to attack the rear of the enemy with his whole force. The French Admiral, however, discovering the meaning of the signal, wore, and formed on the opposite tack; and the manœuvre, though it was still practicable, was exchanged for a general attack upon the whole line. Notwithstanding the personal gallantry of Lord Rodney, and the example of close action given by the Sandwich, the French fleet bore alternately away, and escaped; while the English, from the damage sustained in the hulk and rigging, were unable to continue the pursuit that night.

Mr. Clerk next proceeds to show, that wherever the French, in opposition to their usual practice, had kept to windward, as if aware of the peculiar danger of their situation, they were careful never to make the attack themselves.

Such was our naval situation in the beginning of the year 1782, when the first part of this work appeared. During the whole war, our fleets had invariably been baffled, disabled, and worsted, in fact, in every general engagement *without the loss of a single ship on either side, or almost of a man.* Our admirals adhered invariably to the established mode of attack, and endeavored to obtain a windward position before they began to engage. Each ship steered directly upon her opponent in the adverse line, and brought up, in order to produce a general engagement from van to rear, In this situation, our admirals could not avail themselves of the superior skill, perseverance, and spirit of our seamen; nor, in bearing down, could our ships retaliate upon the enemy with a single shot. The French, relying upon our want of penetration to discover, or of skill to counteract, this new system of defence, never failed to accomplish the object of their expedition, and to disable our ships, while they preserved their own.

Mr. Clerk's merit would have been sufficiently conspicuous, had he merely discovered this concealed system of French tactics, which, during three successive wars, had escaped the penetration or at least had eluded the skill of our naval commanders. But he has also taught us how to counteract this system, and to bring the enemy, in every situation, to a close engagement, in which the superiority of our seamen might be successfully exerted. Instead of the former erroneous mode of attack, the system which he has substituted, possesses this peculiar merit, that it cannot avail our enemies even when divulged. That innate spirit and habitual skill, which have rendered our seamen superior in every close encounter, must first be communicate to our enemies before the two modes of attack which he proposes, and which have been successfully adopted, from windward and from leeward, can be employed against us even upon equal terms.

The mode of attack from leeward occupies the second part of the work. Every alteration in the wind enables the fleet to leeward to weather the other, and, as these accidents are unavoidable in cruising, Mr. Clerk concludes, that, in the course of a few days, a fleet to leeward must fetch some part at least of the opposite line.

As the two fleets, in Keppel's engagement off Ushant, passed each other at the rate of five miles an hour, it appears that each ship was engaged for no more than a quarter of a minute with each opponent, and was exposed but for six minutes and a half to whole fire of the adverse fleet.

Our author's mode of attack from leeward seems to have been first suggested by the examination of this unsuccessful engagement. If our fleet, instead of bearing away when it reached the enemy's line, had continued close to the wind, in its former course, the opposite line must have been *cut in twain*, and intersected by ours; and either the rear, when thus separated and obstructed in its course, must have been abandoned by the van, or a close and general engagement must have ensued. Mr. Clerk demonstates, by a variety of examples, that whether the attack be directed against the centre or rear of the enemy's fleet, whether it be made by the van or centre of the fleet to leeward, the portion of the line which is then intersected, and cut off from the rest, must be forced to leeward, and taken or destroyed. When the attack is made by the centre, the headmost ships bear away as usual, and engage to leeward; those of the centre pierce the opposite line, and stretching to windward, place the enemy between two fires; the rear remains interposed to obstruct the course of the enemy's rear, or the return of their van. When the line is thus intersected and broken, the van and rear present two distinct objects of attack; but, as these objects are not both to be accomplished, the attack of the rear, which is already far advanced, and where the success is certain, is shown to be far preferable to that of the van, which requires a long pursuit.

Our Officers were eminently distinguished by their gallantry and seamanship; but they had hitherto bestowed no adequate degree of attention upon naval tactics. The truth undoubtedly is, that the first idea of cutting the line originated with Mr. Clerk. The outlines of his mode of attack from leeward are contained in his observations upon Keppel's engagement, which were written soon after the 27th of July 1778, and communicated to a few friends.

"The investigation," he observes, "of many things in this engagement, which to me seemed to be palpable blunders, and most important, roused a desire which could not be resisted, and hurried me on to put in writing a number of strictures, accompanied with drawings and plans, containing sketches of what might have been attempted in this new kind of rencounter of fleets upon contrary tacks, more particularly applicable to this attack, as it was from the leeward; of which, after communicating to friends, naval officers, and others in my neighbourhood, copies were sent to London.

