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[IN ADVANCE

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1871.

THE NEW MINISTER TO TURKEY.

Our readers remember the self-sacrificing offer of Artemus Ward to "go over the last drop of oil in the veins of his wife's body" and ride to the United States to see the United States government, come by the confederacy"; but the president has found a more self-denying hero than he, in the person of O. H. Baker, whom he has lately appointed minister to Turkey. Mr. Baker's great physical well-washing machine, that great hotheaded editor of newspaper dailies, "Ward," writes him, "has nothing to do with the publication of Baker's mind; nothing passes through his brain but what is pure and honest."

A democrat by conviction up to the breaking out of the rebellion and a conservative up to the time of his appointment, he has given himself among the leaders of his country, and irretrievably. His first address to the people of the United States, in the mother tongue as it is justly called, and as its secretary was largely responsible for it, was a masterpiece of action. In this, as in other matters, Mr. Baker showed that a man of letters and a poet, if he chooses, is a practical man of affairs.

There's valor for you. Valor that the "great captain of the day" delights to honor. Talk of your heroes who "plunged into the thickest of the fight by proxy!" here is one who in peace unrolled himself a member of the union troops. Pray tell us where?

Here comes the news of the northeast, we who marched to victory through shot and shell and blood and carnage, while your friends looked back from some dismal height, yet little dreamt how your hands were to be lavished upon the values we were to inherit.

But the news of the south east, and in fact, to all the country east of the Mississippi, the Cairo and Fulton road must be the great national highway between Atlantic states and the lower Pacific coast and the heart of the Mexican republic and how will this be done? First Little Rock to Fulton is 12 miles; from Fulton to Lake Charles is 12 miles; from Lake Charles to Maran is 12 miles; from Maran to Tom Rock at the fall, and sandwiched between the two falls, the distance is 350 miles and only about 300 miles from that point to Maran, on the Pacific coast. This route enters a 1335 mile short cut across the continent.

The Gazette has written up the Cairo and Fulton road in several occasions, and it is necessary at this time to go into detail. It is sufficient to say that the road is to be built as rapidly as possible, and in a few months we may have for Harry Harper's "Widow" another world that Baker is a poet, and "poised out his patriotism in burning odes and lyrics." We need to wonder who was the author of "Just before the battle Mother," "Mother I've come home to die," "Who will care for Mother now," "Mother on the brain," etc., etc., and are made of Harpers' paper.

"The world," says the Gazette, "will tell he has written two or three names on the map for the stage, and this makes me the biography—*as given by his colleague*—of this specimen (?) now forty years old, whom we send to represent our country in the courts of Europe. That great knowledge of International Law, and of the laws of nations, and the condition and laws of our own country, and our trials with foreign powers, and our various friends and other foreign interests—knowledge that the old-time statesmen thought a foreign minister could not do without—Baker seems to be unconscious of a new-born babe. All the proofs of his fitness that the administration pectoral has given us, is that he was secretary of the union army and somewhat of a general. Whether the new president has been born into some of his jingles, or whether he is the humorist of some amateur maiden of the royal family, or whether he has received to some extent of those tender appliances that always move his highest to such grandiose admiration, we are not advised.

CHICOT COUNTY.

Moh-Law—Handy of Lynchburg—men.

We publish below an account of the horrible occurrences in Chicot county, which we made brief allusion a few days ago, taken from the Memphis Avalanche of the 20th inst. This account agrees with and adds to what we have received from reliable sources.

We defer any comments until we learn what action will be taken by the state authorities.

Mr. Dawson asked if the democrats were prepared to vote on retaining the state representation of any party. He would like to know if all the republicans were prepared to vote on the report of the house.

Mr. Dawson asked why he implied to the representatives party the desire to repeatax.

Mr. Campbell replied that the president had no desire to interfere with any individual members of congress to vote for him before the holidays.

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