

gives a separate lecture to the farmers every Friday evening, at which fifty or seventy-five are present, and are much benefited." We are pleased to receive this information, and regard it as an indication that the plan of introducing the study of agriculture into schools, is destined to succeed.

United States News.

FINAL DECISION—GREAT EXCITEMENT.

Washington, April 16.—The Senate Chamber this morning was very full in anticipation of proceedings of great interest in the final debate and probable action upon the Oregon question. The time of meeting was an hour earlier than usual.

Mr. Crittenden addressed the Senate in a brilliant, and powerful speech. He defended the notice, as a Peace measure, and urged the passage. *The title to the territory, he did not regard as good to either country.* The Notice has become necessary by the recommendation of the Executive, and the agitation of the question had made it necessary. It would be a disgrace to civilization and humanity for two nations to go to war upon a question like this. Before God, and before man, they would be condemned who failed to bring it to a favourable issue. There was no question of national honor involved in this controversy—none whatever. It was a question of property and possession merely. He defended the notice solely as a peace measure. It was in some respects to be regarded as a leap in the dark, but it was necessary in order to settle the question one way or another. Things could not go on as they were a great while longer. War would spring up in the two countries by the excitement in Oregon. *A terrible responsibility would belong to the Executive who was to act upon this question.* He called upon him as a just man, as the President of the United States, to observe well the power which would be committed to his hands. The nation and the world would hold him responsible for the manner in which he acted. It seemed to him morally impossible that two nations should go to war in this age, upon this question, and in face of common origin and common interests. Mr. Crittenden did not close without alluding to the consequence of war, though without depicting its horrors. He also spoke of peace as a glorious object, worthy the ambition and defence of all good men, and every wise nation. The cost of war, he thought, had not, as a matter of money, been overestimated, when it was stated to be \$500,000,000. It had been said that the sun never set upon the British Dominions—so the sun would never set upon a war. Every hour of the twenty-four would find it going on, wherever the sun rolled and the water flowed.

Mr. Johnston moved Mr. Crittenden's Resolutions as a substitute for those from his own, inserting the word *amicable* before settlement, in the preamble and resolution.

Mr. Allen moved to amend the preamble by substituting the words of the message declaring that the time had come for maintaining our just rights upon the question.

Mr. Pennybacker advocated compromise, but preferred the resolutions of Mr. Crittenden.

The voting now commenced, and excited great interest to the Senate.

Mr. Johnson modified his resolutions so as to read as written by Mr. Crittenden. Mr. Allen's amendment was then rejected by a vote of 32 to 22.

Mr. Breeze of Illinois, moved to strike out from the preamble, "at the discretion of the President of the United States," from the power given to the Executive to give the notice. This was also rejected by a vote of 32 to 22.

Then came the tug of war,—and the House Resolutions were rejected, and Mr. Crittenden's adopted by a vote of thirty to twenty four.

Mr. Allen now rose to denounce the action of the Senate for refusing to pass the House Resolutions. He did so, and to the end in a perfect furor of passion; and in a manner and in language calculated to disgrace the Senate.

Mr. Crittenden rejoined with great severity, and in a manner so pointed as to make his remarks personal and scathing to a degree almost unexampled.

The question was then called for and taken, and the resolution of Mr. Crittenden was adopted by a vote of 40 to 14.

RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE.

Whereas by the convention concluded the 20th day of October, 1818, between the United States of America and the King of the United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Ireland for the period of ten years, and afterwards indefinitely extended and continued in force by another convention of the same parties, concluded the 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, it was agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the northwest coast of America westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains, now commonly called the Oregon territory, should together with its harbours bays and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be "free and open" to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two Powers, but without any prejudice to any claim which either of the parties might have to any part of said country, and with this further provision in the second article of the said convention of the sixth August, 1827, that either party might abrogate and annul said convention, on giving due notice of 12 months to the other contracting party.

And whereas it has now become desirable that the respective claims of the United States and Great Britain should be definitively settled, and that said territory may no longer than need be remain subject to the evil consequences of the divided allegiance of its American and British population, and of the confusion and conflict of national jurisdictions dangerous to the cherished peace and good understanding of the two countries; with a view therefore, that steps be taken for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th August 1827, in the mode prescribed in its second article, and that the attention of the governments of both countries may be the more earnestly and immediately directed to renewed efforts for the settlement of all their differences and disputes in respect to said territory.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorized, at his discretion, to give the British government the notice required by its said second article for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827.

