UNITED STATES.

EXTRACTS

From the President's Message to both Houses of Congress, delivered at Washington on Tuesday the 8th December:

We have but to look at the state of our agricultural manufactures and commerce, and the unexampled increase of our population, to feel the magnitude of the trust committed to us. Never, in any former period of our history, have we had greater reason than we now have, to be thankful to Divine Providence for the blessings of health and general prosperity. Every branch of labour we see crowned with the most abundant rewards: in every element of national resources and wealth, and of individual comfort, we witness the most solid and rapid improvements. With no interruptions to this pleasing prospect at home, which will not yield to the spirit of harmony and good will that so strikingly pervades the mass of the people in every quarter, amidst all the diversity of interests and pursuits to which they are attached: and with no cause of solicitude in regard to our external affairs, which will not, it is hoped, disappear before the principles of simple justice and forbearance that mark our intercourse with foreign powers,—we have every reason to feel proud of our beloved country.

The general state of our Foreign Relations has not materially changed since my last annual message.

In the settlement of the question of the Northeastern Boundary, little progress has been made. Great Britain has declined acceding to the proposition of the United States, presented in accordance with the resolutions of the Senate, unless certain preliminary conditions were admitted, which I deem incompatible with a satisfactory and rightful adjustment of the controversy.—Waiting for some distinct proposal from the Government of Great Britain, which has been invited, I can only repeat the expression of my confidence, that with the strong mutual disposition which I believe exists, to make a just arrangement, this perplexing question can be settled with a due regard to the well founded pretensions and pacific policy of all parties to it. Events are frequently occurring on the Northeastern frontier, of a character to impress upon all the necessity of a speedy and definitive termination of the dispute. This consideration, added to the desire common to both, to relieve the liberal and friendly relations so happily existing between the two countries from all embarrassment, will, no doubt, have its just influence on both.

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Since the last Session of Congress, the validity of our claims upon France, as liquidated by the Treaty of 1831, has been acknowledged by both branches of the legislature, and the money has been appropriated for their discharge; but the payment is, I regret to inform you, still withheld.

A brief recapitulation of the most important incidents in this protracted controversy, will show how utterly untenable are the grounds upon which this course is attempted to be justified.

On entering upon the duties of my station, I find the United States an unsuccessful applicant to the justice of France, for the satisfaction of claims, the validity of which was never questionable, and has now been most solemnly admitted by France herself. The antiquity of these claims, the high justice, and the aggravating circumstances out of which they arose, are too familiar to the American people to require description. It is sufficient to say, that for a period of ten years and upwards, our commerce was, with but little interruption, the subject of constant aggressions on the part of France—aggressions, the ordinary features of which were, condemnations of vessels and cargoes under arbitrary decrees, adopted in contravention, as well of the laws of nations, as of treaty stipulations; burnings on the high seas; and seizures and confiscations, under special and imperial rescripts, in the ports of other nations occupied by the armies, or under the controul of France. Such, it is now conceded, is the character of the wrongs we suffered—wrongs in many cases, so flagrant, that even their authors never denied our rights to reparation. Of the extent of these injuries, some conception may be formed from the fact, that after the burning of a large amount at sea, and the necessary deterioration, in other cases, by long detention, the American property so seized and sacrificed at forced sales, excluding what was adjudged to privateers, before or without condemnation, brought into the French Treasury upwards of twenty-four millions of francs, beside large custom house duties.

The subject had already been an affair of twenty years' uninterrupted negotiation, except for a short time when France was overwhelmed by the military powers of United Europe. During this period, whilst other nations were extorting from her, payment of their claims at the point of the bayonet, the United States intermitted their demand for justice out of respect to the oppressed condition of a gallant people, to whom they felt under obligations for fraternal assistance in their days of suffering and of peril. The bad effects of these protracted and unavailing discussions, as well upon our relations with France as upon our national character, were obvious, and the line of duty to my mind was equally so. This was, either to insist upon the adjustment of our claims within a reasonable period, or to abandon them altogether. I could not doubt, that by this course, the interests and honour of both countries would be best consulted. Instructions were therefore given in this spirit to the minister who was sent out once more to demand reparation.—Upon the meeting of Congress in December, 1829, I felt it my duty to speak of these claims, and the delays of France, in terms calculated to call the serious attention of both countries to the subject. The then French Ministry took exception to the Message, on the ground of its containing a menace, under which it was not agreeable to the French Government to negotiate. The American minister, of his own accord, refuted the construction which was attempted to be put upon the message, and, at the same time, called to the recollection of the French Ministry that the President's message, was a communication addressed, not to foreign governments, but the government of the United States, in which it was enjoined by the Constitution, to lay before that body, information of the state of the Union, comprehending its foreign as well as its domestic relations; and that if, in the discharge of his duty, he felt it incumbent upon him to summon the attention of Congress, in due time, to what might be the possible consequences of existing difficulties with any foreign government, he might fairly be supposed to do so under a sense of what was due from him, in a frank communication with another branch of his own government, and not from any intention of holding a menace over a foreign power. The views taken by him received my approbation, the French Government was satisfied, and the negotiation was continued. It terminated in the treaty of July 4, 1831, recognising the justice of our claims, in part, and promising payment to the amount of 25,000,000 francs, in six annual instalments.

