Interview with Mr. Grow. Dec.8, 1898.

Fremont. **********

Asked Mr. Grow about Fremont in Missouri. Says he knew Fremont very well; that his appointment was universally popular. Senator Benton, Fremont's father-in-law, used to say, in speaking of him: "Twenty thousand miles through unbroken forests, sir. Sleeping every night but two without a guard, sir." Grow says there was never any idea in Fremont's ~~his~~ mind of establishinga northwestern Confederacy; that he simply had not a general's qualities.

Benton. When Grow entered Congress his seat was only two away from that of Benton; at time of repeal of Missouri Compromise Grow made a speech; Benton was pleased, shook hands with him, said "A good speech, my boy." Afterwards asked Grow to drop in and tell him whenever anything important was going on in the House. At that time he was writing his "Annals of Congress." Whenever there was any thing special on hand Grow did this frequently. Calls my attention to Benton's "Review of Dred Scott Case." Says Benton told him he wrote it that the North might have a base to stand on; that the Dred Scott decision overturned the old English law which we had always followed out, that only a local law could permit one man to enslave another . Benton told Grow that the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise and Dred Scott decision would only end in Civil War. "You will see it, sir; I may live to see it, for a good constitution and cold baths will work wonders." (Grow explains that Benton took a cold bath every morning). That his only exercise was a daily horse-back ride. Grow describes Benton's habit of thumping the arm of his chair or his knee with his clenched fist, punctuating his sentences with the word "sir"

Wilmont. Grow says that Wilmont was the best seated Speaker that he ever heard; that he knew men who made better speeched but never one who could sit in a chair with a crowd around him and say such impressive things; says he was a very strong bar-room speaker; quotes this as an anti-slavery argument: "By God, sir, men born and nursed of white women are not going to be ruled by men who were brought up on the milk of some damned negro wench."

(Note to Benton paragraph) Benton tells Grow that he got his anti-slavery sentiments from Tucker's Preface to Blackstone, when he was reading law in Virginia.

Expansion Policy. Incidentally Grow says much on present questions "It is destiny. When Jefferson bought Louisiana he had no idea of buying the property, to start with All he sent our Commissioners to France for was to secure a harbor at New Orleans and the free navigation of the Mississippi; to secure that he found himself forced to buy Lousiania. When we started out in the Civil War we had no idea of emancipating the slaves; we only wanted to preserve the Union. We declared war against Spain only to stop the atrocities in Cuba, but before ww had got a ship to Cuba a battle in the waters of Asia, the last place where we were looking for a fight, had made us responsible for the welfare of 8,000,000 savages. No man can tell how or what reponsibilities the events of one day are going to bring to the future. "I don't fear but that we can govern the Phillipines." They are not so bad as the Indians and they can't be worse than the negros"

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