

United States News.

News from Texas.—We learn that General Houston has at last openly declared himself against annexation. We have been long expecting this—consequently we are not disappointed in the slightest possible degree. We are happy in the belief, however, that he does not possess sufficient influence to thwart this great national measure.

Our readers may expect some startling developments with regard to British policy and British intrigue, in a short time. We cannot, at present, tell all we know about the matter. It is a glorious consolation to know that we have a President equal to any emergency that may arise.—*Washington Madisonian, April 23.*

It is stated that the Texan Secretary of State, Mr. Ashbel Smith, has left Galveston for Boston, to take passage for England, in the Royal Mail Steamer of the 1st of May.—This proceeding has caused a good deal of sensation throughout the United States. The *New Orleans Bulletin* of the 17th ult. in speaking of it, remarks—"At the moment at which Mr. Donaldson, the Minister of the United States arrived in Texas, with proposals for the consideration of that country guaranteed by the most solemn sanctions of our government, that moment was chosen by the chief officer of State in Texas, to slip from his duties at home, and without deigning to inform his countrymen whither he was bound, to speed on a secret mission to London.—This visit of Mr. S. we have good reason to believe, grows out of the recent despatches received in Texas, from different points through the extreme courtesy of H. B. M. Navy, and is in pursuance of a plan of operations agreed on by the Texan Cabinet, in consultation with the British minister in Texas, having for its object to put off, under various excuses, all action on the resolutions of Annexation, until further advices and distinct propositions, made on a full understanding of the state of affairs, can be had from England."

From Mexico.—The *New Orleans Picayune* brings us late news from Mexico. We have the letter from the Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations to Mr. Shannon, terminating all official intercourse with him, and also, a Circular Protest against the annexation of Texas to the United States, addressed to the Spanish, British, and French Ministers, resident at Mexico. The Mexican Secretary does not intimate, in any definite terms, the course which his Government will pursue.

It does not appear, from the tenor of the official communications, what will be the nature of the resistance Mexico will make to annexation. Senor Cuevas' letters are in a grandiloquent vein, but purpose nothing definite.

The following is the communication to Mr. Shannon—
To His Excellency Wilson Shannon, Envoy Extraordinary, &c. &c.

The undersigned, Minister of Foreign Relations in addressing himself, for the last time, to His Excellency, Mr. Wilson Shannon, Minister Plenipotentiary from the U. States, desires to inform him that as both Houses of U. States Congress have sanctioned the law in relation to the Annexation of Texas to the Territory of the United States, and as the Minister from Mexico has withdrawn from his mission at Washington, and protested against the Act of Congress, and the Government of the United States, diplomatic relations between the two countries cannot be continued.

What can the undersigned add to what has already been said by his Government upon the grave offence offered Mexico by the United States, usurping a portion of Mexican territory, and violating the terms of treaties of friendship, which the Republic of Mexico has observed on her part, as long as her honor and the desire to avoid a rupture with the United States have permitted. Nothing more than to lament that two nations, free and republican, contiguous, [vecinos] and worthy of a fraternal union, founded upon mutual interests, and a common and honorable loyalty should have cut short their friendly relations, and by an act as offensive to Mexico as it is derogatory to the honor of the American Union.

The undersigned renews to his Excellency, Mr. Shannon, the protest already directed against annexation; and moreover would add, that the Mexican Republic will oppose the measure with all the decision due to her own honour and sovereignty; and that the Government ardently desire that considerations of loyalty and justice should outweigh with the

citizens of the United States, designs for extending their territory at the expense of a friendly Republic, which, in the midst of its misfortunes [disgracias] seeks to preserve an unspotted name, and thereby the rank to which its destinies call it.

The undersigned has the honor to offer to His Excellency, Mr. Shannon, his personal respect, and to assure him of his very distinguished consideration.

LUIS G. CUEVAS.

The United States and Brazil.—It appears that President Polk is likely to have his hands full in settling differences with foreign nations. A cause of quarrel between the United States and the Brazilian Government has recently arisen, of which the following, according to a Rio Janeiro paper, appears to be the particulars:—

"It seems that the Anglo-American Commodore Mr. D. Turner, in command of the Brazilian station, seized the brig Porpoise in the harbor of Rio Janeiro, under the pretext that it was Anglo-American and had slaves on board. The claim to exercise jurisdiction in a foreign port, to such an extent, could alone spring from the vain arrogance of men accustomed to trample on all the rights of a people they consider as too weak to dare to defend themselves. Fortunately, however, Brazil is not a power so weak—its government is well consolidated, and wants neither resources nor energy. Consequently, intimation was given to Com. Turner that he must give up the captured vessel, which was refused;—upon this the governor ordered some gunboats to approach the "privateer" frigate, and repeated the demand, and Turner replied that if they came nearer, he would fire upon them; and seeing this, the Government of Brazil strengthened and garrisoned their forts, and gave orders to sink the Anglo-American frigate, if she should not promptly release the brig, and there was no other remedy.—Commodore Turner gave up the prize. Upon that the Anglo-American Minister, Mr. Wise, thinking to confound the Government of Brazil, protested against it, and demanded his passports, but he met with the very great disappointment of having them immediately granted.

