

from her chamber down the staircase and along the entry, and that she was obliged to take refuge in the streets.'

MYSTERIOUS FORMS AND SIGNS.

Before an heir of Clifton, of Clifton, sleeps in death, a sturgeon is always, it is affirmed, taken in the river Trent. This incident, like many others, becomes important from its consequence. The park of Chartley is a wild and romantic spot, in its primitive state, untouched by the hand of the agriculturist, and was formerly attached to the royal forest of Needwood, and the honour of Tutbury, of the whole of which the ancient family of De Ferrars were once the puissant lords. Their immense possessions, now forming part of the duchy of Lancaster, were forfeited by the attainder of Earl Ferrars, after his defeat at Burton Bridge, where he led the rebellious barons against Henry III. The Chartley estate, being settled in dower, was alone reserved, and handed down to its present possessor. In the park is preserved in primitive purity, the indigenous Staffordshire cow, small in stature, of a sand white colour with black ears, muzzle, and tips at the hoofs. In the year of the battle of Burton Bridge, a black calf was born, and the downfall of the great house of Ferrars happening at the same period, gave rise to the tradition, which to this day has been held in veneration by the common people, that the birth of a party-coloured calf from the wild breed in Chartley, is a sure omen of death within the same year to a member of the lord's family. A calf of this description has been born whenever a death has happened in the family of late years. The decease of the last Earl and his Countess, of his son Lord Tamworth, of his daughter Mrs William Jolliffe, as well as the deaths of the son and heir of the present nobleman and his daughter, Lady Frances Shirley, have each been forewarned by the ominous birth of a spotted calf. In the spring of a late year, an animal perfectly black was calved by one of this weird tribe, in the park of Chartley, and this birth also has been followed by the death of the Countess.

United States.

Another Conflagration in New York—the beautiful National Theatre in Ruins!—The following account is taken principally from the New York Tattler of Saturday—the editor of which paper appears to have been one of the first on the ground.

Just as we had passed the Junction of Leonard Street and Broadway this morning, the cry of fire called us back to see the flames bursting from the roof of the National Theatre over the stage. Before we turned the corner of Leonard street, thick smoke burst also from the roof over the front of the building. We mention the apparently immaterial personal facts to show how completely the building was on fire in the interior before it broke out. When the flames burst out first it was with the rapidity of a flash. No smoke preceded the fire in volume sufficient to attract notice; and in a very few moments the whole length of the roof was in a blaze.

The fire was discovered about a quarter past seven—at eight the work of destruction was complete or nearly so.

During the fire the rear wall fell upon the roof of the three story brick building next adjoining on Leonard street owned by Mr Pitcher, and occupied by Julia Brown, crushing in the roof and burying beneath the ruins a young woman by the name of Margaret —, who lodged in the upper part of the building. The gaudy furniture thrown from the upper windows was essentially demolished—but there are no tears to shed on this occasion. Had the whole been burnt, including the house and scorching the house, no great harm would have been done.

The French Episcopal Protestant Church was injured in the roof by fire, and in the interior by water. The dwelling houses next it, Nos 103, 105, and 107 Franklin street, were damaged by the fall of the wall of the Theatre, and the Dutch Reformed Church in Franklin street, adjoining No 107, took fire also in the roof but was soon extinguished. The African Church on the corner of Leonard and Church streets, opposite the Theatre, caught also in the roof, but the fire was soon checked there and with little damage.

The weight of the conflagration was confined to the Theatre, which was completely burnt out. On two sides walls have fallen, except where the French Church supported them. The front walls in Church and Leonard streets, were still standing after the fire was conquered, but in so dangerous a position that we presume they are ere this thrown down.

We are at a loss to know, if a watch

was kept, how the fire could have obtained such head way, for we noticed on first arriving on the ground, that the windows in the upper part of the corner on Leonard street, farthest from the fire were smoke stained.

The origin of the fire was probably the act of an incendiary. Last evening at five o'clock, the manager, who had just arrived from Philadelphia, found the house on fire in nine or ten places; in the prompter's box, the ticket office, under the stairs leading to the apartments occupied by Mr Russell, the Treasurer, and family, in a room in the second story, recently occupied by Mr Wilson, and in the Turkish saloon, under the Theatre.

Spirits of turpentine was found abundantly sprinkled in all these places, and while the search was in progress, a bundle of friction matches was thrown from an upper window of the building in Leonard street. The incendiary is supposed to be a man named George Shiers, an employer of the Gas Company, who assisted in lighting the house at night. This individual had been frequently heard to threaten the establishment in consequence of a reduction of his salary, at which he expressed his indignation, saying at the same time, 'there'll be fire about the house,' and yesterday he told one of the choristers that there 'would be no performance at the house to night.' Upon Shier's arrest on searching his person, keys were found which would afford him access to every part of the house.

