

object appears to be—to retard the march of the human intellect—and to circumscribe or destroy human happiness.

15. His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor in Chief of these Provinces;—May his residence in the Canadas be as happy as it appears to have been in this Province; and may the day be far distant, when the exercise of that prowess shall be required for their defence, which has contributed in so great a degree to the honor of his country and to his own renown.

16. His Excellency Sir James Kempt, Lieutenant Governor of this Province, and Grand Master Elect. May his government be alike agreeable to himself and beneficial to those over whom he is appointed to rule: and under his auspices may Masonry flourish.

17. Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

18. The Grand Lodge of the United States and the respective Lodges under their jurisdiction. May their efforts in the cause of Masonry be unremitting and successful.

19. The Grand Lodge of Canada.—May its Members be so fortunate, as to obtain the patronage and guidance of the distinguished Nobleman about to govern them.

20. The respective Lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Nova-Scotia.—May they all have one common object in view—to place Masonry upon a respectable footing, by admitting none to participate in its advantages, but such as will reflect credit upon the Institution.

21. Sir John Wentworth Bt. Past Grand Master; whose government of this Province and of the Craft will be ever remembered with gratitude.

22. Our worthy Grand Master, John George Pyke, Esq.—May the evening of his days be as serene and happy as his life has been useful.

23. To all distressed and indigent Brethren. May their applications for relief ever obtain the most prompt and kind consideration.

Lodge closed.

24. May our conduct as Masons evince to the world, that this Institution is founded upon the noblest principles which can adorn the human character.—*Andante.*

25. May the comfort and relief which those principles render it a duty to bestow upon the Brethren of our Order, be cheerfully extended to our Brethren of mankind.—*Sweet Charity.*

26. The Agriculture, Commerce and Fisheries of the Province.—*Speed the Plough.*

27. The Ladies.—May our conduct through life teach them to respect an Institution, which makes their happiness its peculiar care.—*Beauty holds the Sceptre.*

28. May Masons hitherto be actuated by a desire to confine the knowledge of their mysteries to those who are eminent for their piety, abilities, or respectability of character in the various ranks of life.

29. May every Mason by gradual advances in the sublime truths of the Order, be raised to such a degree of perfection, as to be replete with happiness to himself, and to be beneficial to those around him.

30. As Masons may we study to enrich our minds, by an intimate acquaintance and uniform practice of every moral, religious, and social duty, that we may secure to ourselves a happy admittance into the Celestial Lodge above.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 2.

South America.—We have been politely favoured with the following interesting letter from Buenos Ayres, brought by the last arrival from that quarter. It shows the vigilant and formidable preparations of defence made by that republic, in anticipation of being visited by the grand Spanish expedition, which, however, has finally sailed.

Extract from Buenos Ayres.

[Without date.]

“By the last news received from Cadiz, it appears that the famous expedition preparing there, is intended for this river; and here, in consequence, they have begun, though slowly, and only very lately, to adopt such measures as they think best for the defence of the country. The troops intended for an expedition against Peru, to the number of 14,000 regulars, are ordered down here; and Gen. St. Martin, the conqueror of Chili, is nominated commander

in chief of all the forces, and expected to arrive in this town to-day or to-morrow. The different distant Provinces have voluntarily offered 12,000 cavalry, without including the cavalry militia or civicos of this district, who are very numerous: and I am confident from the information I have, that they can, and will have, if necessary or wanted, at least 40,000 men: and those now at the head of government seem determined to defend the country to the last extremity. Arms and powder they have in great abundance, as also a very extensive and abundant supply of all kinds of provisions; and their troops are extremely well clothed. Wheat at present is as low as 20 reals per fanega of 225 pounds: and good fresh beef is two cents. Congress, now constantly sitting, has lately granted to the present director, Gen. Rondeau, very extensive powers to raise money, and for other purposes. He has now at his disposition upwards of 200,000 dollars; and the principal Creole merchants, have agreed, and subscribed, to hold at the disposal of government, 300,000 more; so that he has this sum to begin with. Only three weeks ago they had not a dollar in their treasury. No doubt the old Spanish merchants, as also many rich Creoles in the interest of Spain, will have by force or otherwise to give their all for the benefit of the country. It therefore appears to me that resources will not be wanting to pay the expenses of the approaching very important contest. As yet no great number of proclamations have been issued, though we may expect them daily. The only one of consequence is, that no old Spaniard can, under severe penalties, go out of this city. They mean to arm 50 gun boats, 32 of which are already purchased, and I suppose the remainder will be procured in another week. Persons of confidence are nominated to watch all parts of the coast from Point de Piedras to the Couchas, a distance of between 50 and 60 leagues, in order to prevent any person from leaving the country in a clandestine manner.

