission of mercy, to comfort other persons, I heard the report of a gun, and saw the poor innocent creature fall dead! I think it was an accidental shot that struck her. I would not be willing to believe otherwise. It made me sick at

heart, and turning from the scene, I involuntarily raised my hands to heaven, and thought, Great God! and is *this war*? Passing the spot next day, I saw her body still lying there, with the bread by her side, and the broken gourd, with a few drops of water still in it - emblems of her errand. We buried her; and while we were digging her grave, cannon balls flew around us like hail."

1846.01.30

WAR

The following sarcastic recommendations were given by Dr. Benjamin Rush, an eminent physician and philanthropist. Considering them quite appropriate to the present day, we give them an insertion.

"In order to impress more deeply the minds of the citizens of the United States with the blessings of peace, by contrasting them with the evils of war, let the following inscription be painted on the sign which is placed over the door of the war office at Washington, namely:

An office for butchering the human species.

A widow-and-orphan making office.

A broken-bone-making office.

A wooden-leg-making office.

An office for creating public and private vices.

An office for creating public debt.

An office for creating famine.

An office for creating pestilential diseases.

An office for creating poverty, and for the destruction of liberty and national happiness.

In the lobby, let there be painted representations of the common instruments of death; also human skulls, broken bones, hospitals crowded with sick and wounded soldiers, villages on fire, ships sinking in the ocean, rivers dyed with blood, and extensive plains without a tree or fence, or any other object but ruins of deserted farm houses.

Above this group of woeful figures let the following words be inserted in red characters, to represent human blood - NATIONAL GLORY!"

1847.01.08

An Artificial Man – The Memorial Bordelais says that near St. Sevier, there lives an old soldier, with a false leg, a false arm, a glass eye, a complete set of false teeth, a nose of silver, covered with a substance resembling flesh, and a silver plate replacing part of his skull. He was a soldier under Napoleon, and these are his trophies.

48.01.07

FIGHTING FOR A LIVING. The celebrated Capt. Tobin, writing from Mexico, says, "If the war be brought to a premature close – which Heaven forbid – I don't know what we'll do for a living; as they say the penitentiaries at home have shut up for want of business; and we'll be too lazy to work."

- *Young America*

1845.07.17

Mr. Editor: – Below I have penned a few remarks in relation to the Navy, which if you deem worthy, I hope you will insert in the "Voice."

- R

THE U.S. NAVY

Next to the slave system, I think I may safely say; and that too, without exaggerating in the minutest point of view, that there is no institution of the U.S. Government so unparalleled in sin and wickedness as its navy; called the right arm of its defence. And I think there is no institution attended with as much expense, and as little benefit; and as much injury to the morals and the pecuniary interest of the country at large, as its navy. – Millions of dollars are annually drained from the pockets of the poor laborers, and are expended in supported one of the foulest and blackest institutions of cruelty and wickedness that ever cursed the American nation.

I say the hard earned wages of northern industry are squandered away by Congress in supporting a lawless unprincipled set of pro-slavery aristocrats, of wealthy and influential parents! who have been educated from their cradles to believe that man is to be classed with brutes, if he is not possessed of a

fortune sufficient to support him without labor. I mean its officers, who are allowed by Congress to take the law into their own hands, and use it at their own discretion. Yet some will say that the navy is indispensable in supporting that defending the liberty of our Country. I think if they would say that it is indispensable in perpetuating the tyranny that so much predominates over liberty, it would sound a little more consistent.

Must twelve thousand seamen be kept in slavery in order to support the Government? if so, then let it fall. If it is based on such weak principles as to require such a tyrannical institution as the navy to keep it from falling, then the sooner it falls the better. It was only winter before last, that a bill came before Congress, praying that the liquor ration and corporeal punishment might be abolished, and it was voted down to a great majority. Now, I ask, what justice is there in this? placing a temptation before them, and then whipping them like brutes for yielding to it? I do not scruple to say, that two thirds of the punishments that are inflicted on our seamen by the officers, if traced back, the blame would come on the officers themselves; for their haughty contemptible treatment towards the sailors. They will irritate them until their animal passions become excited, and heated up to such a pitch, that they can no longer contain themselves, and consequently break out in disrespectful language, (as the officers term it,) for which they are brutally flogged, while the officer, who is the means of it all, is allowed to go unpunished. Now, are such laws, and such treatment right? Is it doing as we would be done by? Are they justified in the sight of heaven? I know that every individual who has the feelings of a man, will say that they are not. Go on board of those boating dens of sin when the boatswain's call summons all hands to witness punishment, and there see your fellow man, brought to the gangway, stripped to the bare back, his feet held to the deck by four

thirty-two pound shot; his arms extended, and lashed to the bulwark, and there, almost at the base of Bunker Hill Monument; with his locks floating in the breeze, and freedoms ensign waving o'er his head, he is flogged with the cat o' nine tails, swung by the strong muscular arm of the boatswain's mate, until the blood flows freely from his lacerated back.

Such a system should be treated with scorn and disgust, by every friend of humanity. – And I for one, will gladly hail the time with joy when that rotten institution, as well as the army, and every other institution that tends to pervert and crush mankind, not only in this country, but throughout the world, shall cease to exist.

46.04.17

War. – I have been as enthusiastic and joyful as any one after a victory, but I confess that even the sight of a field of battle has not only struck me with horror, but even turned me sick, and now that I am advanced in life I cannot understand any more than I could at fifteen years how beings who call themselves reasonable, and who have so much foresight, can employ this short existence not in loving and aiding each other, and passing through it as gently as possible, but on the contrary, in endeavoring to destroy each other, as if Time did not do this himself with sufficient rapidity, what I thought at fifteen years I still think, war which society draws upon itself is but an organized barbarism, and an inheritance of the savage state, however disguised or ornamented.

- *Louis Bonaparte*

1846.12.18

We praise men for fighting, and punish children for doing the same thing precisely.