

out on a cloth, spread on a dresser to dry them, from this cloth transfer them to another till they are perfectly from moisture, then bottle them in wide mouthed bottles, having sufficient room to pour clarified mutton suet one inch thick on the top; cork them tight and rosin the corks, and keep them in the cellar or in the earth. When used boil them until they are tender, with a bit of butter, spoonful of sugar, and some mint.

United States News.

CONGRESS.

The following Message from the President was sent to the House of Representatives on the 27th of February:—

In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant, requesting me to communicate to the House "whatever correspondence or communication may have been received from the British Government respecting the President's construction of the late British treaty concluded at Washington, and concerns and alleged right to visit American vessels," I herewith transmit a report made to me by the Secretary of State. I have also thought proper to communicate copies of Lord Aberdeen's letter of the 20th of December, 1841, to Mr. Everett; Mr. Everett's letter of the 23d of December, in reply thereto; and extracts from several letters of Mr. Everett to the Secretary of State.

I cannot forego the expression of my regret at the apparent purport of a part of Lord Aberdeen's despatch to Mr. Fox. I had cherished the hope that all possibility of misunderstanding as to the true construction of the eighth article of the treaty lately concluded, between Great Britain and the United States, was precluded by the plain and well weighed language in which it is expressed. The desire of both Governments is to put an end as speedily as possible to the slave trade, and that desire, I need scarcely add, is as strongly and sincerely felt by the United States as it can be by Great Britain. Yet it must not be forgotten that the trade, though now universally reprobated, was, up to a late period, prosecuted by all who chose to engage in it; and there were unfortunately but very few Christian powers whose subjects were not permitted, and even encouraged, to share in the profits of what was regarded as a perfectly legitimate commerce.

It originated at a period long before the United States had become independent, and was carried on within our borders in opposition to the most earnest remonstrances and expostulations of some of the colonies in which it was most actively prosecuted. Its character, thus fixed by common consent and general practice, could only be changed by the positive assent of each and every nation, expressed either in the form of municipal law, or conventional arrangement. The United States led the way in efforts to suppress it. They claimed no right to dictate to others, but they resolved, without waiting for the co-operation of other powers, to prohibit it to their own citizens, and to visit its perpetration by them with condign punishment. I may safely affirm that it never occurred to this Government that any new maritime right accrued to it from the position it had then assumed in regard to the slave trade. If before our laws for its suppression the flag of every nation might traverse the ocean unquestioned by our cruisers, this freedom was not, in our opinion, in the least abridged by our municipal legislation.

Any other doctrine, it is plain, would subject to an arbitrary and ever varying system of maritime police, adopted at will by the great naval power for the time being, the trade of the world in any places, or in any articles, which such power might see fit to prohibit to its own subjects or citizens. A principle of this kind could scarcely be acknowledged, without subjecting commerce to the risk of constant and harassing vexations. The attempt to justify such a pretensions from the right to visit and detain ships upon reasonable suspicion of piracy, would deservedly be exposed to universal condemnation, since it would be an attempt to convert an established rule of maritime law, incorporated as a principle into the international code by the consent of all nations, into a rule and principle adopted by a single nation and enforced only by its assumed authority.

To seize and detain a ship, upon suspicion of piracy, with probable cause and in good faith, affords no just ground either for complaint on the part of the nation whose flag she bears, or claim of indemnity on the part of the owner. The universal law sanctions, and the common good requires, the existence of such a rule. The right, under such circumstances, not only to visit and detain, but to search a ship, is a perfect right, and involves neither responsibility nor indemnity. But with this single exception, no nation has, in time of peace, any authority to detain the ships of another upon the high seas, on any pretext whatever, beyond the limits of the territorial jurisdiction. And such, I am happy to find, is substantially the doctrine of Great Britain herself, in her most recent official declarations, and even in those now communicated to the House.