“There is no probability of a union between Artigas, the chief of the other side of the river, and this government. This is a very mortifying circumstance; for were both sides united, they have no occasion to be under any apprehension, from Portuguese or Spaniards; and long since a union ought to have taken place, were it only to drive the Portuguese out of that fine rich settlement. Many are of opinion, that they will not let the Spaniards land in Monte-Video, without they can do so by force, and that they have orders to this effect from Brazil.

“The original plan of defence was to abandon this city; to send all the families to the country, and to oblige the inhabitants of the surrounding country to retire with their cattle and horses into the interior, but they have now changed their system. However, if the expedition should arrive, it will put many thousand to great inconveniences, hardships and misery; but none, in my opinion, will suffer more than the old Spaniards, and those Creoles who are in favour of them; for I think they will lose every thing. The English Commodore Bowles, on this station, has not as yet received any official advices from his government, though very anxiously looked for; and it is supposed that the British Merchants will be ordered to retire from here, as was the case formerly. Report says that 4 frigates are expected here daily for the protection of their commerce. The English Merchants settled here are desirous to ship their property, amounting to some millions of dollars, out of the custom-house for Monte-Video, as a place of more security; but this government will not permit this without their paying a duty of 20 per cent. How this will end, I cannot at present say. All kinds of English merchandize are a perfect drug, selling at 30 per cent. under prime cost, and immense sacrifices made daily at public auctions. The salaries from the director to the lowest clerk in the custom-house, reduced one half. The canons of all the churches in the province have, by a decree, been obliged to give one year's salary towards the defence of the country; and this is no trifle. There will be no want of horses for the use of these people, as the Indians, whose settlements are not more than 30 leagues from here, have offered to supply them with as many thousand as they may have occasion for. When another opportunity may offer, and any thing interesting

turn up, I will communicate it to you with pleasure.”—*Fr. Gaz.*

BOSTON, DECEMBER 16.

DOCUMENTS

TRANSMITTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS, WITH THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT, OF THE 7TH DEC. 1819.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Erving, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, in Spain, to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid, 10th Feb. 1818.

“The King has lately made large grants of land in East Florida, to several of his favorites; and I am credibly informed that within these few days he has, by a sweeping grant, given all the remainder to the Duke of Alagon, captain of his guards, and the Count of Punon Rostro, one of his chamberlains. This is, perhaps, his mode of preparing for a cheap cession of the territory to the United States.”

From the same to Mr. Adams, Secretary of State, dated Madrid, 26th February 1818.—[Extract.]

“The King has lately made large grants of land in the Floridas to several of his favorite servants. The enclosed papers, A and B, have been furnished to me, as extracts from the deeds to the principal grantees—the Duke of Alagon, captain of the body guards, and the Count of Punon Rostro, one of the chamberlains. Mr. Vargas, treasurer of the household, has another grant. In fine, I am led to believe that His Majesty has given away the whole of the lands in that quarter, which had not been previously granted.”

A.—[TRANSLATION.]—Original omitted. To the Duke of Alagon,

All the uncultivated land not ceded in East Florida which lies between the banks of the river St. Luisa and that of St. John, as far as the mouth by which they empty themselves into the sea, and the coast of the Gulf of Florida, and the adjacent islands, with the mouth of the river Hijuelos, in 26th degree of latitude, following the left bank up to its source, drawing a line from Lake Macao, and then descending along the road from the river St. John to the Lake Valdes; crossing another line from the extreme north of said Lake to the source of the river Amurama; following its right bank as far as its mouth, in the 28th and 25th degrees of latitude, and running along the sea coast, with all the adjacent islands, up to the mouth of the river Hijuelos.

B.—[TRANSLATION.]—Original omitted. To the Count of Punon Rostro.

All the uncultivated land not ceded in Florida, comprehended between the river Perdido, to the west of the Gulf of Mexico, and the rivers Amurajo and St. John; from Popa, until they empty themselves into the sea on the eastern side: by the north, the line of demarcation with the United States, and the south by the Gulf of Mexico, including the desert islands on the coast.