'In January 1780, when I was in London, being fully impressed with the importance of the naval ideas which long had been working in my imagination, and in consequence of the strictures on Lord Keppel's engagement sent the year before, some appointments, for the purpose of further communication on this subject, were made by my friends. Among the first of these, was an appointment with Mr. Richard Atkinson, the particular friend of Sir George Rodney, who was then in London, and was immediately to set out to take the command of the fleet in the West Indies. *At this meeting*, the whole of my acquisitions on the subject of Naval Tactics, for many years back, was discussed. I communicated to Mr. Atkinson the theories of attack from both the windward and the leeward; the first as contained in the first part of this Essay; the last as contained in the second part, now published a second time. *I particularly explained my doctrine of cutting the enemy's line*, &c. as set forth in both first and second parts. I also produced the paper of strictures on Lord Keppel's rencounter of the 27th of July, which contained all my general ideas on the subject of Naval Tactics. All this Mr. Atkinson undertook to communicate to Sir George Rodney, which he could have no difficulty in doing, as I left in his custody sketches, made according to my usual method of demonstration, together with the necessary explanations.

'From the best authority, I have been informed that Lord Rodney himself at all times acknowledged the communication; and having, from the first, approved of my system, declared, even *before he left London that he would strictly adhere to it* in fighting the enemy.

In a subsequent note Mr. Clerk informs us,

'That the author being in London in January 1780, many discussions were held, at the desire, and in presence of the same friends, as well for improving upon, as for the communicating of, these and other ideas on Naval Tactics, and particularly on one occasion, by appointment with an officer of most distinguished merit: That they were afterwards intended to be inserted in the first edition of this Essay, *printed January* 1, 1782, as being applicable to the two similar rencounters of Lord Rodney, of the 15th and 19th of May 1780, as well as to this of the 27th of July, where the adverse fleets had passed each other on contrary tacks. But it was afterwards thought proper then to omit them, as it was conceived it might be of prejudice to the other parts of the subject to advance any thing doubtful, no example of cutting an enemy's line, in attack from the leeward, before that time, having been given.'

We have long understood that this officer of distinguished merit was the late Sir Charles Douglas, first Captain to Lord Rodney, to whom there can be no doubt that our author's system and plans of attack had been communicated by the intervention of mutual friends, previous to his departure for the West Indies. In the engagement off Martinico, April 17th, 1780, it was evidently his first intention to execute our author's mode of attack, from winward, against the rear of the enemy; but when that was exchanged for an attack upon the whole line, his fleet was baffled as usual, and disabled from pursuit.

'In his official despatches describing the battle, there is the following remarkable passage: "At forty five minutes after six in the morning, I gave notice, by public signal, that my intention was to attack the enemy's rear with my whole force."

'This was a language altogether new, either from Admiral Rodney, or any of his predecessors, and as it was the first instance in which a British Admiral had ventured to deviate from the old practice, I could not help immediately ascribing it to the communicatious I had made to Mr. Atkinson, as mentioned before.'

From this first execution of our author's system, a new era has been fixed in the history of our naval transactions. During three successive wars, no decisive engagement had almost ever happened, till Rodney, in the execution of our author's system, gave the first example of cutting the enemy's line. Since that period, no engagement has ever proved indecisive; and, with the exception of the battle of the Nile, where the French fleet was at anchor, the same manœuvre has been uniformly practised with the same success.

'Our affairs at sea soon after' (spring 1782) 'took a different turn; and I have since had the great satisfaction to see, by the adoption of my system, a decided and permanent superiority given to our fleets. I shall say nothing, in this place, of the brilliant enterprise of Lord Hood for the relief of St. Christophers, the account of which arrived about this time. The public joy on this glorious occasion had not subsided, when intelligence came of the memorable and glorious victory gained by Lord Rodney, upon the 12th of April 1782; a victory far more decisive and important than any which had been gained by our fleets during the last century. The general exultation was excessive; and I flattered myself I could distinctly perceive, even from the first accounts of the engagement, that the victory was owing to the adoption of my system; and especially to the manœuvre of cutting the enemy's line in attacking from the leeward.

'Sir George Rodney himself, when he arrived in Britain, made no scruple to acknowledge, that I had suggested the manœuvres by which he had gained the victory of the 12th of April, 1782. I may here also be permitted to observe, that although Sir George should be supposed to have had the merit of adopting the manœuvre by which he gained the victory of the 12th of April 1782, without any previous suggestion or knowledge of my ideas upon the subject, still it is impossible to deny the efficacy of the method; and the system on which it proceeded might have remained unknown and unexplained; and perhaps it would not have been followed in other instances, had not my Essay attracted the notice of the Navy.'

In contemplating the beautiful simplicity and unquestionable efficacy of Mr. Clerk's system, it is peculiarly pleasing to reflect, that it is constructed upon principles not less congenial than honorable to the character of the nation for whose use it was intended,

We cannot dismiss this article from our consideration, without suggesting it as a sort of national reproach, that the author of this most magnificent invention—this great engine of national security and glory—should be left without ony other reward than that satisfaction and consolation of which he speaks with so modest a triumph in the passage just quoted from his preface. Those feelings, we do not doubt, are enongh for him; but they are not enough for the country which has benefited by his exertions. The nation at large is indebted to his genius, and should be proud and forward to acknowledge and to discharge the obligation.