These declarations may well lead us to doubt whether the apparent difference between the two Governments is not rather one of definition than of principle. Not only is the right of search, properly so called, disclaimed by Great Britain, but even that of mere visit and inquiry is asserted with qualifications inconsistent with the idea of a perfect right.—In the despatch of Lord Aberdeen to Mr. Everett, of the 20th of December, 1841, as also in that just received by the British Minister in this country, made to Mr. Fox, his Lordship declares that if, in spite

of all the precaution which shall be used to prevent such occurrences, an American ship, by reason of any visit or detention by a British cruiser, "should suffer loss and injury, it would be followed by prompt and ample remuneration." And in order to make more manifest her intentions in this respect, Lord Aberdeen, in the despatch of the 20th of December, makes known to Mr. Everett the nature of the instructions given to the British cruisers. These are such as, if faithfully observed, would enable the British Government to approximate the standard of a fair indemnity. That Government has in several cases, fulfilled her promises in this particular, by making adequate reparation for damage done to our commerce. It seems obvious to remark, that a right which is only to be exercised under such restrictions and precautions, and risk, in case of any assignable damage, to be followed by the consequences of a trespass, can scarcely be considered any thing more than a privilege asked for, and either conceded or withheld on the usual principles of international comity.

The principles laid down in Lord Aberdeen's despatches, and the insurance of indemnity therein held out, although the utmost reliance was placed on the good faith of the British Government, were not regarded by the Executive as a sufficient security against the abuses which Lord Aberdeen admitted might arise in even the most cautious and moderate exercise of their new maritime police. And therefore, in my message at the opening of the last session, I set forth the views entertained by the Executive on this subject, and substantially affirmed both our inclination and ability to enforce our own laws, protect our flag from abuse, and acquit ourselves of all our duties and obligations on the high seas. In view of these assertions the treaty of Washington was negotiated; and upon consultation with the British negotiator as to the quantum of force necessary to be employed in order to attain these objects, the result to which the most deliberate estimate led was embodied in the eighth article of the treaty.

Such were my views at the time of negotiating that treaty, and such in my opinion, it is plain and fair interpretation. I regarded the eighth article as moving all possible pretext, on the ground of mere necessity, to visit and detain our ships upon the African coast, because of any alleged abuse of our flag by slave traders of other nations. We had taken upon ourselves the burden of preventing any such abuse by stipulating to furnish an armed force—regarded by both the high contracting parties as sufficient to accomplish that object. Denying, as we did and do, all color of right to exercise any such general police over the flags of independent nations, we did not demand of Great Britain any formal renunciation of her pretension—Still less had we the least idea of yielding any thing ourselves in that respect. We chose to make a practical settlement of the question. This we owed to what we had already done upon this subject. The honor of the country called for it—the honor of its flag demanded that it should not be used by others to cover an iniquitous traffic.

This Government, I am very sure, has both the inclination and ability to do this; and if need be, it will not content itself with a fleet of eighty guns—but sooner than any foreign government shall exercise the province of executing its laws and fulfilling its obligations, the highest of which is to protect its flag alike from abuse and insult—it would, I doubt not, put in requisition for that purpose, its whole naval power. The purpose of this Government is faithfully to fulfil the treaty on its part; and it will not permit itself to doubt that Great Britain will comply with it on hers. In this way peace will be best preserved and the most amicable relations maintained between the two countries.

JOHN TYLER.

Washington, Feb. 27, 1843.

The following letter from the Secretary of State accompanied the Message:

"To the Hon. the Speaker, &c. &c."

"The Secretary of State, to whom has been referred a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant, requesting that the President of the United States be requested to communicate to that House, if not in his opinion improper, whatever correspondence or communication may have been received from the British Government respecting the President's construction of the late Treaty concluded at Washington, as it concerns and alleged right to visit American vessels, has the honor to inform the President that Mr. Fox, H. E. M. Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, came to the Department of State on the 21th of February inst. and informed the Secretary of State that he had received from Lord Aberdeen, H. M. Principal Secretary of State for foreign Affairs, a despatch under date of the 18th of January, which he was directed to read to the Secretary of State of the United States. The substance of that despatch was, that there was a statement in a paragraph of the President's Message to Congress at the opening of the present session, of serious import, it would tend in convey the supposition, not only that the question of right of search had been disavowed by the Plenipotentiary at Washington, but that Great Britain had made concession on that point.

That the President knew that the right of search never formed the subject of discussion during the late negotiation, and that neither was any concession required by the United States Government nor made by Great Britain.

"That the engagement entered into by the parties to the Treaty of Washington for suppressing the African Slave Trade, was unconditionally proposed and agreed to.