From the New York Herald.

Highly important from Washington—War with England probable at last.

The United States Gazette of yesterday has the following astounding statement:—

Highly Important.—Extract of a letter, dated, Washington, May 26, 1841. Much surprise has been expressed by the public, that our minister in London should have taken upon himself the recommending the immediate return of our squadron from the Mediterranean.

This enterprise will in some measure cease, when I inform you that Mr. Stevenson had information that the British Government had transmitted instruction to the Admirals on the American station, ordering them immediately upon receiving authentic information that McLeod, an officer of the British army, had been executed, to proceed on the coast of the United States, and to set fire to, and burn down, our cities and towns on the whole coast.

There is every reason to believe that this statement is true. We may as well prepare for war as not.

The United States Congress assembled at Washington on Monday the 31st ult. The Hon. John White, of Kentucky, was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives. The message of Mr. Tyler is much shorter than the messages of the American Presidents generally are. He alludes very briefly to the foreign relations of the country, the following paragraphs being all that relate to that subject.

A correspondence has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty accredited to this government, on the subject of Alexander McLeod's indictment and imprisonment, copies of which are herewith communicated to Congress.

In addition to what appears from these papers, it may be proper to state that Alexander McLeod has been heard before the Supreme Court of the State of New York on his motion to be discharged from imprisonment, and that the decision of the Court has not as yet been pronounced.

So far as it depends on the course of this Government, our relations will be sedulously cultivated with all nations. The true American policy will be found to consist in the exercise of a spirit of justice to manifested in the discharge of all our international obligations, to the weakest of the family of nations, as well as to the most powerful. Occasional conflicts of opinion may arise, but when the discussions incident to them are conducted in the language of truth, and with a strict regard to justice, the source of war will for the most part be avoided. The time ought to be regarded as having gone by when a resort to arms is to be esteemed as the only proper arbiter of national differences.

The President had transmitted to Congress a long correspondence between Mr Fox and Mr Webster, on the imprisonment of Mr McLeod, and the burning of the Caroline. Mr Fox had, it appears, in a note of the 12th of March, by command of the British Government demanded the immediate release of Mr McLeod. Mr Webster objects to this, and states

that his Government has not changed the opinion heretofore expressed to Her Majesty's Government of the character of the act of destroying the Caroline. Our time and limits do not permit further notice at present. Mr Webster closes the letter as follows:—The President instructs the undersigned to say, in conclusion, that he confidently trusts that this and all other questions of difference between the two Governments, will be treated by both in the full exercise of such a spirit of candour, justice, and mutual respect, as shall give assurance of the long continuance of peace between the two countries.'

Boston Daily Mail, June 5.

Important Diplomatic Correspondence.—The New York papers of yesterday publish in full the correspondence between Mr Webster and Mr Fox, which formed a part of the documents accompanying the President's message. The letter of Mr Webster to Mr Fox is pronounced by both friends and foes to be a masterly document, and worthy the dignity of the greatest Republic on earth.

The correspondence comprises three official letters; one from the British Minister to the Secretary of State, demanding the immediate release of McLeod, on the ground that the act with which he is charged was one committed under public and competent authority, and for which therefore he cannot be held personally responsible; a second from the Secretary of State in reply, conceding the principle asserted by Mr Fox, but showing that the enforcement of that principle, in the case at issue, does not belong, in its present stage, to the government of the United States, but to the judicial tribunals which properly have cognizance of the matter; and the third from the Secretary of State to the Attorney General, setting forth the views of the United States Government and instructing him as to the course required of him as the Government's legal adviser and officer.

The communication of Mr Fox had already been made public in part; and the farther portion now produced exhibits nothing of particular interest except a covert menace—which menace is answered by Mr Webster with a dignified, temperate, but sufficiently explicit intimation of the confidence entertained by the government of the United States in its ability to vindicate the national honor and defend itself against aggression.

The Secretary of State repudiates the application of the term 'pirates' to those American citizens who foolishly and criminally took part in the Canada rebellions; showing, moreover, that abundant precedent for their conduct has been afforded by British subjects, and that no imputation whatever rests upon the government of the United States, either of having sanctioned or instigated, or failed in endeavours to prevent, the wrongful acts in which they became participators

NEW YORK, May 31.

Letter from Alexander McLeod to the Editor of the Scottish Journal.

Dear Sir,—My attention has been often called to several false allegations relative to me that have become part of the history of the McLeod case; one that I had boasted at Lockport that I was at the burning of the Caroline, and was the actual murderer of Durfee, and that the indictment has been found and ulterior proceedings predicated on said boast.