While the humblest of his disciples, the most mechanical interpreter of his instructions, is elevated to the highest pinnacle of popularity and fortune, is it not unaccountable that their acknowledged preceptor should be permitted to fall into neglect and oblivion, and to grow old without being visited by one ray of public acknowledgment or distinction?

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES.

The recent trial of these on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, of which we have given a partial account, is without doubt one of the most interesting experiments, in regard to the powers of such machines which has yet occurred, whether we view it as an exhibition of scientific and mechanical skill, or look forward to the wonderful improvements in the intercourse and internal communication of the country to which this grand discovery may be applied.—In regard to the use of locomotive carriages on common roads, we have repeatedly and decidedly expressed our opinion, and the reasons for it, that all such projects are crude and ill considered, and inconsistent with any just view of principles; and we regret to see ingenious persons still wasting their efforts on such vain projects. But on railways, as we formerly stated, all those impediments, by which the engine is rendered so insufficient even on the smoothest turnpikes, are entirely removed. There the engine, however ponderous, meets with hardly any resistance to oppose its progress, and accordingly drags after it the most enormous loads and when these are lessoned or thrown off, it then advances with a speed beyond any thing ever attempted on land or water, and to which indeed we can hardly assign any limits, because the engine is neither checked like animal force by the mere speed of its motion, nor resisted as in navigation, by the continued and increasing opposition of the element in which it moves. It is on the railway therefore, that the locomotive engines have always been displayed with striking effect, and the engines lately exhibited furnish new and remarkable examples. With a load of thirteen tons, including many passengers, Mr. Stephenson's engine, the Rocket, travelled at the rate of fifteen miles an hour; and the engine of Braithwaite and Erickson, of London, moved at the astonishing speed of 28 miles an hour.—"It seemed indeed (says a spectator,) to fly, presenting one of the most sublime spectacles of human ingenuity and human daring the world ever beheld. It actually made one giddy to look at it, and filled thousands with lively fear for the safety of the individuals who were on it, and who seemed not to run along the earth, but to fly, as it were, 'on the wings of the wind.' It was a most sublime sight—a sight, indeed, which the individuals who beheld it will not soon forget." Such is the account of those engines; and we cannot conclude without remarking how slowly improvements advance even in our enlightened community, and how much they are retarded by prejudice and by partial and interested views. The locomotive engine has now been travelling on railways for upwards of twelve or fifteen years, and with complete success, yet the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company were originally restricted, by their Act of Parliament, to the use of horses, and even after the self moving engines were allowed, a warm controversy arose on the question, whether it might not be advisable to substitute the artificial, and in other respect extremely inconvenient apparatus of fixed engines, and long ropes, extending from mile to mile, all along the road; and lastly, the finest engineer of the day has recently declared himself, from want of experiments, incapable of offering an opinion whether either of these plans will fully answer in practice.—Nothing, however, can prevent, sooner or later, the application to the purposes of the trade and intercourse, of a machine of such prodigious powers of truckage and swiftness of locomotion as above described. Let us only consider for a moment the consequences of such an engine travelling from London to Edinburgh, at the rate of 15 or 20 miles an hour, and thus performing the journey in less than a single day and night—of the practicability of such a scheme there will be little doubt, and all that is wanted is capital and skill to carry it into effect.—*Edinburgh Courant.*

War Office, Oct. 6.—Rifle Brigade—R. G. Parnther, gent. to be Second Lieutenant, by purchase, vice Davidson, promoted; and First Lieutenant J. R. Groves to be Adjutant, vice Norcott, who resigns the Adjutancy only.

Oct. 26.—81st Regt.—Ensign H. De Visme, to be Lieutenant, vice Spearman, who retires; Hon. J. W. Macdonald, to be Ensign, vice DeVisme.

Lieut. General William Thomas Dilkes, to be Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, vice Lieut.-General M'Lean, deceased.

UNITED STATES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States communicated to both Houses of Congress the following MESSAGE:—

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives—

It affords me pleasure to tender my friendly greetings to you on the occasion of your assembling at the Seat of Government, to enter upon the important duties to which you have been called by the voice of our countrymen. The task devolves on me, under a provision of the Constitution, to present to you, as the Federal Legislature of twenty-four sovereign states, and twelve millions of happy people, a view of our affairs; and to propose such measures as, in the discharge of my official functions, have suggested themselves as necessary to promote the objects of our Union.