The ratifications of this treaty were exchanged at Washington on the 2d February, 1832, and in five days thereafter, it was laid before Congress, who immediately passed the acts necessary, on our part, to secure to France the commercial advantages conceded to her in the compact. The treaty had previously been solemnly ratified by the King of the French, in terms which are certainly not mere matters of form, and of which the translation is as follows:—"We, approving the above convention, in all and each of the dispositions which are contained in it, do declare, by ourselves, as well as by our heirs and successors, that it is accepted, ratified, and confirmed; and by these presents, signed by our hand, we do accept, approve, ratify and confirm it; promising on the faith and word of a King, to observe it, and cause it to be observed inviolably, without ever contravening it, or suffering it to be contravened, directly or indirectly, for any cause, or under any pretence whatsoever."

Official information of the exchange of ratifications in the United States reached Paris whilst the Chambers were in Session. The extraordinary, and to us injurious delays of the French Government, in their action upon the subject of its fulfilment, have been heretofore stated to Congress, and I have no disposition to enlarge upon them here. It is sufficient to observe that the then pending session was allowed to expire without even an effort to obtain the necessary appropriations; that the two succeeding ones were also suffered to pass away without any thing like a serious attempt to obtain a decision upon the subject; and that it was not until the fourth session, almost three years after the conclusion of the treaty, and more than two years after the exchange of ratifications, that the bill for the execution of the treaty was pressed to a vote, and rejected.

In the mean time, the Government of the United States, having full confidence that a treaty entered into and solemnly ratified by the French King, would be executed in good faith, and not doubting that provision would be made for the payment of the first instalment, which was to become due on the second day of February, 1833, negociated a draft for the amount, through the Bank of the United States. When this draft was presented by the holder, with the credentials required by the treaty to authorize him to receive the money, the Government of France allowed it to be protested. In addition to the injury in the non-payment of the money by France, conformably to her agreement, the United States were exposed to a heavy claim on the part of the Bank, under pretence of damages, in satisfaction of which that institution seized upon, and still retains, an equal amount of public monies. Congress was in session when the decision of the Chambers reached Washington; and an immediate communication of this apparently final decision of France not to fulfil the stipulations of the treaty, was the course naturally to be expected from the President. The deep tone of dissatisfaction which pervaded the public mind, and the correspondent excitement produced in Congress by only a general knowledge of the result, rendered it more than probable, that a resort to immediate measures of redress would be the consequence of calling the attention of that body to the subject. Sincerely desirous of preserving the pacific relations which had so long existed between the two countries, I was anxious to avoid this course, if I could be satisfied, that I could by doing so, neither the interests nor the honour of my country would be compromised. Without the fullest assurance on this point, I could not hope to acquit myself of the responsibility to be incurred, in suffering Congress to adjourn without laying the subject before them. Those received by me were believed to be of that character.

That the feelings produced in the United States by the news of the rejection of the appropriation, would be such as I have described them to have been, was foreseen by the French Government, and prompt measures were taken by it to prevent the consequences. The King, in person, expressed through our Minister, in Paris, his profound regret at the decisions of the Chambers, and promised to send, forthwith, a national ship, with despatches to his Minister here, authorizing him to give such assurances as would satisfy the Government and people of the United States, that the treaty would yet be faithfully executed by France. The national ship arrived, and the Minister received his instructions.

Claiming to act under the authority derived from them, he gave to this Government, in the name of his, the most solemn assurances, that as soon after the new elections as the charter would permit, the French Chambers would be convened, and the attempt to procure the necessary appropriations renewed; that all the Constitutional powers of the King and his Ministers, should be put in requisition to accomplish the object; and he was understood and so expressly informed by his government at the time, to engage, that the question should be pressed to a decision at a period sufficiently early to permit information of the result to be communicated to Congress at the commencement of their next session; relying upon these assurances, I incurred the responsibility, great as I regarded it to be, of suffering Congress to separate without communicating with them upon the subject.

The expectations justly founded upon the promises thus solemnly made to this Government by that of France, were not realized. The French Chambers met on the 31st July, 1834, soon after the election; and although our Minister in Paris urged the French Ministry to bring the subject before them, they declined doing so. He next insisted that the Chambers, if prorogued without acting on the subject, should be re-assembled at a period so early that their action on the treaty might be known at Washington prior to the meeting of Congress. This reasonable request was not only declined, but the Chambers were prorogued to the 29th December, a day so late, that their decision, however urgently pressed, could not, in all probability, be obtained in time to reach Washington before the necessary adjournment of Congress by the Constitution. The reasons given by the Ministry for refusing to convoke the Chambers at an earlier period were afterwards shewn not be insuperable, by their actual convocation of the 1st of December, under a special call, for domestic purposes—which fact, however, did not become known to this government until after the commencement of the last session of Congress.

Thus disappointed in our just expectations, it became my imperative duty to consult with Congress in regard to the expediency of a resort to retaliatory measures, in case the stipulations of the treaty should not be speedily complied with; and to recommend such as, in my judgement, the occasion called for. To this end, an unreserved communication of the case, in all its aspects, became indispensable. To have shrunk, in making it, from saying all that was necessary to its correct understanding, and that the truth would justify, for fear of giving offence to others, would have been unworthy of us. To have gone, on the other hand, a single step further, for the purpose of wounding the pride of a government and people with whom we had so many motives for cultivating relations of amity and reciprocal advantages would have been unwise and improper. Admonished by the past, of the difficulty of making even the simplest statement of our wrongs, without disturbing the sensibilities of those who had, by their position, become responsible for their redress, and earnestly desirous of preventing further obstacles from that source, I went out of my way to preclude a construction of the message, by which the recommendation that was made to Congress might be regarded as a menace to France, in not only disavowing such a design, but in declaring that her pride and her power were too well known to expect any thing from her fears. The message did not reach Paris until more than a month after the Chambers had been in session; and such was the insensibility of the Ministry to our rightful claims and just expectations, that our Minister had been informed that the matter, when introduced, would not be pressed as a Cabinet measure.

