

A third battle was fought on the 7th August, the result of which was, that the army of Barahio was completely destroyed, with the exception of 400 men, who saved themselves by escape, and arrived at Mourpax on the river Magdalena.—There were 600 killed and 400 taken prisoners.

On the 9th of August, the Vice Roy (Samano) evacuated Santa Fee, and on the 11th Bolivar took possession of the same.

Bolivar has dispatched a division of his army against Carthagena.

#### FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, September 30.

From the Oronoco.—The enclosed letter from a gentleman on board a vessel of the United States, to his friend at home, contains so much useful and interesting information, that we have much pleasure in presenting it to our readers:

U. S. schooner *Nonsuch*,  
at anchor off Augustura,  
August 13th, 1819.

We left Barbadoes the 6th July, and two days after came in sight of land, at the entrance of a river which we took to be the Oronoco. The boats were immediately dispatched to sound and make observations. The coast was low and marshy, and the water too shallow to admit of landing.—After exploring for 30 miles along shore, in search of the entrance of the river, the ship got under way, and stood down about sixty miles. Here our attempts were renewed, and for two days we spent the most unpleasant time I ever experienced. The weather was rainy and bad, and the sea so tremendous that the vessel rode it out with difficulty; sleep or rest we were entire strangers to. Early in the morning of the 15th we had the good fortune to discover a schooner; a boat was dispatched for intelligence, and returned with a pilot for the Oronoco.—This great river appears to be almost unknown in the United States; all our charts lay down its latitude differently. The Commodore ordered the John Adams to Trinidad, and the same day we entered the mouth of the river in this schooner: vessels drawing more than 16 feet of water cannot cross the bar.

Next morning, two canoes of Indians came on board, bringing a regular pilot. These fellows were naked, very slightly and delicately made, and appeared poor and miserable in the extreme—their only food was plantains, cassada bread and sugar cane.

The banks of the Oronoco, for 200 miles up, are uninhabited, being subject to inundation. They are thickly wooded with live oak, mahogany, cocoa nut, and a thousand other trees, the names of which we did not know. The river is generally narrow, but extremely deep, and has a strong current always setting down: we sometimes tied the vessel to a tree, like a canoe, and could easily jump from her side to the firm land. The prospect is always pleasant, and the trees are filled with birds of the most beautiful plumage. We saw also, some large baboons, and middle sized dogs of a light reddish colour; they made the most tremendous howling and chattering in the night.

The Indians reside in the interior, and come down occasionally to fish: they are a harmless, inoffensive race, fond of tobacco and rum, and tolerably shrewd at driving a bargain. They are completely in a state of nature: the women are not handsome, but some of them possess a regularity of features and expression of countenance extremely pleasing. A piece of red paint they consider invaluable, and are in the habit of rouging pretty highly. We met with several gentlemen who had each half a dozen wives.

After ascending the river about sixty miles, the country begins to assume a different appearance, being higher and less woody. Some small plantations, producing sugar cane and plantains, are here seen. The land is extremely rich, and well adapted to Indian corn and tobacco; both these would grow almost without cultivation.—When in possession of Old Spain, sugar and coffee were extensively raised; but, since the revolution, these valuable articles have been entirely abandoned. Indeed, this fine soil is bestowed on a people perhaps the most inactive and indolent in the universe. Neither the hope of gain or fear of punishment, can make a Spaniard work; they have no more foresight than the dullest of brutes, and never look forward to to-morrow. How they manage to live at all, is indeed wonderful.

The consequences are natural; the necessities of life can hardly be obtained, and the people are poor, ignorant, and miserable in the extreme. I never before witnessed, by contrast, the immense benefits of industry to society; and am now convinced that almost every comfort of life is derived from it, either directly or indirectly.

On the 29th of July we passed the Indian village of Sanchopan, on the left bank of the river. This is a handsome little town, laid off in streets, and regularly built of clay and palmetto leaves. It is the capital of the Indians in this quarter, where they resort in great numbers, for the purpose of fishing. After passing this place, the country begins to be inhabited by Spaniards.—The village of Baranca, thirty miles above this, contains perhaps a dozen houses, and is consequently not very populous. It is the rendezvous, however, for the Patriot forces, in this quarter, consisting of four gun-boats, of one gun each, and a crew of fifty men. The commander of the station, Commodore Padisax, boarded our schooner in a large canoe, paddled by 18 men. He is a stout, fine looking man, of very grave and dignified appearance, and seems to be deeply tinged with either the negro or Indian blood. His dress was a blue round jacket, red vest, two epaulettes, and pantaloons of the latest fashion.—He lives in a small thatched house near the shore.