In commencing with you for the first time, it is, to me, a source of unfeigned satisfaction, calling for mutual gratulation and devote thanks to a benign providence; that we are at peace with all mankind, and that our country exhibits the most cheering evidence of general welfare and progressive improvement. Turning our eyes to other nations, our great desire is to see our brethren of the human race secured in the blessings enjoyed by ourselves, and advancing in knowledge, in freedom, and in social happiness.

Our foreign relations, although in their general character pacific and friendly, present subjects of difference between us and other powers, of deep interest, as well to the country at large as to many of our citizens. To effect an adjustment of these shall continue to be an object of my earnest endeavours; and notwithstanding the difficulties of the task; I do not allow myself to apprehend unfavorable results. Blessed as our country is with every thing which constitutes national strength, she is fully adequate to the maintenance of all her interests. In discharging the responsible trust confided to the Executive in this respect, it is my settled purpose to ask nothing that is not clearly right, and to submit to nothing that is wrong; and I flatter myself, that, supported by the other branches of the Government, and by the intelligence and patriotism of the people, we shall be able under the protection of providence, to cause all our just rights to be respected.

Of the unsettled matters between the United States and other Powers, the most prominent are those which have, for years been the subject of negotiation with England, France, and Spain.—The late periods at which our ministers to those Governments left the United States, render it impossible, at this early day, to inform you or what has been done on the subjects with which they have been respectively charged. Relying upon the justice of our views in relation to the points committed to negotiation, and the reciprocal good feeling which characterises our intercourse with those nations, we have the best reason to hope for a satisfactory adjustment of existing differences.

With Great-Britain, alike distinguished in peace and war, we may look forward to years of peaceful, honorable, and elevated competition. Every thing in the condition and history of the two nations, is calculated to inspire sentiments of mutual respect, and to carry conviction to the minds of both that it is their policy to preserve the most cordial relations.—Such are my own views, and it is not to be doubted that such are also the prevailing sentiments of our constituents. Although neither time nor opportunity has been afforded for a full developement of the policy which the present cabinet of Great-Britain designs to pursue towards this country, I indulge the hope that it will be of a just and pacific character; and if this anticipation be realized, we may look with confidence to a speedy and acceptable adjustment of our affairs.

Under the Convention for regulating the reference to arbitration of the disputed points of boundary under the fifth article of the treaty of Ghent, the proceedings have hitherto been conducted in that spirit of candor and liberality which ought ever to characterize the acts of sovereign States, seeking to adjust, by the most unexceptionable means, important and delicate subjects of contention. The first statements of the parties have been exchanged, and the final replication, on our part, is in a course of preparation. This subject has received the attention demanded by its great and peculiar importance to a patriotic member of this confederacy. The exposition of our rights, already made, is such, as, from the high reputation of the commissioners by whom it has been prepared, we had a right to expect. Our interests at the Court of the Sovereign who has evinced his friendly disposition, by assuming the delicate task of arbitration, have been committed to a citizen of the State of Maine, whose character, talents, and intimate acquaintance with the subject, eminently qualify him for so responsible a trust. With full confidence in the justice of our cause, and in the probity, intelligence, and uncompromising independence of the illustrious arbitrator, we can have nothing to apprehend from the result.

From France our ancient ally, we have a right to expect the justice which becomes the Sovereign of a powerful, intelligent, and magnanimous people. The beneficial effects produced by the commercial convention of 1822, limited as are its provisions, are too obvious not to make a salutary impression upon the minds of those who are charged with the administration of her Government. Should this result induce a disposition to embrace, to their full extent, the wholesome principles which constitute our commercial policy, our Minister to that Court will be found instructed to cherish such a disposition, and to aid in conducting it to useful practical conclusions. The claims of our citizens for depredations upon their property, long since committed under the authority, and in many instances, by the express direction, of the then existing Government of France, remain unsatisfied; and must, therefore, continue to furnish a subject of unpleasant discussion, and possible collision, between the two Governments. I cherish, however, a lively hope, founded as well on the validity of those claims, and the established policy of all enlightened Governments, as on the known integrity of the French Monarch, that the injurious delays of the past, will find redress in the equity of the future. Our Minister has been instructed to press these demands on the French Government, with all the earnestness which is called for by their importance and irrefutable justice, and in a spirit that will evince the respect which is due to the feelings of those from whom the satisfaction is required.

Our Minister recently appointed to Spain has been authorized to assist in removing evils alike injurious to both countries, either by concluding a Commercial Convention upon liberal and reciprocal terms, or by urging the acceptance, in their full extent, of the mutually beneficial provisions of our navigation acts. He has also been instructed to make a further appeal to the justice of Spain, in behalf of our citizens, for indemnity for spoliations upon our Commerce, committed under her authority—an appeal which the pacific and liberal course observed on our part, and a due confidence in the honor of that Government, authorize us to expect will not be made in vain.