N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 26.

Wars and Rumours of Wars.—Some weak minds are ever foreboding evil, and some villainous presses are ever endeavouring to produce alarm. Nothing makes a paper sell like a "tremendous excitement."

It is just possible a war with Mexico will grow out of the annexation of Texas, but we think it very improbable. That Texas will come into the Union, we consider all but certain, notwithstanding the proffer of independence, made to her by Mexico in case she will say no. Such an offer at this late day, after independence is achieved beyond the power of Mexico to prevent it, is of no great value. She does not wish to be independent if she can be dependent to greater advantage.—Most of her sons formerly enjoyed the freedom, peace and security afforded by the American Union, and they know there is no better condition, politically, beneath the sun. As a member of Union, Texas would have all the independence she could desire, and, would be protected in it, under theegis of the Confederation. Alone her nominal independence would be dependent upon England, or some other power. It is impossible for a small state like Texas to sustain the expenditure necessary to keep the machinery of a nation in motion such as an army, navy, foreign ministers, &c. except upon a scale so diminutive as to border on the ridiculous. Texas therefore will come into the Union, and it will also be a good bargain for us.

A Galveston letter, of the 7th instant in the *Richmond Enquirer*, says—"Mexico has made through the British Minister, overtures to this Government for the appointment of Commissioners to form a treaty of commerce, &c., on the basis of the acknowledged independence of our country. To these overtures, the President gave the British Minister nothing but vague and indefinite answers. This comes directly from Elliott himself, and may be relied upon. He left here to-day in the British man-of-war, for Charleston, as it is said—but I do not know to what place he may have gone—I give you only such information as I know to be correct."

If Texas was out of the world or another Continent, it might be as well for us; but seeing we must live together, the best thing we can do is to consummate the Union. By this we do not mean that Texas is not as good a State as most other new States, but that our Union is already large enough for self-preservation, and there is no object, or

that score, in having it larger. On the other hand, we do not think there is any great risk in receiving new States. A central government, covering such an extent of territory, would soon fall to pieces, unless supported by a powerful array of bayonets; but a Government of Federal States, each of which derives protection and respectability from the rest, while each is for all local purposes sovereign and independent, is an entirely different thing.

What course Mexico will pursue in consequence of annexation, it is not easy to predict with certainty,—but she has already determined, we believe, not to make war upon us unless Texas accepts our proposition. Of course it will be some time yet, before she has the necessary data to determine her course. Meanwhile she will have an opportunity to consider whether she is likely to gain anything by a war; whether, in every point of view, it would not be making bad worse. "Sober, second thoughts," are often a great safeguard, both to nations and individuals. Whenever Mexico doffs her immense national vanity (for she really thinks herself one of the most powerful nations in the world,) she will see plainly that if she cannot conquer Texas, with its 100,000 inhabitants, she will stand but a poor chance in a contest with 20,000,000. England, too, will whisper wisdom in her ear. The only danger that Mexico will compel us to give her a sound drubbing, arises from the fact that she is grossly deceived in regard to public sentiment here. She thinks the North is ready to break off from the Union on account of annexation. She takes the froth of a few Abolitionists, as a fair specimen of Northern feeling.—She is egregiously mistaken.

New York Herald, April 26.

The Oregon Question.—The recent intelligence from England with respect to the Oregon question created a tremendous sensation in this city for a day or two, but it now appears to be rapidly subsiding. All the mere party journals seem to be afraid of touching the subject at all.

This question, however, is destined to exercise a prodigious influence on events of the coming year—more than any one imagines. The Texas, the Brazilian question, or any other, will be as dust in the balance, compared with this great subject of controversy and national disturbance. We have yet to hear from the East and South, and particularly from the great West, in order to be able to judge of the popular feeling with regard to the declaration of the British Government, as made in Parliament. Our firm belief is, that this question will exercise on the internal politics of this country, a much more important influence than the Texas question did.

New York Courier and Enquirer.

