

FRANCE.—The French Government have declared its intention to abolish negro slavery in the French colonies, and that in so doing they should be guided by the example and experience of Great Britain.

A mons. Leweski has invented an atmospheric pressure machine for the navigation of boats, and the police, through ignorance, seized on the boats in the Seine, in which he was making his experiments, supposing it to be an infernal machine designed for the destruction of the royal family.

A French newspaper asserts that a statue of O'Connell, sent at great expense from Ireland, by an eminent Irish sculptor, was refused admission to the Louvre exhibition entirely from political considerations.

The Chamber of Deputies on Saturday, by voting in favour of all the articles proposed in the government prison reform bill, adopted the principle of cellular and separate confinement for all the prisons of France.

M. Venillot, the editor, and M. Barrier, gerant of the *Univers*, the organ of the clergy, were condemned at Paris, on Saturday, for libels on the government, each to a month's imprisonment and a fine of 3,000f.

Paris has seldom had so great an influx of visitors at this season of the year as during the last few days. An Angers journal states, that 3,000 passports had been granted for Paris in that town within a month, and 6,000 in the same time at Nantes.—The number of arrivals from England has also been much greater than it was at this time last year.

The *Paris Globe* states, negotiations respecting the reductions of the tariffs of the two countries have been opened by the English and French governments, and will be presented with great activity during the interval of the session.

A circumstance has occurred in the French capital which is likely to create some sensation both in France and England. A pamphlet is about to be published immediately, from the pen of the Prince de Joinville, entitled "Notes on the State of the French Navy," in which his royal highness severely attacks the French ministry and England. The King is greatly annoyed at the circumstance, and it is said that a scene of considerable violence occurred between the father and son, when the prince refused to suppress his labours. An extract from the publication appeared in the *Revue de Paris* on Tuesday, in which the author merely states, that he has visited all the parts of France, and several of those of England, and that the navy, especially the steam navy, of France is greatly inferior to that of England, and below what it ought to be, considering the power and wealth of the country. The pamphlet was to appear on Wednesday, and was looked forward to with great interest.

In the Chamber of Peers, on Tuesday, the minister of marine presented a project of law for ameliorating the condition of negro slaves in the French colonies, or providing an intermediate state, intended to prepare them for future emancipation. The bill contains regulations affecting the food and comfort, the hours of labour, the marriage of slaves, and provision for securing them money earned by extra labour, and giving each slave who can find a given sum the right to purchase his freedom. The minister declared that the experiment, to carry it out in its fullest extent, would cost 1,200,000 francs.—*Willmer's News Letter*.

## The Loyalist.

FREDERICTON, (N. B.) JUNE 6, 1844.

### THE TEXAS QUESTION AGAIN.

Some further correspondence has been published between Mr. Pakenham the British Minister, and Mr. Calhoun the American Secretary of State, relating to the annexation of Texas. Mr. Pakenham in a note dated April 19th, in reply to Mr. Calhoun's last published letter, says:—

"It is not the purpose of the undersigned in the present communication to enter into discussion with Mr. Calhoun, respecting the project thus formally announced on the part of the Government of the United States to annex Texas to the American Union—that duty will, if thought necessary, be fulfilled by higher authority—still less is the undersigned disposed to trespass on Mr. Calhoun's attention by offering any remarks upon the subject of slavery, as expounded in Mr. Calhoun's note. That note will be transmitted to her Majesty's Government by the earliest opportunity; and with this intimation the undersigned would for the present content himself, were it not for the painful impression created on his mind by observing that the Government of the United States, so far from appreciating at their just value the explanations furnished by her Majesty's Government, in a spirit of frankness and good faith well calculated to allay whatever anxiety this government might have previously felt on the particular points to which those explanations have reference, appear to have found arguments in that communication in favour of the contemplated annexation of Texas—thus, as it were, assigning to the British Government some share in the responsibility of the transaction which can hardly fail to be viewed in many quarters with the most serious objection.

All such responsibility the undersigned begs leave, in the name of her Majesty's Government, at once and most positively to disclaim. Whatever may be the consequences of that transaction, the British Government will look forward without anxiety to the judgment which will thereon be passed by the civilized world, in as far as shall apply to any provocation furnished by England for the adoption of such a measure.

With the political independence of Texas not only has Great Britain disavowed all intention to interfere, but it is a well-known fact that her most zealous exertions have been directed toward the completion of that independence, by obtaining its acknowledgment at the hands of the only power by which it was seriously disputed.

Great Britain has also formally disclaimed the desire to establish in Texas any dominant influence; and, with respect to slavery, she is not conscious of having acted in a sense to cause just alarm to the United States."