With other European Powers our intercourse is on the most friendly footing. In Russia, placed by her territorial limits, extensive population, and great power, high in the rank of nations, the United States have always found a steadfast friend. Although her recent invasion of Turkey awakened a lively sympathy for those who were exposed to the desolations of war, we cannot but anticipate that the result will prove favorable to the cause of civilization, and to the progress of human happiness. The Treaty of Peace between these Powers having been ratified, we cannot be insensible to the great benefit to be derived to the commerce of the United States, from unlocking the navigation of the Black Sea—a free passage into which is secured to all merchant vessels bound to ports of Russia, under a flag at peace with the Porte. This advantage, enjoyed upon conditions, by most of the Powers of Europe, has hitherto been withheld from us. During the past summer, an antecedent, but unsuccessful attempt to obtain it, was renewed, under circumstances which promised the most favorable results. Although those results have fortunately been thus in part attained, further facilities to the enjoyment of this new field for the enterprise of our citizens are, in my opinion, sufficiently desirable to ensure to them our most zealous attention.

Our Trade with Austria, although of secondary importance, has been gradually increasing, and is now so extended, as to deserve the fostering care of the Government. A negotiation, commenced and nearly completed with that power, by the late administration; has been consummated by a treaty of amity, navigation, and commerce, which will be laid before the Senate.

During the recess of Congress, our diplomatic relations with Portugal have been resumed. The peculiar state of things in that country caused a suspension of the recognition of the Representative who presented himself, until an opportunity was had to obtain from our official organ there, information regarding the actual, and, as far as practicable, prospective condition of the authority by which the representative in question was appointed. This information being received, the application of the established rule of our government, in like cases, was no longer withheld.

Considerable advances have been made, during the present year, in the adjustment of claims of our Citizens upon Denmark for spoliations, but all that we have a right to demand from that Government, in their behalf, has not yet been conceded. From the liberal footing, however, upon which the subject has, with the approbation of the claimants, been placed by the government, together with the uniform just and friendly disposition which has been evinced by His Danish Majesty, there is a reasonable ground to hope that this single subject of difference will speedily be removed.

Our relations with the Barbary Powers continue, as they have long been, of the most favourable character. The policy of keeping an adequate force in the Mediterranean, as security for the continuance of this tranquility, will be persevered in, as well as a similar one for the protection of our commerce and fisheries in the Pacific.

The Southern Republics of our own hemisphere have not yet realized all the advantages for which they have been so long struggling. We trust, however, that the day is not distant, when the restoration of peace and internal quiet, under permanent systems of governments, securing the liberty, and promoting the happiness of the citizens, will crown, with complete success, their long and arduous efforts in the cause of self-government, and enable us to salute them as friendly rivals in all that is truly great and glorious.

The recent invasion of Mexico, and the effect thereby produced upon her domestic policy, must have a controlling influence upon the great question of South American emancipation. We have seen the fell spirit of civil dissension rebuked, and perhaps forever stifled in that Republic, by the love of independence. If it be true, as appearance strongly indicate, that the spirit of independence is the master spirit, and if a corresponding spirit prevails in the other states, the devotion to liberty cannot be without a proper effect upon the councils of the mother country. The adoption by Spain of a pacific policy towards her former colonies—an event consoling to humanity, and a blessing to the world, in which she herself cannot fail largely to participate—may be most reasonably expected.

The claims of our citizens upon the South American Governments generally, are in a train of settlement; while the principal part of those upon Brazil has been adjusted, and a Decree in Council, ordering bonds to be issued by the Minister of the Treasury for their amount, has received the sanction of his Imperial Majesty. This event, together with the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty negotiated and concluded in 1828, happily terminates all serious causes of differences with that power.

Measures have been taken to place our commercial relations with Peru upon a better footing than that upon which they have hitherto rested; and if met by a proper disposition on the part of that Government, important benefits may be secured to both countries.

Deeply interested as we are in the prosperity of our sister republics, and more particularly in that of our immediate neighbour, it would be most gratifying to me, were I permitted to say that the treatment which we have received at her hands has been as universally friendly as the early and constant solicitude manifested by the United States for her success, gave us a right to expect. But it becomes my duty to inform you that prejudices, long indulged by a portion of the inhabitants of Mexico, against the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States, have had an unfortunate influence upon the affairs of the two countries, and have diminished that usefulness to his own, which was justly to be expected from his talents and zeal. To this cause, in a great degree, is to be imputed the failure of several measures equally interesting to both parties; but particularly to that of the Mexican Government to ratify a treaty negociated and concluded in its own capital under its own eye.—Under these circumstances, it appeared expedient to give to Mr. Poinsett the option either to return or not, as in his judgment, the interest of his country might require, and instructions to that end were prepared; but before they could be despatched, a communication was received from the Government of Mexico, through its Charge d'Affairs here, requesting the recall of our Minister. This was promptly complied with; and a Representative of a rank corresponding with that of the Mexican Diplomatic Agent near this Government was appointed. Our conduct towards that republic has been uniformly of the most friendly character; and having thus removed the only alledged obstacle to harmonious intercourse, I cannot but hope that an advantageous change will occur in our affairs.