"That the British Government saw in it an attempt on the part of the Government of the United States to give a practical effect to their

repeated declarations against the trade, and recognized with satisfaction an advance towards the humane and enlightened policy of all Christian states, from which they anticipated much good. That Great Britain would scrupulously fulfil the conditions of this engagement; but that from the principles which she has constantly asserted, and which are recorded in the correspondence between the minister of the United States, in England, and himself, in 1841, England has not receded, and would not recede. That he had no intention to renew, at present, the discussion upon the subject. That his last note was yet unanswered. That the President might be assured that Great Britain would always respect the just claims of the United States. That Great Britain made no pretensions to interfere in any manner whatever, either by detention, visit, or search, with vessels of the United States, known or believed to be such. That that it still maintained, and would exercise when necessary, its own right to ascertain the genuineness of any flag which a suspected vessel might bear; that if, in the exercise of this right, either from involuntary error, or in spite of every precaution, loss or injury should be maintained, a prompt reparation would be afforded. But that it should entertain for a single instant the notion of abandoning the right itself, would be quite impossible!

"That these observations had been rendered necessary by the message to Congress. That the President is undoubtedly at liberty to address that assembly in any terms which he may think proper, but if the Queen's servants should not deem it expedient to advise Her Majesty also to advert to these topics in her speech from the throne, they they desired nevertheless to hold themselves perfectly free when questioned in Parliament, to give all such explanations as they might feel to be consistent with their duty, and necessary for the elucidation of the truth.

"The paper having been read and its contents understood, Mr. Fox was told in reply that the subject would be taken into consideration, and that a despatch relative to it would be sent, at an early day to the American Minister in London, who would have instructions to read it to Her Majesty's principal secretary of state for Foreign Affairs."

DANIEL WEBSTER.

The nominations of Mr. Wise as minister to France, and Mr. Cushing as secretary of the Treasury, were both confirmed after midnight in the session of Thursday.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT CINCINNATI.—SEVERAL LIVES LOST.—On Saturday afternoon, 25th Feb., about 5 o'clock, a fire broke out in the smoke house of Messrs. Pugh & Alvord, at the corner of Walnut Street and Canal, which, in its consequences, has been one of the most distressing that ever occurred in this city.

The smoke house was in the rear, and somewhat detached from the main building, being connected with it only by a wooden door and narrow passage way through which the meat was usually wheeled.

It was thought the fire could be confined to the former, and for that purpose the pork house was closed, tight as possible, by shutting all the doors and windows, to exclude a rush of air to feed the flames. In the course of half an hour the main building was filled with smoke, rarified air, and probably some inflammable gas, from the smoke house, and when the flames burst through the wooden door connecting the two buildings, an instantaneous rush of flame was perceived, and in the twinkling of an eye, the whole of this spacious building was a mass of ruins. The whole roof was lifted up in the air and thrown into the streets in large fragments—the second story walls on the North and South sides were thrown down, and the whole Eastern end of both stories, fronting on Walnut, blown into the streets, from its foundation up.

The appearance of the explosion was awfully terrific, and its consequences fatal to several of our most estimable citizens. It was thought that from twelve persons were immediately killed, and probably twenty were severely wounded, some of them dangerously.

LOSS OF ONE HUNDRED LIVES.—The following is a copy of a ship from the Washington (Arkansas) Telegraph:—

In consequence of the melting of the snow in the mountains, Red River has been so flooded that all its bottoms lie buried beneath the heavy mass of moving water, whose appearance was so sudden and rapid that it has borne down every vestige of human industry, cotton bails, cotton presses, corn, cattle, horses, hogs, &c., in one wide and general ruin. During the period of half a century, there was never known such an overwhelming flood as that with which we are now visited. At Fort Tawson, on the 25th ult.; the river rose fifteen feet higher than ever before known, spreading itself over the whole bottom, destroying the warehouse at the public landing, and sweeping in one common grave all species of animation Jonesborough, Rowland, and Berlin, in Texas, have been wholly inundated, some of the houses washed away, and many of the inhabitants drowned. Some few negroes escaped from Jonesborough on a raft, and when passing the residence of Col. James H. Johnson, they saw him with his family on the house top, but could render them no assistance; and soon after passing they heard a crash and one wild scream, and all was silent again, except the roar of the rushing torrent.