Although the message was not officially communicated to the French Government, and notwithstanding the declaration to the contrary which it contained, the French Ministry decided to consider the conditional recommendation of reprisals, a menace and an insult, which the honor of the nation made it incumbent on them to resent. The measures resorted to by them to evince their sense of the supposed indignity, were, the immediate recall of their Minister at Washington, the offer of passports to the American Minister at Paris, and a public notice to the Legislative Chambers that all diplomatic intercourse with the United States had been suspended.

Having, in this manner vindicated the dignity of France, she next proceeded to illustrate her justice. To this end, a bill was immediately introduced into the Chamber of Deputies, proposing to make the appropriations necessary to carry into effect the treaty. As the bill subsequently passed into a law, the provisions of which now constitute the main subject of difficulty between the two nations, it becomes my duty, in order to place the subject before you in a proper light, to trace the history of its passage, and to refer, with some particularity, to the proceedings and discussions in regard to it.

The Minister of Finance in his opening speech alluded to the measures which had been adopted to resent the supposed indignity, and recommended the execution of the treaty as a measure required by the honor and justice of France. He, as the organ of the Ministry, declared the Message, so long as it had not received the sanction of Congress, a mere expression of the personal opinion of the President, for which neither the people nor the government of the United States were responsible, and that an engagement had been entered into, for the fulfilment of which the honor of France was pledged. Entertaining these views, the single condition which the French ministry proposed to annex to the payment of the money, was, that it should not be made until it was ascertained that the Government of the United States had done nothing to injure the interests of France; or, in other words, that no steps had been authorised by Congress of a hostile character towards France.

What the disposition or action of Congress might be, was then unknown to the French Cabinet. But on the 14th January, the Senate resolved that it was, at that time, inexpedient to adopt any legislative measures in regard to the state of affairs between the United States and France, and no action on the subject had occurred in the House of Representatives. These facts were known in Paris, prior to the 28th March, 1835, when the Committee, to whom the Bill of Indemnification had been referred, reported it to the Chamber of Deputies. The Committee substantially re-echoed the sentiment of the ministry, declared that Congress had set aside the proposition of the President, and recommended the passage of the Bill without any other restriction than that originally proposed. Thus it was known to the French Ministry and Chambers, that the position assumed by them, and which had been so frequently and solemnly announced as the only one compatable with the honour of France, was maintained, and the bill passed as originally proposed, the money would be paid, and there would be an end of this unfortunate controversy.

But this cheering prospect was soon destroyed by an amendment introduced into the bill at the moment of its passage, providing that the money should not be paid until the French Government had received satisfactory explanations of the President's Message, of the 2d December, 1834; and what is still more extraordinary, the President of the Council of Ministers adopted this amendment, and consented to its incorporation in the Bill. In regard to a supposed insult which had been formally resented by the recall of their Minister, and the offer of passports to ours, they now, for the first time, proposed to ask explanations. Sentiments and propositions which they had declared could not justly be imputed to the Government or people of the United States, are set up as obstacles to the performance of an act of conceded justice to that Government and people. They had declared that the honor of France required the fulfilment of the engagement into which the King had entered, unless Congress adopted the recommendations of the Message. They ascertained that Congress did not adopt them, and yet that fulfilment is refused, unless they first obtain from the President explanations of his opinion, characterised by themselves as personal and imperative.

The conception that it was my intention to menace or insult the Government of France is as unfounded as the attempt to extort from the fears of that nation what her sense of justice may deny, would be vain and ridiculous. But the Constitution of the United States imposes on the President the duty of laying before Congress the condition of the country, in its foreign and domestic relations, and of recommending such measures as may, in his opinion, be required by its interests. From the performance of his duty he cannot be deterred by the fear of wounding the sensibilities of the people or government of whom it may become necessary to speak; and the American people are incapable of submitting to an interference by any government on earth, however powerful, with the free performance of the domestic duties which the Constitution has imposed on their public functionaries. The discussions which intervene between the several departments of our government belong to ourselves, and for any thing said in them, our public servants are only responsible to their own constituents, and to each other.—If, in the course of their consultations, facts are erroneously stated, or unjust deductions are made, they require no other inducement to correct them, however informed of their error, than their love of justice, and what is due to their own character; but they can never submit to be interrogated upon the subject, as a matter of right, by a foreign power. When our discussions terminate in acts, our responsibility to foreign powers commences, not as individuals, but a nation. The principle which calls in question the President for the language of his Message, would equally justify a foreign power in demanding explanation of the language used in the report of a committee, or by a member in debate.

This is not the first time that the Government of France has taken exception to the messages of American Presidents. President Washington and first President Adams, in the performance of their duties to the American people, fell under the animadversions of the French Directory.—The objection taken by the ministry of Charles X. and removed by the explanations made by our Minister, upon the spot, has already been adverted to. When it was understood that the ministry of the present King took exception to my message of last year, putting a construction upon it which was disavowed on its face, our late Minister at Paris, in answer to the note which first announced a dissatisfaction with the language used in the message, made a communication to the French government, under date of 29th January, 1835, calculated to remove all impressions which an unreasonable susceptibility had created. He repeated, and called the attention of the French Government to the disavowal contained in the message itself, of any intention to intimidate by menace—he truly declared that it contained, and was intended to contain, no charge of ill faith against the King of the French, and properly distinguished between the right to complain, in unexceptionable terms, of the omission to execute an agreement, and an accusation of bad motives in withholding such execution—and demonstrated that the necessary use of that right ought not to be considered as an offensive imputation. Although this communication was made without instructions, and entirely on the Minister's own responsibility, yet it was afterwards made the act of this government by my full approbation, and that approbation was officially made known on the 25th April, 1835, to the French Government. It, however, failed to have any effect. The law, after this friendly explanation, passed with the obnoxious amendment, supported by the King's ministers, and was finally approved by the King.