In justice to Mr. Poinsett, it is proper to say that my immediate compliance with the application for his recall, and the appointment of a successor, are not to be ascribed to any evidence that the imputation of an improper interference by him, in the local politics of Mexico, was well founded; not to a want of confidence in his talents or integrity; and to add, that the truth of that charge has never been affirmed by the Federal Government of Mexico in its communications with this.

I consider it one of the most urgent of my duties to bring to your attention the propriety of amending that part of our Constitution which relates to the election of President and Vice President. Our system of government was, by its framers, deemed an experiment; and they, therefore, consistently provided a mode of remedying its defects.

To the people belongs the right of electing their Chief Magistrate; it was never designed that their choice should, in any case, be defeated, either by the intervention of electoral colleges, or by the agency confided, under certain contingencies, to the House of Representatives. Experience proves, that in proportion as agents to execute the will of the People are multiplied, there is danger of their wishes being frustrated. Some may be unfaithful; all are liable to err. So far therefore, as the people can, with convenience, speak, it is safer for them to express their own will.

The number of aspirants to the Presidency, and the diversity of the interests which may influence their claims, leave little reason to expect a choice in the first instance, and, in that event, the election must devolve on the House of Representatives, where, it is obvious, the will of the People may not be always ascertained, or if ascertained, may not be regarded. From the mode of voting by States, the choice is to be made by twenty-four votes; and it may often occur, that one of these may be controlled by an individual Representative. Honors and offices are at the disposal of the successful candidate. Repeated ballotings may make it apparent that a single individual holds the cast in his hand. May he not be tempted to name his reward? But even without corruption—supposing the probity of the Representative to be proof against the powerful motives by which he may be assailed—the will of the people is still constantly liable to be misrepresented. One may err from ignorance of the wishes of his constituents; another, from a conviction that it is his duty to be governed by his own judgment of the fitness of the candidates; finally, although all were inflexibly honest—all accurately informed of the wishes of their constituents—yet, under the present mode of election, a minority may often elect the President; and when this happens, it may reasonably be expected that efforts will be made on the part of the majority, to rectify this injurious operation of their institutions. But although no evil of this character should result from such a perversion of the first principle of our system—*that the majority is to govern*—it must be very certain that a President elected by a minority, cannot enjoy the confidence necessary to the successful discharge of his duties.

There are perhaps few men who can, for any great length of time enjoy office and power, without being more or less under the influence of feelings unfavourable to a faithful discharge of their public duties. Their integrity may be proof against improper considerations immediately addressed to themselves, but they are apt to acquire a habit of looking with indifference upon the public interests, and of tolerating conduct from which an unpractised man would revolt. Office is considered as a species of property; and Government rather as a means of promoting individual interests than as an instrument created solely for the service of the people. Corruption in some, and in others, a perversion of correct feelings and principles, divert Government from its legitimate ends, and make it an engine for the support of the few at the expense of the many. The duties of all public officers are, or, at least, admit of being made so plain and simple, that men of intelligence may rapidly qualify themselves for their performance: and I cannot but believe that more is lost by the long continuance of men in office than is generally to be gained by their experience. I submit, therefore, to your consideration, whether the efficiency of the Government would not be promoted, and official industry and integrity better secured, by a general extention of the law which limits appointments to four years.

No very considerable change has occurred during the recess of Congress, in the condition of either our Agriculture, Commerce, or Manufactures. The operation of the Tariff has not proved so injurious to the two former, nor as beneficial to the latter as was anticipated.—Importations of foreign goods have not been sensibly diminished while domestic competition, under an illusive excitement, has increased, the production much beyond the demand for home consumption. The consequences have been low prices, temporary embarrassment, and partial loss. That such of our manufacturing establishments as are based upon capital, and are prudently managed, will survive the shock, and be ultimately profitable, there is no good reason to doubt.

To regulate its conduct, so as to promote equally the prosperity of these three cardinal interests, is one of the most difficult tasks of Government, and it may be reggretted that the complicated restrictions which now embarrass the intercourse of nations, could not by common consent be abolished, and commerce allowed to flow in these channels in which individual enterprise—always its sureet guide—might direct it. But we must ever expect selfish legislation in other nations, and are therefore compelled to adapt our own to their regulations, in the manner best calculated to avoid serious injury, and to harmonize the conflicting interests of our agriculture, our commerce, and our manufactures. Under these impressions, I invite your attention to the existing tariff, believing that some of its provisions require modification

The general rule to be applied in graduating the duties upon articles of foreign growth or manufacture, is that which will place our own in fair competition with those of other countries; and the inducements to advance even a step beyond this point, are controlling in regard to those articles of primary necessity in time of war. When we reflect upon the difficulty and delicacy of this operation, it is important that it should never be attempted but with the utmost caution. Frequent legislation in regard to any branch of industry effecting its value, and by which its capital may be transferred to new channels, must always be productive of hazardous speculation and loss.

