vocal import, or susceptible of misconstruction. American citizens prosecuting a lawful commerce in the African seas, under the flag of their country are not responsible for the abuse or unlawful use of that flag by others; nor can they rightfully, on account of any such alleged abuses, be interrupted, molested, or detained while on the ocean, and if thus molested and detained while pursuing honest voyages, in the usual way, and violating no law themselves, they are unquestionably entitled to indemnity.

This government has manifested its repugnance to the slave trade, in a manner which cannot be misunderstood. By its fundamental law, it prescribed limits in point of time to its continuance; and against its own citizens, who might so far forget the rights of humanity as to engage in that wicked traffic, it has long since, by its municipal laws, denounced the most condign punishment. Many of the States composing this Union had made appeals to the civilised world for its suppression, long before the moral sense of other nations had become shocked by the iniquities of the traffic. Whether this Government should now enter into treaties containing mutual stipulations upon this subject, is a question for its mature deliberation. Certain it is, that if the right to detain American ships on the high seas can be justified on the plea of a necessity for such detention, arising out of the existence of treaties between other nations, the same plea may be extended and enlarged by the new stipulations of new treaties, to which the United States may not be a party. This Government will not cease to urge upon that of Great Britain, full and ample remuneration for all losses, whether arising from detention or otherwise, to which the American citizens have heretofore been, or may hereafter be subjected, by the exercise of rights which this Government cannot recognise as legitimate and proper. Nor will I indulge a doubt but that the sense and justice of Great Britain will constrain her to make retribution for any wrong or loss which any American citizen engaged in the prosecution of lawful commerce, may have experienced at the hand of her cruisers, or other public authorities. This Government, at the same time, will relax no effort to prevent its citizens, if there be any so disposed, from prosecuting a traffic so revolting to the feelings of humanity. It seeks to do no more than to protect the fair and honest trader from molestation and injury; but while the enterprising mariner, engaged in the pursuit of an honorable trade, is entitled to its protection, it will visit with condign punishment, others of an opposite character.

I invite your attention to existing laws for the suppression of the African slave trade, and recommend all such alterations as may give to them greater force and efficacy. That the American flag is grossly abused by the abandoned and profligate of other nations, is but too probable. Congress has, not long since, had this subject under its consideration, and its importance well justifies renewed and anxious attention.

I also communicate herewith the copy of a correspondence between Mr. Stevenson and Lord Palmerston, upon the subject so interesting to several of the Southern States, of the Rice duties, which resulted honourably to the justice of Great Britain, and advantageously to the United States.

At the opening of the last annual session, the President informed Congress of the progress which had then been made in negotiating a convention between this Government and that of England, with a view to the final settlement of the question of the boundary between the territorial limits of the two countries. I regret to say that little further advancement of the object has been accomplished since last year; but this is owing to circumstances no way indicative of any abatement of the desire of both parties to hasten the negotiation to its conclusion, and to settle the question in dispute as early as possible. In the course of the session, it is my hope to be able to announce some further degree of progress towards the accomplishment of this highly desirable end.

The commission appointed by this Government for the exploration and survey of the line of boundary separating the States of Maine and New-Hampshire from the conterminous British Provinces, is it is believed, about to close its field labours and is expected soon to report the results of its examinations to the Department of State. The report, when received, will be laid before Congress.

The failure on the part of Spain to pay, with punctuality, the interest due under the Convention of 1834, for the settlement of claims between the two countries, has made it the duty of the Executive to call the particular attention of that Government to the subject. A disposition has been manifested by it, which is believed to be entirely sincere to fulfil its obligations, in this respect, as soon as its internal condition and the state of its finances will permit. An arrangement is in progress, from the result of which, it is trusted that those of our citizens who have claims under the Convention, will, at no distant day, receive the stipulated payment.

A treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Belgium was concluded and signed at Washington on the 29th of March, 1840, and was duly sanctioned by the Senate of the United States. The treaty was ratified by his Belgian Majesty, but did not receive the approbation of the Belgian Chambers within the time limited by its terms, and has, therefore, become void.

This occurrence assumes the graver aspect from the consideration that, in 1833, a treaty negotiated between the two Governments, and ratified on the part of the United States, failed to be ratified on the part of Belgium. The representative of that Government at Washington, informs the Department of State that he has been instructed to give explanations of the causes which occasioned delay in the approval of the late treaty by the Legislature, and to express the regret of the King at the occurrence.

The joint commission under the Convention with Texas, to ascertain the true boundary between the two countries, has concluded its labours; but the final report of the commissioner of the United States has not been received. It is understood, however, that the meridian line, as traced by the commission, lies somewhat further east than the position hitherto generally assigned to it, and, consequently includes in Texas some part of the territory which had been considered as belonging to the States of Louisiana and Arkansas.

The United States cannot but take a deep interest in whatever relates to this young, but growing Republic. Settled principally by emigrants from the United States, we have the happiness to know that the great principles of civil liberty are there destined to flourish, under wise institutions and wholesome laws; and that, through its example, another evidence is to be afforded of the capacity of popular institutions to advance the prosperity, happiness and permanent glory of the human race. The great truth, that government was made for the people, and not the people for government, has already been established in the practice and by the example of these United States; and we can do no other than contemplate its further exemplification by a sister Republic, with the deepest interest.

Our relations with the independent States of this hemisphere, formerly under the dominion of Spain, have not undergone any material change within the past year. The incessant sanguinary conflicts in, or between those countries, are to be greatly deplored, as necessarily tending to disable them from performing their duties as members of the community of nations and rising to the destiny which the position and natural resources of many of them might lead them justly to anticipate, as constantly giving occasion, also, directly or indirectly, for complaints on the part of our citizens who resort thither for commercial intercourse, as retarding reparation for wrongs already committed, some of which are by no means of recent date.