The same evening we arrived at Guyana, an old Spanish settlement, about 100 miles below Augustura. This town contains upwards of thirty houses, thatched, painted red, and furnished with glass windows—a thing not very common in this country. The principal fort mounts five guns, is built of stone, and stands at the foot of a hill; there is a castle on the summit, with four pieces; no regular watch is kept in either of them. These batteries, if kept in proper repair, and sufficiently manned, would command the river completely at this point, where it is not half a mile wide: but at present, I am certain, a hundred men could carry them with ease. In point of situation, I have never seen a handsomer place than Guyana: the land around it is well calculated for cultivation. A little farther on is the town of St. Michael, the residence of an Indian chief of great opulence. The town contains twenty houses, situated in a grove of fine trees, about a mile from the shore. These are all the towns between Augustura and the mouth of the river.

MONDAY, 26th July.—Arrived at Augustura, after a tedious passage of 11 days up the river, owing to a strong current and head winds. Next morning the *Nonsuch* fired a salute of 18 guns, to which the town returned 21. Immediately after Perry, accompanied by Capt. Claxton, lieutenant Temple, and myself, paid a visit to the Vice-President. He received us with great cordiality and politeness: in short, our reception was flattering, as regarded both our national and individual feelings. A long conversation relative to the Revolution ensued, and respecting the relations of the two countries. He speaks Spanish and French with fluency. The Commodore conversed with him through Mr. Forsyth, an American gentleman, residing here. The Vice-President acknowledged the wretched and exhausted state of the country, which, he observed, was like a flying camp, and apologised for not extending the hospitality of his table to us, on that account.

Francisco Antonio Zea is a man of middle size, stoops a little, and is apparently about sixty. He has a pleasing, animated countenance, and the first eyes I have ever seen. His address is like that of a Frenchman; he seems much of an enthusiast, and I believe him to be an artless, good man. He is popular among the people, and dresses in plain black. His Secretary, Mr. Sayre, is rather a stouter man, of a stern, forbidding countenance—is said to possess considerable abilities; but, like Sir John Falstaff, "setting aside the attraction of his good parts, he has no other charms." The room in which they gave us audience was a plain apartment in the Senate house, paved with brick.

Augustura, the present capital of Venezuela, lies on the left bank of the Oronoco, one hundred leagues from the mouth, in the province of Guyana. It shows to much advantage when approached by water, being situated on the side of a hill. The houses are of one story, built of brick, with tiled

roofs, and have wooden gratings instead of windows. The streets are at right angles; the principal one runs parallel with the river. The population is about 10,000, principally Creoles, with a mixture of Spaniards and other Europeans. This place was ruined when it fell into the hands of the Patriots; few families of fortune or respectability reside here now. It lies on a peninsula, about 200 yards wide at the narrowest part, and is capable of being strongly defended. A ruinous wall extends across now, flanked by a ditch. Augustura was once a town of great commerce and riches, but there has been a great falling off since it changed masters. The grand object of this Government is the capture of Caracas: the capital will be removed there in that event.

The weakness of this government will be easily conceived when it is known that the people pay no taxes, owing to their poverty. The republic is deeply indebted to the merchants, and the duties on goods imported are not paid in cash, but *passed to its credit in account*. Great jealousy exists between Spaniards and English, which is kept alive by continual recrimination. We found the Europeans who had entered this service, universally disgusted with it: the officers had received only 10 dollars for a year's service. Their ration consists of poor fresh beef without salt, and a couple of biscuits. Exposed in a sickly climate, without medicines or surgeons, many of these poor fellows go to an untimely grave. Few have money to procure the comforts of a bed when sick, and many die literally of famine. We were acquainted with several Englishmen of the service, gentlemen, and men of education: they had been up the river with Bolivar, but, in consequence of hard treatment, were obliged to come off without leave. Society in this country is in a most degraded state; they have no schools or public institutions; and the children are brought up in complete ignorance. There appears to be no distinction of rank; a general is often seen gambling at the same table with one of his common soldiers, on terms of perfect equality.—Many negro hold commissions in the army.—The government is extremely sanguinary, and often puts men to death without a trial, civil or military. Indeed, I question whether any law exists, except the will of Bolivar, who is absolute dictator.

Congress has been some months in session deliberating on a constitution, for which they have taken ours as a model. The nominal pay of a member is 4 dollars a day, and a ration of beef and bread. They receive nothing, however, but the latter.

We paid a visit to Gen. Marino, the second in command, who lives opposite Augustura; he looks like an European, and has a fine commanding countenance. He is a native of Caracas, was once a man of large fortune, but has dissipated it in gaming. He has good natural abilities, with only a military education. We found him prejudiced against our country for not assisting South America in her struggles for independence. But we managed to convince him of the policy of the United States in remaining neutral. He gave a ball in the evening: the ladies acquit themselves with grace. Few of them are handsome; but they have the finest eyes and teeth I have ever seen. In their manners they are not very refined, and make nothing of spitting on the floor, and smoking segars before gentlemen.