In time of peace, we have need of no more ships of war than are requisite to the protection of our commerce. Those not wanted for this object, must lay in the harbours, where, without proper covering, they rapidly decay; and even under the best precautions for their preservation, must soon become useless. Such is already the case with many of our finest vessels; which, though unfinished, will now require immense sums of money to be restored to the condition in which they were, when committed to their proper element. On this subject there can be but little doubt that our best policy would be, to discontinue the building of ships of the first and second class; and look rather to the possession of materials, prepared for the emergencies of war, than to the number of vessels which we can float in a season of peace, as the index of our naval power. Judicious desposits in Navy Yards, of timber and other materials, fashioned under the hands of skilful workmen, and fitted for prompt application to their various purposes, would enable us, at all times, to construct vessels as fast as they can be manned, and save the heavy expense of repairs, except to such vessels as must be employed in guarding our commerce. The proper points for the establishment of these yards are indicated with so much force, in the report of the Navy Board, that in recommending it to your attention, I deem it unnecessary to do more than express my hearty concurrence in their views. The Yard in this district being already furnished with most of the machinery necessary for ship building, will be competent to the supply of the two selected by the Board as the best for the concentration of materials; and from the facility and certainty of communication between them, it will be useless to incur, at these depots, the expense of similar machinery, especially that used in preparing the usual metallic and wooden furniture of vessels.

The report of the Postmaster General is referred to as exhibiting a highly satisfactory administration of that department. Abuses have been reformed, increased expedition in the transportation of the mail secured; and its revenue much improved. In a political point of view, this Department is chiefly important as affording the means of diffusing knowledge. It is to the body politic, what the veins and arteries are to the natural, conveying rapidly and regularly, to the remotest parts of the system, correct information of the operations of the Government, and bringing back to it the wishes and feelings of the people. Through its agency, we have secured to ourselves the full enjoyment of the blessings of a Free Press.

I now commend you, fellow Citizens to the guidance of Almighty God, with a full reliance on his merciful providence for the maintenance of our free institutions; and with an earnest supplication, that, whatever errors it may be my lot to commit, in discharging the arduous duties which have devolved upon me, will find a remedy in the harmony and wisdom of your counsels.

ANDREW JACKSON.

COMMUNICATION.

FOR THE COURIER.

"1.—Our first principle is a *Supreme Regard to the mind and will of* GOD, as revealed in the Sacred Volume, and more particularly in the records of Christianity. This revelation alone can we admit as incontrovertible authority in religious and moral questions. This shall be our *primum nobile*: this our *ultima ratio*. We dare not countenance any thing which may oppose it, we feel ourselves bound by the most solemn considerations to support and recommend it by all fit and practicable means.

"2.—We consider Christianity as a System adopted by Infinite Wisdom to the various forms of civil society; but we hold that *every man who calls himself a Christian, is under a strict obligation to act as such* in whatever station he may find himself placed. Hence we maintain the propriety of Kings protecting and encouraging the Christian Religion, of a National Church, and of Legislative provision for its support. We are however the cordial friends of unlimited toleration, and would treat the various denominations of the religious world with true christian charity and brotherly love." * * * * *

Vide late Prospectus of the Royal Gazette.

"Some amusing incidents have occurred in consequence of the unexpected disruption of the ice on the river. Yesterday morning several school boys, in the midst of their unguarded sport, were suddenly insulated on a floating raft; they made their escape by taking a December bath—*no contemptible achievement, if some of our Anabaptist friends—and among them a venerable matron of seventy,—had not lately set them the example.*"

See Royal Gazette of the 15th Dec.

MR. PRINTER,—The Royal Gazette is *new!*—the Types are *new!!*—the Editor is *new!!!*—and (alas!) his sentiments are not only *new*, but *charitable in the extreme;* and we hope, ere long, to see this Publication, "expanding from the cramped and awkward *Quarto* to the majestic dimensions of the *Royal Folio*," and becoming as noted for respectability, as it has been formerly distinguished for sterility. Yes Sir! such are the sincere desires of my heart, *if I am not a hypocrite.* I trust I am sincere in thus stating them. Please give me credit for them.

In order to assure, and satisfy your readers, and the public generally, of the truth, as well as propriety, of the foregoing observations, I have placed, as is evident, at the head of my communication, an extract from the Editor's Prospectus, lately published, which would do honor to the head or heart of any man—be he christian or not; and, immediately following, a short *paragraph*, wherein his professed principles are most sacredly regarded, and steadfastly adhered to!!! To speak with candour, it is, Sir, in such strict accordance with what precedes it, that it would be highly illiberal, were I not to recommend it to the serious and attentive perusal of *all* your readers. Indeed, such are its intrinsic qualities, that it forces itself at once, upon the mind of every person. Such a production, in short, is seldom to be met with in these days of modern bigotry and selfishness.