Amid the general distress, Captain Crooke, of the steamboat Hunter, proceeded to Mill Creek, and rendered the sufferers every possible succor in his power; going from place to place, picking up the survivors from the tops of the houses and trees; thus rescuing from a watery grave some seventy five or a hundred persons. Some were necessarily left to perish

in the cane and timber, as there was no possible way of reaching them, their cries often being heard above the noise of the elements. Six families of Indians, fourteen miles this side of Jonesborough, are reported lost, and Colonel Milam, of Kentucky, with a lady, his niece, and Mr. McKinney, perished. It is thought that over a hundred lives have been lost between Fulton and Jonesborough—how many as yet we cannot say with certainty. Owing to the great number of settlers on the bottom of Red River, the loss of property and human life must be immense. At the last accounts the river was still rising.

Colonial News.

West-Indies.

TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKES.

From the St. John Mirror.

Terrible Earthquake!—The brig Argyle, Capt. Brown, arrived here yesterday from St. Thomas, reports that that Island was visited by an earthquake on the 8th of February, causing the greatest consternation among the inhabitants. Provisionally it did no great damage at St. Thomas, but in several of the other West India Islands the damage is said to have been immense.

A recent arrival at Philadelphia corroborates this statement, as will be seen by the following extract of a letter, which we take from a late paper:

We have been favored by a Commercial friend with the following extract of a Letter, dated St. Johns, Porto Rico, Feb. 10th, 1843:

"We had a severe earthquake here on the 8th instant, at 20 minutes past 10, A. M., and learn from the steam packet that arrived today from Windward Islands, that it was very severe in St. Vincents, St. Barts, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Martin's and St. Thomas's. It has done no damage here, but alarmed the people very much."

By the western mail last evening, we received United States' papers containing further particulars of the terrible earthquake in the West Indies, which were brought to Baltimore on the 2nd instant, by the brig Francis Jane, from St. Johns, Porto Rico. Intelligence of the destructive effects of the earthquake in the various Islands, is given in the following extracts of letters received by the owners of the Francis Jane:—

ST. JOHNS, P. R., Feb. 14, 1843.

We had a severe shock of an earthquake on the 8th inst. but it was not so severe as the one last year, though it lasted a longer time. In St. Thomas it was very severe, and it is said to have lasted over two minutes. All persons fled from their houses, but most fortunately no one was hurt, and no material damage was done there. A vessel arrived at St. Thomas from Antigua reports that all the houses were thrown down in that Island, and the windmills were either down or so much injured that they cannot be worked. In Nevis, also, every thing (except the Bath House) is down, and the steamer passing Martinique, Guadalupe, and Montserrat, saw those Islands covered with a dense cloud of dust.

No accounts have yet been received from any other Island, but we fear we shall hear of great destruction of property and loss of life in all the Windward Islands. We cannot vouch for the truth of the above, but we give as we receive it from a creditable source in St. Thomas.

ST. JOHNS, P. R., Feb. 15, 1843.

We yesterday received advices from the Windward. The effects of the earthquake of the 8th inst. have been awful indeed. The town of Point Petre, Guadalupe, is entirely destroyed; and ten thousand persons are supposed to have been killed. The loss of property has been immense.

All the mills and sugar works are more or less injured, and the greater part of the crop will be lost. Nevis, Montserrat, Barbadoes, &c.; are all said to have suffered much, but to what extent is not known here yet.

Boston Advertiser and Patriot, March 4. EARTHQUAKE IN THE WEST INDIES.—Several letters have been received in this city from St. Thomas describing an earthquake which was felt in that Island on the 8th ult. and much more severely in some of the neighbouring Islands. The principal particulars are embraced in the following letter from a correspondent of the Washington Whig.

WHIG OFFICE, Washington, N. C. Feb. 25. Yesterday, the schr. Raleigh, Capt. Brooks, arrived at this port from St. Martin, West Indies, whence she sailed on the 9th inst. By this arrival we have received the intelligence of this earthquake, which occurred on the 8th inst. a slight shock of which was felt here, and in many other places in the United States. The subjoined letter from D. Atwell, brought by Capt. Brooks, gives the particulars, so far as they were known at St. Martin, when the Raleigh sailed.

St. MARTIN, Wednesday, Feb. 8.—"About 10 o'clock, p. m. to-day, this Island experienced an alarming earthquake. It lasted for three to four minutes—during which period, and indeed, some time after, this town, Phillipsburgh, Netherland Division, exhibited a distressing scene. The heads of houses, out on business, were seen hurrying home scarcely able to keep their balance, owing to the agitation of the earth; some of them finding their wives, relatives and servants, in the yards, others in the streets; those that remained in their houses, in many cases, clasped together, imploring the Omnipotent hand, ruling all events, for pardon;