Correspondence of the N. York Express.

Washington, April 17.

Senate not in session.

In the House a Message was received from the Senate, announcing the passage of the Oregon Resolutions, which were informally laid upon the table, while the House went into committee of the whole upon the subject of extending jurisdiction over the Oregon territory.

Mr. Douglass was in favour of the bill, with the boundary being defined; but would go for it without any boundary. He regarded the government committed to 54 40 already, by the acts of the executive, and by the action of Congress.

Amendments were offered thick and fast. One proposed that the notice should be incorporated into the bill, and given forthwith to Great Britain, to put an end to the treaty.

An amendment, requiring a careful observance of the treaty obligations in reference to the subjects of Great-Britain, and requiring that it shall not operate upon the English settlers until the annulment of the treaty of 1827, was Rejected—98 to 69.

An amendment, defining that the boundary should extend from 42 to 54 40, was rejected by a vote of 70 to 60.

The section of the bill providing for raising two regiments of Riflemen, was struck out, and the \$300,000 asked, reduced to \$100,000. Mr. Winthrop, moved an amendment, that involuntary servitude, except for crime, should not exist in the territory to which this bill relates. The amendment was lost 67 to 52, and the bill was then reported to the House, when the previous question was moved, and the House then adjourned till tomorrow, after refusing to adjourn until Monday.

On the following day, (Saturday) the House took up the Resolution sent down by the Senate, and amendments were moved and passed through on the steam power principle, by the Democratic majority. The war feeling was intense, and the liberty taken by the Senate to amend the House resolutions, was bitterly commented upon.

The amendments concluded by striking out the words relating to an *amicable* settlement, and those relating to the *discretion* of the President, and the resolution passed as follows:

AMENDMENT OF THE HOUSE.

Whereas, by the convention concluded the 20th day of October, 1818, between the United States of America and the King of the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, for the period of ten years, and afterwards indefinitely exten-

ded and continued in force by another convention of the same parties, concluded the 6th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1827; it was agreed that any country that may be claimed by either party on the Northwest coast of America westward of the Stony or Rocky Mountains, now commonly called the Oregon territory, should together with its harbours bays and creeks, and the navigation of all rivers within the same, be "free and open" to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two Powers, but without any prejudice to any claim which either of the parties might have to any part of said country, and with this further provision in the second article of the said convention of the sixth August, 1828, that either party might abrogate and annul said convention, on giving due notice of 12 months to the other contracting party.

And whereas it has now become desirable that the respective claims of the United States and Great Britain should be definitively settled and that said territory may no longer than need be remain subject to the evil consequences of the divided allegiance of its American and British population, and of the confusion and conflict of national jurisdictions dangerous to the cherished peace and good understanding of the two countries; with a view therefore, that steps be taken for the abrogation of the said convention of the 6th August, 1827, in the mode prescribed in its second article, and that the attention of the governments of both countries may be the more earnestly directed to the importance of a speedy adjustment all their differences and disputes in respect to said territory.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to give the British government the notice required by its said second article for the abrogation of the said convention of the 9th August, 1827.

LATE AND IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO!

The army of occupation, numbering in all 3500 men, arrived and encamped on the 28th ult., opposite Matamoras. Gen. Taylor, with a company of dragoons, under the command of Col. Twiggs, having left the main army, arrived at Point Isabel simultaneously with the fleet of transports from Aransas, on the 24th ult.

On the appearance of the fleet the captain of the port—Rodriguez—set fire to the custom-house and several other buildings at Point Isabel, and made his retreat good to the river, although pursued some distance by order of Gen. Taylor. The buildings destroyed were of little value, being constructed of logs, thatched with straw.

The enemy, who have been reported as in readiness to dispute the march of Gen. Taylor's army, seem to have entirely disappeared at his approach. The only opposition of any consequence he experienced was at the Little Colorado, where a Mexican officer, with about 150 mounted men, threatened to fire upon him if he attempted to cross that stream, stating that such were his positive orders.

The artillery was immediately ordered up, and the troops formed and commenced fording in perfect order, the water being nearly to their arm-pits, whereupon the Mexican retreated without executing his orders.