There is a frankness and honesty of purpose visible in this extract characteristic of the high-minded Englishman. He

disclaims for his Government all responsibility in the nefarious transaction—as well he may, and relies "without anxiety" on the judgement of the civilized world.

Mr. Calhoun in his reply endeavours to convince Mr. Pakenham that in his former note (in which he gave much statistical matter to prove that the condition of the slave is preferable to that of the free black,) he was neither expounding the subject of slavery, nor advocating its doctrines! He then proceeds in the following strain:—

"The undersigned regrets that Mr. Pakenham should entertain the impression that the Government of the United States did not appreciate at their full value the explanations of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of its policy in reference to Texas. He would repeat, what he had supposed had been explicitly stated in his note to Mr. Pakenham, the assurance that this Government fully appreciates the spirit of frankness and good faith in which the explanations were furnished. If they have failed to allay the anxiety which it had previously felt on the subject to which they referred, it was because they were accompanied by an avowal on the part of Her Majesty's Government, in reference to the abolition of slavery generally, and to Texas in particular, calculated to defeat the object which the explanations were intended to effect. It was not possible for the President to hear with indifference the avowal of a policy so hostile in its character and dangerous in its tendency to the domestic institutions of so many states of this Union, and to the safety and prosperity of the whole. Nor could he abstain from declaring his regret at the avowal, consistently with that frankness and sincerity which have ever characterized the conduct of this Government in its intercourse with other countries.

"The United States, in concluding the treaty of annexation with Texas, are not disposed to shun any responsibility which may fairly attach to them on account of the transaction. The measure was adopted with the mutual consent and for the mutual and permanent welfare of the two countries interested. It was made necessary in order to preserve domestic institutions placed under the guaranty of their respective Constitutions, and deemed essential to their safety and prosperity.

"Whether Great Britain has the right, according to the principles of international law, to interfere with the domestic institutions of either country, be her motives or means what they may; or whether the avowal of such a policy and the exertions she has made to consummate it in Texas, do not justify both countries in adopting the most effective measures to prevent it, are questions which the United States willingly leave to the decision of the civilized world. They confidently rest the appeal on the solid foundation that every country is the rightful and exclusive judge as to what should be the relations, social, civil, and political, between those who compose its population; and that no other country, under the plea of humanity or other motive, has any right whatever to interfere with its decision. On this foundation rests the peace and the harmony of the world.

"The undersigned has again referred, in conformity with the request of Mr. Pakenham, to the portion of Lord Aberdeen's despatch to which he has pointed his attention, with the view of rebutting the inference of the President that Great Britain has endeavoured, through her diplomacy, to effect the abolition of slavery in Texas, by making it one of the conditions on which Mexico should acknowledge her independence. He is constrained to say, on a careful perusal, that he can discover nothing in it calculated in any degree to weaken the inference of the President. His lordship avows that Great Britain wishes to see slavery abolished in Texas; that she would rejoice if the recognition of that country by the Mexican Government should be accompanied by an engagement on the part of Texas to do so, and that she feels it to be her duty to promote such a consummation."

So then the United States urges as the reasons for the annexation first, that both being independant states they have a right to unite, to which other countries have no right to object; secondly, that they are driven to the necessity of the measure because Great Britain wishes Mexico to acknowledge the independence of Texas, provided that country will abolish slavery. The United States has certainly assumed a most humiliating position. Frail indeed must be their bonds of union when they acknowledge that the abolition of slavery in the adjoining States would affect them! But Mr. Calhoun assumes that two independant countries have the right to unite under one Government. Without discussing this theory, every person must perceive its inapplicability, for Texas formed a part of the Mexican Republic, and though wrested from its rightful owners by a band of ruffians from the United States, aided and abetted by the United States Government, that country has never acknowledged its independence, but still considers it in the light of a revolted Province, which it is her intention to re-conquer.

The avowal that the United States considers that "every country is the rightful and exclusive judge as to what should be the relations, social, civil, and political, between those who compose its population; and that no other country, under the plea of humanity or other motive, has any right whatever to interfere with its decision," is certainly amusing, coming from the source it does. Let us see how this principle—which is now so unblushingly avowed—has been carried out by these advocates of justice. When the revolted colonies first took up arms against the Mother Country did they act upon this principle? If we mistake not they solicited and obtained aid from other States, in direct violation of this principle, and but for the assistance of France they would never have gained their independence. The name of Lafayette is still worshipped among them, for coming to their aid in violation of this non-interference principle. When the Greeks revolted in 1821 the United States assisted them, in direct violation of this principle; they also disregarded the doctrine of non-interference in 1825 when the South American States revolted—in 1830 when the Poles revolted—in 1834 when Texas revolted—and in 1837 when the Canadians revolted! Where in a single instance has the United States acted up to the principle she now avows? We defy any one to put his finger on a page of history where it is recorded! And now this nation, which owes its existence to the violation of the principle she