The absurdity of the allegation was so apparent, I thought it unworthy of notice. Even a Lockport jury would not indict a man upon any such assertions.

I never said I was at the destruction of the boat, or any thing of the sort; nor does any witness against me say that he ever said that I ever said such a thing, till after they heard I was arrested.

I was indicted at Lockport a few days after the burning of the boat along with several others and I am the only person that was directly sworn to on that occasion, as having been recognised at the boat, which can be seen by reference to the evidence taken before the Grand Jury in 1838, in the Secretary of State's office at Washington.

I was arrested on the 24th day of last September. Kept two days and nights a prisoner as a felon on that indictment. I applied to a judge on a writ of Habeas Corpus, and after an examination held in Lockport on the 25th September, I was discharged, as there was a mistake in the indictment, the christian name being Angus in place of Alexander McLeod. I then said to Mr Woods the prosecuting Attorney, before the judge and a number of people; 'Sir, I believe this indictment was intended for me, and although I am now discharged in consequence of the misnomer, yet as I have business of importance to me in this and the adjoining county to settle, I am anxious

to refute the charge of murder and arson, that has been brought against me by the patriots, of which I am no way guilty, and if you or they will bring an indictment to maturity against me at your Court next month, and write to me the day of trial, I will attend with my witnesses and clearly prove that I had no participation in the destruction of the Caroline.'

The Circuit Court at Lockport passed over, and having received no notice, I thought I might fairly return and settle my business without fear or molestation.

I was two days and nights publicly in Buffalo. I remained one night at the Eagle Tavern at the Falls, and came on the 12th November to Lewiston—was just about to cross to Canada, when I was arrested by a constable with a crowd at his heels. I then found Major General Handy of the patriot army and all his staff, and a large number of patriots were assembled against me. The investigation continued until the 18th, when I was committed. There was no lack of evidence against me, and they could have had as much more to order as they required. I proved an alibi certainly, but that was no use. Seeing the hands I had got into, I was determined to use every means to get free. I was brought up again on the 12th December, before a judge, by writ of habeas corpus, and the examinations continued until the 31st December. I again proved an alibi, but it would not do.—However, the judge, with the consent of the patriots, consented to admit me to bail, myself in \$5000 and two sureties in \$5000. After great trouble I found bail which was perfected but the patriots had altered their minds. They surrounded me with fixed bayonets, placed a 12 pounder in front of my cell—threatened my bail with death—took the judge out of his bed at midnight in a bitter cold night, and marched him in slow time to their assembly at the point of the bayonet; they had a band of music at the jail door, playing the rogue's march, yankee doodle, &c. The patriot meeting declared their session permanent till my bail gave me up which was done by one of them only, the other refusing to succumb to the threats of this selfconstituted body. This assembly, which at one time amounted to 2000 men, broke up after having spent 18 hours in speechifying, firing of small arms, &c.

On the 6th of February the Grand Jury found a true bill, and as one of them told me upon very strong prima facie evidence. This Jury appeared decent looking men—they investigated the case three days, examined about twenty witnesses, out of some hundreds, that had been subpoenaed for the people.

It is long since I incurred the dislike of the patriots, and severely have they punished me, far more than the public are aware of.

On the 13th Dec. 1837, the Executive Committee and provisional government of the State of Upper Canada were organized in Buffalo.—On that day a printed handbill was published, offering a reward for my apprehension, and dispersed along the frontier—notwithstanding, I went to Buffalo on the 24th of December, 1837; was mobbed that night—next morning Pierce A. Barker, Mayor and Collector, called on me with a number of Magistrates and others. Conversing on the war then raging on the frontier, I remonstrated on the impropriety of the people, of Buffalo, organizing armed bodies of men making cannon balls, fitting out steamboats, and other acts of war, against Canada, and pointed out to him that the Caroline was then loading with arms and munitions of war for belligerents on Navy Island; and as certain as she did carry to them such articles, an attempt would be made by the Canadians to destroy her wherever she might be found. Mr Barker said he would not grant a port clearance to leave Buffalo harbor until arms, &c. were discharged. The Caroline had, therefore to put her arms on shore again, to be sent to Schlosser by land. There, by the oath of her owner on my trial, she took on board a cannon, a number of armed men, muskets and bayonets, &c. and conveyed them to the patriots on Navy Island.

During the time I was in conversation with the Mayor and magistrates of Buffalo, about 10 o'clock, on Christmas morning 1837, a person of the name of Bull, a patriot, came into the room with a bag of feathers in his hand, and requested my presence outside to get tarred and feathered. I soon after went outside and found about 1,000 people collected in front of the inn, with a tar-barrel ready.

I hinted to the Mayor the necessity I thought there might be of keeping a few of the arms in Buffalo, instead of sending