The people of the United States are justly attached to a pacific system in their intercourse with Foreign nations. It is proper, therefore, that they should know whether their Government has adhered to it. In the present instance, it has been carried to the utmost extent that was consistent with a becoming self-respect. The note of the 29th January, to which I have before alluded, was not the only one which our Minister took upon himself the responsibility of presenting, on the same subject, and in the same spirit. Finding that it was intended to make the payment of a just debt dependent on the performance of a condition which he knew could never be complied with, he thought it a duty to make another attempt to convince the French Government, that whilst self-respect, and regard to the dignity of other nations, would always prevent us from using any language that ought to give offence, yet we could never admit a right in any foreign Government to ask explanations of, or to interfere in any manner in the communications which one branch of our public councils made with another—that in the present case, no such language had been used, and that this had, in a former note, been fully and voluntarily stated, before it was contemplated to make the explanation a condition, and that there might be no misapprehension he stated the terms used in that note, and every explanation which could reasonably be asked or honourably be given, had been already made; that the contemplated measure had been anticipated by a voluntary and friendly declaration, and was, therefore, not only useless, but might be deemed offensive, and certainly would not be complied with as a condition.

When this latter communication, to which I specially invite the attention of Congress, was laid before me, I entertained the hope that the means it was obviously intended to afford, of an honorable and speedy adjustment of the difficulties between the two nations, would have been accepted—and I therefore did not hesitate to give it my sanction and full approbation. This was due to the Minister who had made himself responsible for the act; and it was published to the People of the United States, as is now laid before their representatives, to show how far their Executive has gone in its endeavours to restore a good understanding between the two countries.—It would have been at any time communicated to the Government of France, had it been officially requested.

The French government having received all the explanation which honour and principle permitted, and which could in reason be asked, it was hoped it would no longer hesitate to pay the instalments now due. The agent authorised to receive the money was instructed to inform the French Minister of his readiness to do so. In reply to this notice, he was told that the money

Not having received any official communications of the intentions of the French Government, and anxious to bring, as far as practicable, this unpleasant affair to a close before the meeting of Congress, that you might have the whole subject before you, I caused our Charge d' Affairs at Paris to be instructed to ask for the final determination of the French Government—and in the event of their refusal to pay the instalments now due, without further explanations, to return to the United States.

could not then be paid, because the formalities required by the act of the Chambers had not been arranged.

The result of the last application has not reached us, but is daily expected. That it may be favorable is my sincere wish. France having now through all the branches of her government, acknowledged the validity of our claims, and the obligations of the treaty of 1831, and there really existing no adequate cause for further delay, will, at length, it may be hoped, adopt the course which the interests of both nations, not less than the principles of justice so imperiously require. The treaty being once executed on her part, little will remain to disturb the friendly relations of the two countries, nothing, indeed, which will not yield to the suggestions of a pacific and enlightened policy, and the influence of that mutual good will and of those generous recollections which we may confidently expect will then be revived in all their ancient force. In any event, however, the principle involved in the new aspect which has been given to the controversy, is so vitally important to the independent administration of the Government, that it can neither be surrendered nor compromised, without national degradation. I hope it is unnecessary for me to say, that such a sacrifice will not be made through any agency of mine. The honor of my country shall never be stained by an apology from me, for the statement of truth or the performance of a duty—nor can I give any explanation of my official acts, except such as are due to integrity and justice, and consistent with the principles on which our institutions have been framed. This determination will, I am confident, be approved by my constituents. I have, indeed, studied their character to but little purpose, if the sum of twenty-five millions of francs will have the weight of a feather, in the estimation of what appertains to their national independence, and if, unhappily, a different impression should at any time obtain in any quarter, they will, I am sure, rally round the Government of their choice with alacrity and unanimity, and silence forever the degrading imputation.

Having thus frankly stated to you the circumstances which, since the last session of Congress, have occurred in this interesting and important matter, with the views of the Executive in regard to them, it is at this time only necessary to add, that whenever the advices now daily expected from our Charge de Affaires shall have been received, they will be made the subject of a special communication.

The condition of the Public Finances was never more flattering than at the present period.

Since my last annual communication, all the remains of the Public Debt have been redeemed, or money has been placed in deposit for this purpose, whenever the creditors choose to receive it. All the other pecuniary engagements of the Government have been honorably and promptly fulfilled, and there will be a balance in the Treasury, at the close of the present year, of about nineteen millions of dollars. It is believed, that after meeting all outstanding and unexpended appropriations, there will remain near eleven millions to be applied to any new object which Congress may designate, or to the more rapid execution of the works already in progress. In aid of these objects and to satisfy the current expenditures of the ensuing year, it is estimated there will be received from various sources twenty millions in 1836.