Had this paragraph in question, Mr. Printer, came from under the pen of a worldling—or been the wanton effusion of an individual, "who feared not God, nor regarded man," it would have excited in my mind, no surprise whatever. I should then have treated it with silent contempt, and, in all probability, have allowed it to pass into the shades of oblivion, unnoticed. But, viewing it, as I now do, coming from the "great fountain-head and source of respectability," (if I may be permitted to use the expression)—coming from a character who professes "to have a sacred and reverential regard for TRUTH,"—coming, I say, from one, who professes to be "an Israelite, in whom there is no guile," my astonishment has been necessarily great, and I cannot—nay, I will not, pass over in silence, such *indecent, personal, unchristian*, and *illiberal remarks*, the inevitable and natural tendency of which is—not to increase or strengthen, the unity of any christian community; but which, on the contrary, must have a direct and fatal tendency, to wound or destroy, those feelings of christian philanthropy, which ought to, or should exist, in the breasts of all who call themselves Christians.

It has often been very painful to my feelings, as a christian, in the course of my observations on the various dispositions of mankind, to perceive the prevalence of that particular one, which leads us to judge others hastily, without first seeking a true statement of facts, or taking time to reflect on the nature of the possible circumstances, attending the commission of the deed, we so freely censure. I admit that every thing *wrong* deserves reproof, and sometimes punishment is justly merited by the offender—but I also maintain, that *charity* should be exercised by *all* in their decisions, and no one ought to condemn a fellow-being in a moment, without considering the (perhaps *palliating*) motives, that are invariably connected with effects: I believe if this charity was more generally practised, many who are condemned, would be found *undeservedly* suffering under the infliction of a rash sentence, and we should often avoid the agony of repentance and self-reproach, when we discover, too late, the unhappy effects of our unkindness. It has been aptly said, with regard to the fallibility of human nature,—"There is none so *bad*, to do the twentieth part of the evil he might: nor any so *good*, as to do the tenth part of the good it is in his power to do; judge of *yourself* by the good you might do and neglect; and of *others* by the evil they could do and omit, and your judgment will be poised, between too much indulgence for yourself, and too much severity on others."

These reflections, it must be quite evident, are not altogether inapplicable to the subject in hand. A want of christian moderation and forbearance, has been displayed in the columns of the dignified "New-Brunswick Royal Gazette." Well may it be said in this instance, "Religion has been wounded in the house of her friends," and what is worse, the *world* will not fail to take special recognizance of it! The more so, because the attack has been made from a *man of peace*, the sincerity of whose professions, was never before suspected or called in question; and originated in a quarter, which had hitherto worn a peaceful aspect. But the mask of *hypocrisy* is now removed—completely and entirely dislodged. The Publisher of that Paper "has been weighed in the balance of the sanctuary, and found wanting." In what? I answer in common respect and charity for those individuals, who may, unfortunately, (I had almost said), happen to differ from *Him* in his religious creed and sentiments! Still I am willing to make every possible allowance for this *one* digression from the *beaten* path of duty, and to suppose, that he might have been swayed *only* once, by the presence of *dignitaries*, or that little busy body, SELF-INTEREST, and reluctantly compelled to publish in his Journal, *expressions*, such as he would not dare to make with his own lips. But even allowing this to be a fact, pray, Mr. Printer, does it extenuate or modify his crime? Certainly not in the smallest degree. In my opinion, it increases it a hundred fold;—for if the publisher of an *official gazette*, is "carried about by every wind of doctrine," and suffer himself to become the dupe of every hireling, or scribbler, who can "wield a goose-quill," what degree of reliance, confidence, or trust, (I would ask,) can the public place in the veracity of *his* spontaneous effusions, when published? But we all know that *interest* is a powerful principle, and often leads, *good men*, (comparatively speaking,) astray. The truth of this assertion is self-evident: and there are many "living witnesses," who can speak from experience on this point. Through *self-interest* the PULPIT and the PRESS, are becoming united, and you must not be at all surprised, Mr. Printer, if ere long our conventicles should be turned into Printing Offices, and the zealous Prelate, (laying aside his robes of office), become a *Compositor* or *Pressman*, in the Useful Art. If the "signs of the times" are not deceiving, we have abundant reason for indulging the hope, that such a *change*, (if not now in progress,) will shortly transpire: and when it comes to pass, it will afford me satisfaction to know, that I was not the *first one* to predict its occurrence. You may rest assured, Sir, there are few, very few, in this enlightened age, who will not make a *total* sa-