He was previously met on the prairie by a party of 50 or 60 Mexicans, who informed Gen. Taylor that he must proceed no farther in that direction. By orders of Gen. T. the army opened, and this party were permitted to march through the rear, and then depart.

When near Point Isabel, a deputation of about forty men waited upon him, bearing the proclamation and a message from Gen. Mejia, filled with threats.

At this moment the flames caused by the burning of the custom house were discovered, and General T. immediately dismissed the deputation, directing them to inform General Mejia that he would reply to his message opposite Matamoras on Saturday, the 28th ult.

Forty wagons, with supplies for the army, left Point Isabel on the morning of the 26th, in fine condition, and on the morning after Gen. Taylor followed, leaving a company of artillery at Point Isabel under command of Major Monroe.

The News understands that Gen. Taylor's orders are to cross the Rio Grande and attack Matamoras, should he be fired on from the town.

In addition to the above, we note that the Mexican President, Paredes had issued a proclamation, stating the differences between Mexico and the United States and avowing his determination to resist invasion.

Mexico and the United States.—The

state of affairs between these two countries has reached a very critical juncture. The government of Mexico having given Mr. Slidell, the United States Minister, his passports, he has returned with Mr. Parrott, the American Secretary of Legation, to Washington, and General Paredes, the Mexican President has issued a proclamation, detailing the differences between the two countries, in which he announces the critical situation in which the nation is placed—perhaps, he says, on the point of a war with the United States—in consequence of one of the most unjust usurpations of which history has had any record, and calls upon the people to resist the aggressions of the United States. The following are a few paragraphs of the proclamation:—

"The dignity of a nation, the march of an American army to the Rio Grande, where the head quarters of our troops are situated, the threatening appearance of fleets of that nation in both oceans, and all the antecedents well known to the civilized world, have compelled me to reject the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, in order not to furnish an example of debility that might sanction, by a pernicious and ill advised act, an usurpation not founded in reason or any plausible motive, but which merely relies on their hopes of intimidating us by force.

"The American Minister, whose mission was not circumscribed to the discussion of the Texas question, has demanded his passports, and I have caused them to be expedited without any hesitation.

"The Republic of Mexico—deprived of the rich and extensive territory of Texas, which always belonged to it by the direct acts of the Supreme authority of a neighbouring republic—after discovering her designs to seize some other of our adjoining or frontier possessions, has been forced to protest, has protested, and does still solemnly protest that she does not acknowledge the right of the American flag on the soil of Texas, and she will defend her invaded territory, and never permit new conquests or new advances of the Government of the United States.

"The right to declare war against the United States is not vested in me and the illustrious Congress of the nation, will, as they have met, to take into consideration the necessary steps required in the conflict which awaits us and which was in no manner provoked by this magnanimous and forbearing nation.

"As, however, in the meantime, the United States might attack us on one of our maritime boundaries, or those adjoining Texas, it will be necessary to repel force by force, and when the invaders shall have made the commencement, the immense responsibility of having disturbed the peace of the world will fall upon them.

"Mexico never has committed, nor will she commit a single aggression against the people or Government of the United States of America: but if an attack should be made, it will be repelled to the fullest extent in our power, and with all energy of our character because resistance in nothing more than the right of self preservation."

Terrible Fire on Long Island.—There has been a tremendous fire on Long Island. It commenced at 10 o'clock on Sunday, ran about six miles, and would reach the South Turnpike, about two miles west of Babylon village.

It is said to be the most destructive fire which has occurred for many years. It started nearly two miles away from the railroad, and the fact that no trains run on Sunday, tends to exonerate the company in this case.

Serious Riots.—A serious disturbance was anticipated in Brooklyn, N. Y., between the Irish workmen who had struck for an advance of wages and the contractors for the Atlantic dock—the turn outs were mustering, in the neighbourhood of the dock, and the troops were under arms around the works and through the district. Canon were also planted in a commanding position in order to protect the property of the contractors.

Colonial News.

Canada

Quebec Gazette, April 13.

The Season.—Since the present month came in the weather has undergone some very remarkable changes. The unusually mild temperature which obtained during the latter end of the month of March till the commencement of the present month, was succeeded by frosts during the night and warm sunshine.