Should Congress make new appropriations, in conformity with the estimates, all of which will be submitted from the proper departments, amounting to about twenty-four millions, still the available surplus, at the close of the next year, after deducting all unexpended appropriations, will probably be not less than six millions. This sum can, in my judgment, be now usefully applied to proposed improvements in our Navy Yards, and to new national works, which are not enumerated in the present estimates, or to the more rapid completion of those already begun. Either would be constitutional and useful, and would render unnecessary any attempt, in our present peculiar condition, to divide the surplus revenue, or to reduce it any faster than will be effected by the existing laws. * * * *

The extinction of the Public Debt having taken place, there is no longer any use for the offices of Commissioners of Loans and of the Sinking Fund. I recommend, therefore, that they be abolished, and that proper measures be taken for the transfer to the Treasury Department, of any funds, books and papers connected with the operations of those offices; and that the proper power be given to that department for closing, finally, any portion of their business which may remain to be settled.

It is also incumbent on Congress, in guarding the pecuniary interests of the country, to discontinue, by such a law as was passed in 1812, the receipt of the Bills of the Bank of the United States in payment of the public revenue; and to provide for the designation of an agent, whose duty it shall be to take charge of the books and stock of the United States in that institution, and to close all connection with it, after the 3d of March, 1836, when its charter expires. In making provision in regard to the disposition of this stock, it will be essential to define, clearly and strictly, the duties and powers of the officer charged with that branch of the public service.

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I am gratified in being able to inform you that no occurrence has required any movement of the military force, except such as is common to a state of peace. The services of the army have been limited to their usual duties at the various garrisons upon the Atlantic and inland frontiers with the exceptions stated by the Secretary of War. Our small military establishment appear to be adequate to the purposes for which it is maintained, and forms a nucleus around which any additional force may be collected, should the public exigencies unfortunately require any increase of our military means. * * *

Occurrences, to which we, as well as all other nations are liable, both in our internal and external relations, point to the necessity of an efficient organization of the militia. I am again induced, by the importance of the subject, to bring it to your attention. To suppress domestic violence and to repel foreign invasion, should these calamities overtake us, we must rely, in the first instance, upon the great body of the community, whose will has instituted, and whose power must support the Government. A large standing military force is not consonant to the spirit of onr institutions, nor to the feelings of our countrymen; and the lessons of former days, and those also of our own times, show the danger as well as the enormous expense, of those permanent and extensive military organizations. That just medium which avoids an inadequate preparation on one hand, and the danger and expense of a large force on the other, is what our constituents have a right to expect from their government. This object cannot be attained only by the maintenance of a small military force, and by such an organization of the physical strength of the country as may bring this power into operation, whenever its services are required. * * *

Now when we are at peace, is the proper time to digest and establish a practicable system. The object is certainly worth the experiment, and worth the expense. No one appreciating the blessings of a republican government, can object to his share of the burden which such a plan may impose. Indeed, a moderate portion of the national funds could scarcely be better applied than in carrying into effect and continuing such an arrangement, and in giving the necessary elementary instruction. We are happily at peace with all the world. A sincere desire to continue so, and a fixed determination to give no just cause of offence to other nations, furnish, unfortunately, no certain grounds of expectation that this relation will be uninterrupted. With this determination to give no offence is associated a resolution equally decided, tamely to submit to none. The armour and the attitude of defence afford the best security against those collisions which the ambition, or other interest, or passions of nations, not more justifiable, is liable to produce. In many countries, it is considered unsafe to put arms into the hands of the people, and to instruct them in the elements of military knowledge. That fear can have no place here, when it is recollected that the people are the sovereign power. Our Government was instituted, and supported, by the ballot box, not by the musket. Whatever changes await us, still greater changes must be made, in our social institutions, before our political system can yield to physical force. In every aspect, therefore, in which I can view the subject, I am impressed with the importance of a prompt and efficient organization of the militia. * * * *

In connection with the provisions in relation to the Post Office Department, I must also invite your attention to the painful excitement produced in the South, by attempts to circulate through the mails inflammatory appeals addressed to the passions of the slaves, in prints, and in various sorts of publications, calculated to stimulate them to insurrection, and to produce all the horrors of a servile war.

There is, doubtless, no respectable portion of our countrymen who can be so far misled as to feel any other sentiment than that of indignant regret at conduct so destructive of the harmony and peace of the country, and so repugnant to the principles of our national compact, and to the dictates of humanity and religion. Our happiness and prosperity essentially depend upon peace within our borders—and peace depends upon the maintenance, in good faith, of those compromises of the constitution upon which the Union is founded.

It is fortunate for the country that the good sense, the generous feeling, and the deep rooted attachment of the people of the non-slaveholding States to the Union, and to their fellow-citizens of the same blood in the south, have given so strong and impressive a tone to the sentiment entertained against the proceedings of the misguided persons who have engaged in these unconstitutional and wicked attempts, and especially against emissaries from foreign parts who have dared to interfere in this matter, as to authorize the hope, that those attempts will no longer be persisted in. But if these expressions of the public will shall not be sufficient to effect so desirable a result, not a doubt can be entertained that the non-slaveholding States, so far from countenancing the slightest interference with the constitutional rights of the South, will be prompt to exercise their authority in suppressing, so far as in them lies, whatever is calculated to produce this evil.

In leaving the care of other branches of this interesting subject to the State Authorities, to whom they properly belong, it is nevertheless proper for Congress to take such measures as will prevent the Post Office Department, which was designed to foster an amicable intercourse and correspondence between the members of the Confederacy, from being used as an instrument of an opposite character. The general Government, to which the great trust is confided, of preserving inviolate the relations, created among the States by the Constitution, is especially bound to avoid in its own action, any thing that may disturb them.—I would therefore, call the special attention of Congress to the subject, and respectfully suggest the propriety of passing such a law as will prohibit, under severe penalties, the circulation in the Southern States, through the mail, of incendiary publications intended to instigate the slaves to insurrection. * * *

COMMUNICATION.