From Mr. Irving to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid, 5th April, 1818.

EXTRACT

“In my despatch No. 60, [of February 26,] I mentioned the grants of land in Florida lately made by the king of Spain to several of his courtiers, and enclosed extracts from those in favor of the Duke of Alagon, and the Count of Punon Rostro. I have just obtained a copy of that in favor of Don Pedro de Vargas, treasurer of the household and it is herewith transmitted. I hope soon to be able to obtain full copies of the grants to Alagon and Punon Rostro.

[Here follows a translation of the grant made by the king of Spain, to Don Pedro de Vargas, made upon his petition which is dated January 25, 1818. The date of the grant is March 10th, 1818.]

From Mr. Erving to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid 26th April, 1818.

EXTRACT.

“I perceive that Mr. Pizarro would be very glad to terminate it [the negotiation] here. In the mean time, I shall continue to work with him, to the end that his communications to Mr. Onis may be as favorable as possible to prompt adjustment of it at Washington. In this view, I asked him yesterday what had been said respecting Florida. He answered vaguely; but I

perceived that there was some question of passing it to the United States, in compensation for the claims. I therefore begged him to prepare in his instructions to Mr. Onis, for a difficulty which must certainly arise, if any “transaction” of that kind should be proposed; that the claims in question would probably be liquidated by the United States in such form, by commission or otherwise, as might be most convenient to themselves; but that finally, they must be paid out of the sale of the lands. Now, the King had lately given all those lands away, as I had duly informed my government: to complete the “transaction,” it would, therefore, be absolutely necessary that the whole of those grants should be cancelled. Mr. Pizarro here held me a long discourse about sovereignty, territorial property, &c. &c. I told him that we had no difference of opinion about those distinctions, and the other matter connected with them, but that his error was in supposing that we meant to pay for the sovereignty only. We did not estimate that so highly as he imagined; I enlarged very much upon whatever related to these points, and brought him to consent that these grants might be cancelled, and indemnity given to the grantees in New Spain, or elsewhere: I say “brought him to consent”—I mean that he said enough to convince me that there will be no difficulty on this head. I am not so certain that I have induced him to send, by his courier, such instruction on it to Mr. Onis, as may render another reference to his government unnecessary; but I propose to see him again to-morrow, and to re-urge the matter.”

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, May 14, 1818.

EXTRACT.

In my late private letter (which was dated April 26,) I related to you what passed between Mr. Pizarro and myself, upon the subject of the grants of lands in Florida, lately made by the King, and I mentioned, that I should see him the day following, and endeavor to press my opinion on that point, in such way, as, if possible, to obtain that he might in advance instruct Mr. Onis in conformity to it. I saw him on the 27th, as I proposed, before the departure of his courier: whether I produced the desired effect, or not, I cannot positively say, but, immediately after, he wrote to the council of the Indies, in consequence of which, the council sent orders to the Duke of Alagon, and the Count de Punon Rostro, directing them not to make sales of the lands granted to them: this fact, which I had received through a private channel, I ascertained yesterday in conversation with Mr. Pizarro. I cannot find that the council has written to the other grantees, Veres, but Mr. Pizarro said, that it should have done so; be that as it may, all sales made by the grantees, are, ab initio, void, by the laws of Indies; there are obligations, also, of a very kind, imposed by those laws, on all grantees, calculated in fine to produce the objects which such grants have in view, viz. the population and cultivation of the territory. Obligations, which grantees of large tracts (under a prohibition to make sale) cannot possibly fulfil; less of all, such grantees as these, who, besides not having a cent, are overwhelmed with debt.

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, 12th June, 1818.

EXTRACT.

He Mr. Pizarro, then entered into the principal matters in question, and, firstly, spoke of the limits on the side of Florida.—He concluded this subject by saying, that, though the King, with a desire to accommodate himself to the views of the U. States, had concluded to make the cession, and to make it as valuable as possible to the United States, as I had seen in the promptitude with which he had acted on my suggestion, and given orders, to the council of Indies, relative to the late grants, (as particularly communicated to you in my private letter of May 14.) yet his Majesty was fully aware, that the value of the public land in the territory to be ceded would be infinitely beyond what the U. States could demand under the head of indemnities: hence, it was reasonable to expect, that the difference should be made up to him by concessions on the other side.”

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, 22d July, 1818.