

FREMONT'S "NORTHWESTERN CONFEDERACY".

(Statement of Dr. Emil Preetorius, editor of the "Westliche Post", of St. Louis, Mo., to J. McCan Davis, Dec. 2, 1898.)

For years Fremont was my most intimate political friend. He had no secrets which he kept from me, nor had his wife, whose father, Senator Benton, I admired profoundly. Benton was, to me, a Roman Senator. While Fremont was in command at St. Louis I saw him every day. I lived across the street from his headquarters (the Brant Mansion), and he frequently came over to my house to talk with me about his difficulties and embarrassments. I think he ^{consulted} ~~talked~~ with me about every matter of importance with which he had to deal. I know that ^{Fremont} he gave no countenance to any scheme which others may have conceived for the establishment of a "Northwestern Confederacy". I had abundant proof, through the years that I knew him, that he was a patriot and a most unselfish man.

The defect in Fremont was that he was a dreamer. Impractical, visionary things went a long way with him. He was a poor judge of men and formed ~~a~~ strange associations. He surrounded himself with foreigners, especially Hungarians, most of whom were adventurers and some of whom were swindlers. I struggled hard to persuade him not to let these men ~~be~~ have so much to do with his administration. Mrs. Fremont, unlike the General, was most practical. She was fond of success. She and the General were alike, however, in their notions of the loyalty due between friends. Once, when I protested against the character of the men who surrounded Fremont, she ~~said~~ replied: "Do you know these very men went out with us on horse-back when we took

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possession of the Mariposa? They risked their lives for us. Now, we can't go back on them." It was the woman's feeling. She forgot that brave men may sometimes be downright thieves and robbers.