Saturday, 14th August.—Com. Perry, with all the officers of the schooner, received an invitation to dine with the Vice-President. We assembled about six at the house of Dr. Rossio, the secretary of state, and found a large company, composed of the principal persons of the country. The entertainment was plentiful, and had it been properly dressed, would have been elegant. Garlick was such a strong component part of all the dishes, that I could scarcely sit at table. The wine was pretty good, and the evening passed in harmony and good humour. Many toasts, relating to the two countries, were drunk with applause. The vice-president treated us with marked attention, and drank with us all individually.

The horses of this country are generally of a cream colour, average 14 hands, have excellent wind and speed, are tough, and capable of bearing great hardship. Their common gait is a fast shambling walk; some are fine racers. Mules are more generally used for the saddle, being preferable for hilly countries. They are bred of 3 animals, per-

fectly well broke to the saddle, and go very pleasantly under it. The cattle are large, but, notwithstanding their fine appearance, make the most wretched beef you can imagine; such as no person in the United States would pretend to eat. Whether this is owing to the climate, or weakness of the grass, I cannot determine. The men who make a trade of catching wild mules and cattle, are very expert horsemen. I saw one of these fellows exhibiting his accomplishments. He was equipped with a *lassica*, a long knife, and sword; mounted on a pommeled saddle, heavy stirrups, *lassica* bit, and no martingale. He rode on one leg, carrying the other straight out, to avoid a bull in case of an attack. He put his nag at full speed, took him up in an instant, wheeled round, dropped his sword, and picked it up without dismounting.—All this was done in a moment, and with the greatest apparent ease.

The commerce of this place is carried on chiefly with the West Indies, by regular traders. They bring dry goods and groceries of every description, and take, in return, mules, cattle, hides, tallow, jerked beef, &c. to the advantage of each party. Vessels are always sure of a freight: carrying mules is very profitable: a vessel of 100 tons will make a freight of 2000 dollars to the West Indies, and accomplish the voyage in a few days. Were there merchants of capital here, some handsome voyages might be made from the United States; but no contract can be safely made with them: it would require too long to retail a cargo. Every kind of goods is extremely dear. Flour will command 20 dollars per barrel.

I am satisfied that I could make a fortune on the banks of the Oronoco in a few years, small as my means are. Land that will produce sugar, coffee, cotton, tobacco, and corn, almost without cultivation, can be bought of government for a trifle. The climate is so mild, that the expense of feeding and clothing negroes is small; and the profits of such an estate immense. I would not live here, however, for several reasons.—Government is too weak to protect its citizens; and, so long as this is the case, property will be insecure. The manners, customs, and religion of the people, too, are widely different from ours.

There is no late news from the army. Bolivar is at present in Santa Fee. The last accounts from him represent his affairs in a prosperous state. His cause is gaining ground rapidly among the people. Morillo is cramped for money, clothing, and all kinds of military stores. The patriots, however acknowledge that they have no general who can compare with him in point of talents; and say it is astonishing how he has sustained the war so long without supplies from his government. The brig Hussar, from London, arrived here a few days ago, with 20 officers and 100 men, for the patriot army.—They were immediately embarked, with about 100 more, for Margaritta, in the brig Bolivar.

Sunday 15th August.—This day at 2 o'clock, the constitution of the country was adopted, and signed, amid the discharge of cannon. I have not learnt what the articles of it are, but presume they are much like those of the U. States. The naval force of the country is about 30 vessels—composed of brigs, schooners, and gun-boats.

#### NOTICE.

ALL Persons who have claims for School Money, or Bounties on raising Bread Corn, are hereby notified, that whenever the money is payable at the Province Treasury, notice will be immediately given in the Royal Gazette, that all persons may call at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace and receive their several proportions.

BLANKS for Assessors to Collectors, may be had upon application.

Frederick, 12th Sept. 1819.

ALL Persons having any demands against the estate of PHILIP HANSELPECKER, late of the Parish of Sheffield, in the County of Sunbury, deceased, are requested to render the same duly attested, within NINE months from the date hereof, and all those indebted to said estate are desired to make immediate payment to  
PETER HANSELPECKER, Administrator.  
GEORGE FERGUSON, }  
Sheffield, 11th Nov. 1819. } 6m.

RAGS! RAGS! RAGS!  
CASH will be given at the Royal Gazette Office, for clean Linnen or Cotton RAGS.