[The following communication was not received in time for our last number.]

MR. CHUBB,—Sir,—Mr. Cunningham having in your last paper attempted to correct what he calls some misstatements made by me in your paper of the preceding week, I feel compelled to return his polite compliments, which I think I can clearly do from his own words; first however, stating that I cannot possibly perceive in what instance he has made good his attempt.

He says that on the Plan published, it is stated that it is *compiled by him from recent surveys*, and not *from recent surveys by him*; but the latter being actually the words used in the title of the plan, I think he has in this proved *himself* guilty of something which might be termed a misstatement.

Respecting his not having made any use of the Plan borrowed of me, in the compilation of his, he is of course the best judge; but that it was compiled from my plans of my surveys, I feel perfectly convinced—as I believe I am safe in saying that no other general surveys or plans of the City, the streets, roads, or subdivisions of lots, &c. &c. in or about it, have of late years, been made by any other person.

As I do not, in the least degree, feel anxious for the *honour* of having it supposed that the Plan published by Mr. Gage is a true copy of my plans, I cannot of course, be suspected of endeavouring to obtain any of the *merits* of Mr. C's compilation, and I feel certain there is no danger of my being found guilty of a *misstatement* in again asserting that in most parts it is totally incorrect—at all events I suppose it is sufficiently correct for one of "the Company's" speculations.

Permit me to apologise to you and the public for this second intrusion, which I assure you, is very much against my inclination.

I am, Sir, your obliged humble servant,
December 12. R. C. MINNITTE.

[FOR THE COURIER.]

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Saint John;

GENTLEMEN,—

In the month of July last I was nominated by your honorable body, as Master of the NIGHTLY WATCH.—On entering in that capacity I resolved to perform the duty *impartially* and without *favour* or *affection*.—To the best of my abilities, I have performed that pledge. I am sensible that in doing the duty, and nothing but the duty, I have got animosity from individuals, I little expected. If to perform my duty was criminal, I plead guilty—yet I hope a liberal public will do me justice.

Having been so harrassed and annoyed, scrutinized and *watched*—after due consideration, I have resolved to tender your Worshipful Body my resignation, at the expiration of this month—returning thanks for the respect the majority of your Worshipful Body have evinced towards me—and trust whoever may be my successor in office, that he will enjoy more comfort, than has

Your most obt. and humble servant,
RICHARD BRADLEY.
Saint John, 19th December, 1835.

New Plan of the City.

JOHN M'MILLAN has just received and offers for sale a few copies of a beautiful and correct Lithographic Plan of the City and Harbour of Saint John, N. B. with the adjoining country. As but a small number of copies have been published, early application is necessary.

Also, for sale at low prices:

A THEODOLITE and a CIRCUMFERENTOR, in excellent order. *Nov. 21.—6w*

Absconded

FROM the service of the Subscriber, on Wednesday morning last, an Indented Apprentice named JACOB TILL, son of William Till.—This is to Caution all persons against harbouring or trusting him on my account, as in the event they will be prosecuted as the Law directs. ROBERT RAY.
St. John, August 9th, 1834.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1835.

We have no later intelligence from Europe than what we published last week.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS.—We have devoted a large space in our present sheet to the insertion of extracts from this document—a copy of which, in an Extra from the *Calais Advertiser* Office, was obligingly furnished us on Thursday afternoon by Mr. J. S. CLARK, from St. Stephen.

General JACKSON enters at considerable length into a detail of the negotiations which have taken place from time to time between the Governments of the United States and France, on the subject which now threatens a collision between the two countries. This part of the Message, being the most important at the present time, we have copied entire; and, although from what has already taken place, War seems almost inevitable, still we are rather inclined to the belief, considering the immense amount of property which the people of the United States have at stake in almost every sea, without any adequate protection, that Congress will devise some remedy to avert the direful effects, to their commercial and general interests, that would immediately follow a declaration of War by either power. In other respects, the Message contains very few important points except as exhibiting a Government free of debt and with a surplus revenue, and a country whose agriculture, trade and manufactures continue to increase almost without precedent.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTS.—As the time for the meeting of the Representatives of the people in General Assembly approaches, the desire of having an early and faithful report of the proceedings in the House increases; and as the plan proposed by Mr. PIERCE, of publishing the Reports *daily*, as far as practicable, at Fredericton, during the session, would, we are convinced, be more satisfactory to the country generally than the method hitherto pursued, we are therefore anxious to encourage it. Subscribers' names will be received in this City at the *News-Room*, the *Circulating Library*, and at the several Printing Offices. The price is only 12s. 6d.—Persons intending to subscribe, should do so immediately, in order that Mr. P. may be encouraged in sufficient time to complete his arrangements for commencing so arduous an undertaking this session.