advocates, in seeking to justify herself for annexing another nation, which also owes its existence to the same circumstance, says—when it suits her purpose—"You must not interfere with the internal affairs of Texas; you must not even seek to abolish slavery in that country, even by negotiation, and by and with the consent of that country, for such is contrary to the laws of nations! and although you protest against all undue interference we choose to disbelieve you, and as the most effectual method of counteracting your ambitious?—no—your disinterested and philanthropic schemes, shall take possession of the territory!!! Will the world justify the grasping republic in this matter? No! but history will affix a blot to her name fouler and more indelible than any that has yet stained her scutcheon, double-dyed as she is with crimes and dishonesty of the most revolting nature.

Mr. Calhoun concludes by insinuating sinister designs on the part of Great Britain. He says, "Nor does the undersigned regard the declarations of Lord Aberdeen, that Great Britain would not interfere unduly, or with any improper assumption of authority; that she will counsel, but not seek to compel or unduly control either party, as in any degree weakening the inference of the President; nor does he consider the remarks of Mr. Pakenham as a denial of its truth."

To such language as this but one course was open to Mr. Pakenham, and he briefly replied that the correspondence had been transmitted to England. The view taken of the subject by the Ministry may be gathered from the following extract from the *Britannia*, a leading Conservative Journal:—

The annexation of Texas will undoubtedly be scorned by all honest men, as one of the most flagrant offences ever committed by a nation professing a respect for human rights, and reprobated by all rational men as one of the most barefaced violations of all the principles of reasoning.

The case is distinctly this:—Some years ago Texas, a province of Mexico, being largely peopled with refugees and squatters from the United States, revolted and went to war with the parent state. Mexico being unable to conquer her revolted subjects, Texas declared itself independent and established a Republican Government. This Government was acknowledged by England and other countries, but never by Mexico, which, of course, still regarded Texas as simply its rebel province, which it was resolved to bring back whenever it should have the power. Texas, at length, feeling that it is unable to sustain the struggle with Mexico, proposes to become a portion of the United States, for the express purpose of preventing its conquest by its original masters, and there the matter stands at this moment. To such a proposal what ought to be the language of the American?

"We are at peace with Mexico, and we therefore must not interfere with her rights. If the independence of Texas shall be acknowledged by Mexico, then we may accept it as a portion of the United States. But Mexico still regards Texas as one of her provinces, and not less such because it may have for a while repulsed the power of the parent state. But, if we take it into connection with us, we prohibit Mexico from ever becoming mistress of it again, which she fully intends to do, and has every right to do. Thus we actually rob a state with whom we are at peace."

THE WELCH HARPERS.—On Monday evening last the inhabitants of Fredericton were favoured with a rich musical treat by the celebrated Hughes family, generally known by the appellation of "The Welch Harpers." The performances were excellent, and our first impressions were unbounded surprise that mere children could have attained such proficiency. The keys of the piano forte were touched by Mr. Garcia with a masterly hand, and the songs "The Sapling Oak," and "The Arabian Robber's Song," were beautifully executed. Mr. Garcia's voice is full, melodious, and possesses great range, and his singing is highly finished and graceful. Master D. Hughes' performance on the Concertina was good, although in our opinion not equal to his performance on the Harp, which was worthy of the most finished master, and elicited rounds of applause. We will not say we never heard a better performer on the violin than Master J. Hughes, but if we have, it was forgotten in wonder at the ease and confidence of his manner while executing the most difficult pieces of Italian composition. But the most astonishing part of the entertainment was the performance of Miss Hughes—an infant four years old—upon the Welch Harp, and in singing several songs, one of which was "The Bavarian Broom Girl," in character.

The audience were highly delighted, expressing their applause at the close of every piece, and the "Trio" by the Piano Forte, Concertina, and Violin was loudly encored.

This interesting family gave another Concert last evening, and their *farewell* Concert will take place to-morrow evening, (See Advertisement). We can only add that all who do not avail themselves of the opportunity will miss such a treat as may never be offered them again.

¶ We understand that on Saturday Mr. Hughes and family will return to St. John, where they will perform on Monday evening next.

LATE FROM ENGLAND.—The *Caledonia* arrived at Halifax with the second May Mail on Thursday last, in ten days and a half passage from Liverpool, and the mail for this place arrived here on Monday evening. By this mail we are in possession of London dates up to the 18th ult., and Liverpool to the 19th. The news is not of much importance.—Extracts will be found in our columns.

LANTY BRINE.—We perceive by two or three of the late numbers of the *New Brunswick* that "Lanty" is alive again. He may do very well if he shows fair play, and does not run into extremes.