Sir Robert Peel declared in the House of Commons, that the British Government stood *resolute* and prepared to maintain her rights with regard to Oregon. This is forcible and significant language. It implies no threat, but it announces, in a manner not to be misunderstood, the disposition of the power with whom we have to negotiate. She stands armed and ready to seize by the sword, the claims which she may not be able to secure by peaceful means. She does not hesitate to declare that she has perfected her armaments for the express purpose of maintaining her rights. Her naval force, before the most powerful in the world, has been largely increased; the most ample preparation, even for instant hostilities, has been made; all needed equipments have been provided; and thus, with the lighted match in her hand, Great Britain stands fully prepared to negotiate, and, in case of failure, to fight for her claim. **

At present it is notorious that our military and naval armaments are sadly inadequate to the emergency. We have not the means of defending ourselves in any quarter, where we should probably be attacked. Our whole Atlantic seaboard is open to an enemy; our Western frontier is exposed to the fury of some sixty thousand Indians, which the intrigues of a wily foe might easily bring upon us; and on every side, as far as repelling hostilities is concerned, as yet we are essentially weak.

Nothing but folly and wickedness on the part of our rulers can possibly get us into a war with England. Her Ministry have declared their conviction of the justice of her title, and have offered to give us at least half of the Territory in dispute. This proposition we have rejected; and then she says, "I submit it to arbitration and permit you to select the party who shall name the arbitrators." This too, we reject; and then, and not till then, she says—"I now stand by my rights,

and am willing and prepared to defend them."

This is the true state of the question, and it would be folly to go to war under such circumstances. The whole territory in dispute is valueless; and it is nothing more than a question of honor between the two countries. Neither can well recede from their present claims; but it is the duty of Mr. Polk to say at once—"we accept the proposition for an arbitration rejected by the Administration of my predecessor," and there the difficulty ceases. When we refuse to arbitrate we admit a want of confidence in our claim to the Territory in dispute; and with such admission, no nation may rush into a war in this age of the world.

Editor's Department.

MIRAMICHI;
CHATHAM, TUESDAY, MAY 6.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.—The following admirable remarks on the present state of affairs in these Colonies, are taken from the *Quebec Gazette*, of the 25th April:—

"The Legislatures of all of these Provinces, Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, and Newfoundland, have been sitting this winter some three or four months, making and unmaking laws within their several limits, and we are sorry to say, with very few exceptions, quarrelling, about who holds or should hold offices of profit or emolument under the Crown.

They have all, however, provided for raising a revenue, chiefly by duties on importations, and they are, in many instances, of an opposite character, admitting as free, articles charged with heavy duties in the other provinces, or establishing different rates of duties in the different provinces, thereby throwing difficulties in the way of commercial intercourse with each other and the mother country, besides burthening the consumers of the dutiable articles, creating uncertainty in commercial transactions by frequent changes of duties, inducing smuggling, and occasioning new offices and expenses.

Throughout all the States of the American Union, the duties at least are uniform, and the changes less frequent than in the North American Colonies, and the battle for the distribution of the revenue collected, is not fought in every state, but in the Congress of all the States. The consequence is, that our several local Legislators are getting as zealous in the service of party and self, as they are in the United States Congress, and are, proportionably, fully as expensive to the country.

In New Brunswick the Assembly has actually sent home a representation against "an appointment to office," made by the Lieutenant Governor for no other alleged reason than that the person appointed happened to be the Governor's son in law, who came to the country only a few years ago in the personal staff of his Excellency. In Nova Scotia there was a break up last year in the Executive Council, because the Lieutenant Governor called to that body a person related to a member of the Council which some of the members did not like, and we see by the Halifax papers to the 12th inst., that the "Ins" and the "Outs" are governed by no friendly feeling, and, on almost every question of general interest, are nearly balanced, about 25 to 25.

In all of the provinces the public expenses go on increasing, and generally exceed the receipts. Those that share in them have no great zeal for reducing them; and those that expect to share in them do not wish to destroy the object for which some of them at least are contending.

The evil would not, however, be so great, did not the contentions of the parties keep up, spread and perpetuate hostile feelings and discontent among the people, produce ill digested and ever varying legislation, followed by an total inexecution of the laws, and an unsettled and feeble state of the public authority.

This is far from being an improvement in the condition of the North American colonies. They have heretofore prospered under their connexion with the British Empire, and we believe are still strongly attached to that connexion; but these constant struggles for place, and power, and the increased burthens which must be the result, have a dangerous tendency.

Under all the disadvantages of climate, and the local misfortunes of the last thirteen years, the North American Provinces have grown in population during the last eighty years in a greater ratio than the United States of America; from less than a hundred thousand souls in 1763, these provinces contain now little short of two millions, and the condition of the great bulk of the people has been far from uncomfortable. Their trade and commerce has fully kept pace with their population, and altogether they form a valuable appendage of the British Empire.

Constant agitation, increased burthens, endless changes in the laws, and a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty, are, however, calculated to have, a most injurious effect on the future well being of the North American provinces.

While they are a dependency of the British Crown they cannot govern themselves. Even if they were not bound by their allegiance and affections, they could not exist in a state of independence but during the good pleasure of the United States, and would have no other