THE WEATHER continues intensely and unusually cold. On Thursday, the thermometer was from 12 to 16 degrees below the cypher, and on the preceding day it was nearly as cold, with a high wind, accompanied by a dense snow storm. The crews of vessels in the Bay and on the coast must suffer much during this severe weather; we regret to state several wrecks have taken place, in consequence. The steamer Maid of the Mist, which generally makes the passage to or from Digby in six hours, was *thirty-two* in accomplishing it this week. She started from Digby at 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning with a light fair wind, having about twenty cabin passengers and a number of oxen and sheep on deck, and when about seven or eight miles from the land, was met by the very cold gale and snow storm of that day, which, with the vapour, rendered the air so thick, that Captain REED determined, rather than risk the safety of the vessel and the lives of the passengers and crew in returning, to continue his course across the Bay. To the well known skill and judgment of Capt. R. and the good qualities of the Maid of the Mist as a sea-boat, are mainly to be attributed, under Providence, the preservation of the lives of all on board. Finding it necessary in order to avoid the danger of the Quaco Ledges and to keep her head to the wind as much as possible, to steer to the westward, they made the land at Musquash on Thursday, and got into port in the afternoon, presenting an awful spectacle of what must have been endured on board. The man at the wheel, we understand, had to be relieved every fifteen minutes: and it was impossible for the crew to keep a look out of more than a minute or two at a time. Two of the oxen perished from the cold, and the heads of several of the others were completely covered with a thick coat of ice: none of the sheep died, although equally exposed, and their coating of ice much thicker than that on the oxen. The passengers speak in unmeasured terms of the exertions of Capt. Reed and all his crew during the whole of the time they were exposed to the raging elements.

FURIOUS DRIVING.—On our first page will be found a Law recently passed by the Common Council, for the regulation of Cartmen and to establish the Rates of Cartage on the Eastern side of the Harbour, to which we would direct the attention of our readers.

We have been requested to state that the 18th section which prohibits furious driving in our streets and squares, under the penalty of *twenty shillings* for each offence, will be rigidly enforced,—some persons who have witnessed narrow escapes of children and others, of late, being determined to bring to justice any person who may thus wantonly jeopardize the lives of his fellow-creatures.

We are requested to state, that there will be an Examination of the *Infant School*, at the School House, in Charlotte Street, on Thursday next, at 11 o'clock.

FISHERY DRAFT.—Freemen, &c. are reminded, that to be entitled to a chance in the Fishery, their names must be given in to the Directors, at Bragg's building, during the ensuing week.—*See Notice.*

The President's Message was received in Boston, a distance of *four hundred and fifty miles* from Washington, in *twenty-six hours and fifty minutes*.—James K. Polk, Esq. was chosen Speaker of the Senate on the first ballot, having received 132 votes out of 224.

FIRE.—On Tuesday afternoon the brig EDWIN, owned by Messrs. E. Barlow & Sons, lying in Adams' slip, York Point, was discovered to be on Fire, but by means of the prompt and persevering exertions of a large number of persons who were immediately assembled, the devouring element was arrested in its progress, but not before it had partly destroyed the interior of the cabin, (where it originated) and otherwise injured the vessel. Melancholy to relate, the cook of the Edwin, Francis Paul, a native of Yorkshire, England, lost his life.—*Gaz.*

On Monday last, a Coroner's Inquest was held on view of the body of *James Doctor*, late Carpenter on board of the ship Ann, belonging to this port, who was found dead in his berth on Sunday morning.

On Wednesday, a Coroner's Inquest was held on the body of *Francis Paul*, late cook on board the brig Edwin, of this port, who was suffocated in that vessel's cabin in attempting to extinguish the flames. Verdict accordingly.

YARMOUTH, Dec. 11.—*Town Election.*—The Poll was opened at the Court House yesterday at 12 o'clock; and after the usual preliminaries, Reuben Clements Esq. was proposed by Mr. Mark Killam—seconded by Mr. Enoch Crosby. The Sheriff remarked that he supposed there would be no opposing Candidate, and that one Freeholder's vote would be sufficient; Mr. George Trefry then gave his. The Poll having remained open one hour, and no other Candidate appearing, the Sheriff declared Mr. Clements duly elected.

QUEBEC, Nov. 30.

The debate in the Assembly on Saturday, was on a new *grievance*. Certain inhabitants of Ancienne Lorette have petitioned against the Catholic Bishop, who has refused his consent to the building of a new Church in a more central situation than that where the present edifice stands. The petition was brought in by Mr. Huot. Mr. Viger doubted the right of the Assembly to interfere in such matters, and Mr. Vanfelson upheld the omnipotence of the Assembly even in Church affairs. Mr. Berthelot thought the petition ought to be received, and after some explanation from Mr. Viger, and some words from Mr. Brenard and Girouard, the petition was referred to the Committee of Grievances.

UPPER CANADA.—The following rumours, extracted from the *Hamilton Express*, of the 19th instant, rest their claims to attention upon the authority of a private letter from a gentleman of high standing in England, to his friend in Upper Canada, viz. that "Sir John Colborne is to be recalled—a new constitution of the Executive Council, by which that body will be less liable to suspicion, and enjoy more of the confidence of the people—the Clergy reserves to be at the disposal of the Legislature—the Post Office establishment to be made more efficient, and disconnected from the department at Quebec—a General Office to be established in Toronto."—*Morning Courier.*

From Bermuda.—We are indebted to Mr. Gilpin for Bermuda papers to the 21st ult. The Barbadians had experienced the heaviest flood of rain ever remembered, which fell in eight hours.—Large tracts of land in the valley of St. George were under water, and in many of the places the tops of the cane could only be seen. The causeway over the Belle gulley was destroyed. In some of the Parishes there were no rain.

A box of shells directed to Dr. Cutting, of Barbadoes, had been picked up on the east cost of St. Lucia. It was supposed to have been shipped on board the James Harper, from Philadelphia, bound to Barbadoes. It is therefore feared that the brig was lost in the August hurricane.

PARIS, Oct. 27.—On Sunday there was a long conference between the Minister of Finance and M. de Broglie, in consequence of a visit made by the Charge d'Affairs of the United States to the President of the Council. It was said that M. Humann persisted in resolving not to make any payment without obtaining clear and absolute satisfaction.—*Courrier Francais*

The London Public Ledger of the 28th says—"It was stated on 'Change yesterday, at a late hour, that bills drawn by the American Government on that of France, in liquidation of the American claims, had been refused acceptance."

MARRIED,

On the 6th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Gray, Mr. Benjamin Peel, to Miss Julia Sparkes, both of this City.

On Sunday evening, at Portland Village, by the Rev. G. L. Wiggins, Mr. Anthony Gill, to Mrs. Maria Brothers.

DIED.

In the Parish of St. Patrick, (Charlotte County,) on the 14th instant, Mr. James Stewart, aged 78 years.—Mr. Stewart was a native of Fifeshire, Scotland, and came to this country in 1778 with the 74th Regt., and was at the battle of Castine.

Suddenly, at Pennfield, (Charlotte County,) on the 6th instant, Mr. Evan Thomas, in the 90th year of his age.

MARINE JOURNAL.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN—ARRIVED,

Monday—Ship Pacific, Tozer, Liverpool, 57 days—E. Barlow, & Sons, salt.
Schr. Sarah Jane, Thomas, Trinidad, 42—J. Hughson, ballast.
Splendid, Swain, Quebec, 35—J. T. Hanford, flour and beef.
New Ship Lord John Russell, Clarke, Hopewell,—Master, deals.
This morning—Schr. Louisa Ann, Faulkner, Boston, 6—B. Tilton, assorted cargo.

ENTERED—FROM NOVA-SCOTIA.

Monday—Schr. Forrest, Letteny, Annapolis, 20 brls. apples, 30 do. cider, 500 lb. cheese, 2000 lb. fresh beef, 400 lb. poultry, 120 boxes smoked herring, 1000 staves; Dart, Tanch, Digby, 500 lb. poultry, 20 bush. oats, 15 quintals codfish, 80 sheep; Admiral Digby, Wright, Digby, 15 quintals codfish, 41 brls. cider, 100 cabbages, 90 bush. barley, 400 lb. poultry, 3 horned cattle, & 14 sheep.
Wednesday—Schr. Mackerel, Parker, Grand Manan, 20 brls. pickled cod fish, 20 quintals dried fish, 40 boxes smoked herrings.
Thursday—Steamer Maid of the Mist, Reed, Annapolis, passengers, and 14 oxen & 16 sheep

COASTWISE.

Friday—Schr. Charles Thomas, Clark, Salmon River, 40,000 feet deals.
Saturday—Schr. Margaret, Campbell, New River, 25,000 feet deals; Steamer Gazelle, Smith, St. Andrews, passengers.
Monday—Schr. Mary, Wells, Hopewell, 27,000 feet deals, 700 lb. poultry, 700 lb. butter, 1000 lb. beef; Hornet, Turner, Hopewell, 427 bush. oats, 70 lb. butter, 500 lb. beef, 200 lb. poultry.
Tuesday—Schr. Margaret, Lord, Deer Island, 42 quintals cod and scale fish; Eliza, Martin, Hopewell, 21,000 feet deals, 10,500 lb. fresh beef, 900 lb. butter.
Wednesday—Schr. Betsy, Helm, St. Andrews, 2 casks wine.
Thursday—Schr. Lark, Ingersoll, Grand Manan, 170 quintals cod and scale fish, 5 bbls. oil, 5 do. pickled fish, 50 boxes smoked herrings, and 2 ox hides.
Friday—Schr. Spray, Price, New River, 50,000 feet deals.

ENTERED FOR LOADING.

Dec. 10—Emmanuel, Dearness, Liverpool.
Corsair, James, Cork.
Norval, Harkness, Liverpool.
Frederick, Hare, Liverpool.
Margaret, Russell, Liverpool.

CLEARED.

Ship Sir R. H. Dick, Tear, Liverpool, timber.
Granville, Taylor, Liverpool, timber & oil.
Schr. Caroline, Richards, Nassau, N. P. fish.
James Clark, Doyle, Portland, coal, &c.

Ship Amy, Green, of this port, 50 days from London, arrived at Halifax on the 10th inst.

Ship Chester, Suttie, cleared at Boston for this port on Saturday last.

Cleared at Philadelphia, 7th inst. brig Clara, Longmire, for this port; 10th, schr. Victory, Best, do.

Schr. Little Mary, Robbins, of this port, from New-York, went ashore on the ledges off the west end of Partridge Island, at the entrance of this harbour, about 7 o'clock on Wednesday morning last, during the severe snow storm. Not knowing where the vessel had struck, and being unable during the day, in consequence of the density of the atmosphere, to make out the land, although quite close to it, the crew and passengers remained in their perilous situation, exposed to the raging elements, until evening, when they fortunately succeeded in landing.—Part of the cargo has been saved, in a damaged state—the vessel, it is feared, will become a wreck.

The brigantine Susan Crane, Capt. Stewart, of and for this port, from Gloucester, England, laden with salt, &c. struck on one of the Mutton Islands, near Cape Sable, in thick weather, on the 8th instant. Crew and materials saved—vessel and cargo lost.

Schrs. Margaret, Brewster, for Shepody, and Good Intent, Cunningham, bound for this Port, were laying in Barrington passage, Dec. 6.

Whale ships spoken in Mozambique Channel, May 25, Margaret Rait, St. John, 600 wh. 120 sp. July 1st, Thomas Millidge, St. John, 700 wh. 120 sp.

Brig Charlotte, at Boston, from Cronstadt, on the 9th Nov. lat. 55 13, lon. 28, fell in with the