The failure of the Congress of Ecuador to hold a session, at the time appointed for that purpose, in January last, will probably render abortive a treaty of commerce with that Republic, which was signed at Quito on the 13th of June, 1839, and had been duly ratified on our part, but which required the approbation of that body, prior to its ratification by the Ecuadorian Executive.

A convention which has been concluded with the Republic of Peru, providing for the settlement of certain claims of citizens of the United States, upon the Government of that Republic, will be duly submitted to the Senate.

The claims of our citizens against the Brazilian Government, originating from captures, and other causes, are still unsatisfied. The United States have, however, so uniformly shown a disposition to cultivate relations of amity with that Empire, that it is hoped, the unequivocal tokens of the same spirit towards us, which an adjustment of the affairs referred to would afford, will be given without further unavoidable delay.

The war with the Indian tribes on the peninsula of Florida has, during the last summer and fall, been prosecuted with untiring activity and zeal.—A summer campaign was resolved on as the best mode of bringing it to a close. Our brave officers and men who had been engaged in that service, have suffered toils and privations, and exhibited an energy, which, in any other war, would have won for them unfading laurels. In despite of the sickness incident to the climate, they have penetrated the fastnesses of the Indians, broken up their encampments, and harrassed them unceasingly. Numbers have been captured, and still greater numbers have surrendered, and have been transported to join their brethren on the lands elsewhere allotted to them by the Government,—and a strong hope is entertained that, under the conduct of the gallant officer at the head of the troops in Florida, that troublesome and expensive war is destined to a speedy termination. With all the other Indian tribes, we are enjoying the blessings of peace. Our duty, as well as our best interests, prompt us to observe in all our intercourse with them, fidelity in fulfilling our engagements, the practice of strict justice, as well as the constant exercise of acts of benevolence and kindness.—These are the great instruments of civilization, and through the use of them alone, can the untutored child of the forest be induced to listen to its teachings.

The Secretary of State on whom the acts of Congress have devolved the duty of directing the proceedings for the taking of the Sixth Census, or enumeration of the inhabitants of the United States will report to the two Houses the progress of that work. The enumeration of persons has been completed, and exhibits a grand total of 17,069,453; making an increase over the census of 1830, of 4,202,646 inhabitants, and showing a gain in a ratio exceeding 32½ per cent. for the last ten years.

From the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, you will be informed of the condition of the finances. The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of January last, as stated in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, submitted to Congress at the Extra Session, was $987,345 03. The receipts into the Treasury, during the first three quarters of this year, from all sources, amount to $23,467,052 52. The estimated receipts for the fourth quarter amounted $6,943,095 25, amounting to $30,410,167 77; and making with the balance in the Treasury, on the first of January last, $31 397,512 80. The expenditures for the first three quarters of this year amount to $24 731,346 97. The expenditures for the fourth quarter as estimated, will amount to $7,290,723 73:—thus making a total of $32,025,070 70; and leaving a deficit to be provided for, on the 1st of January next, of about $627,557 90.

Of the loan of $12,000,000, which was authorized by Congress at its late session, only $5,432,726 88 have been negotiated. The shortness of time which it had to run, has presented no inconsiderable impediment in the way of its being taken up by capitalists at home, while the same cause would have operated with much greater force in the foreign market. For that reason the foreign market has not been resorted to; and it is now submitted, whether it would not be advisable to amend the law by making what remains undisposed of, payable at a more distant day.

Should it be necessary in any view that Congress may take of the subject, to revise the existing tariff of duties, I beg leave to say, that in the performance of that most delicate operation, moderate counsels would seem to be the wisest. * * *

In pursuance of a pledge given to you in my last message to Congress, which pledge I urge as an apology for adventuring to present you the details of any plan, the Secretary of the Treasury will be ready to submit to you, should you require it, a plan of finance which, while it throws around the public treasure reasonable guards for its protection, and rests on powers acknowledged in practice to exist from the origin of the Government, will, at the same time, furnish to the country a sound paper medium, and afford all reasonable facilities for regulating the Exchanges. When submitted, you will perceive in it a plan amendatory of the existing laws in relation to the Treasury Department—subordinate in all respects to the will of Congress directly, and the will of the people indirectly—self-sustaining, should it be found in practice to realize its promises in theory, and repealable at the pleasure of Congress. It proposes by effectual restraints, and by invoking the true spirit of our institutions, to separate the purse from the sword; or more properly to speak, denies any other control to the President over the agents who may be selected to carry it into execution, but what may be indispensably necessary to secure the fidelity of such agents; and, by wise regulations, keeps plainly apart from each other, private and public funds. It contemplates the establishment of a Board of Control, at the Seat of Government, with agencies at prominent commercial points, or wherever else Congress shall direct, for the safe keeping and disbursement of the public moneys, and a substitution, at the option of the public creditor, of Treasury notes, in lieu of gold and silver. It proposes to limit the issues to an amount not to exceed $15,000,000—without the express sanction of the Legislative power. It also authorizes the receipt of individual deposits of gold and silver to a limited amount, and the granting certificates of deposit, divided into such sums as may be called for by the depositors. It proceeds a step further, and authorizes the purchase and sale of Domestic Bills and drafts, resting on a real and substantial basis, payable at sight, or having but a short time to run, and drawn on places not less than one hundred miles apart—which authority, except in so far as may be necessary for Government purposes exclusively, is only to be exerted on the express condition, that its exchanges shall not be prohibited by the State in which the agency is situated.

In order to cover the expenses incident to the plan, it will be authorized to receive moderate premiums for certificates issued on deposits, and on bills bought and sold, and thus, as far as its dealings extend, to furnish facilities to commercial intercourse at the lowest possible rates, and to subduct from the earnings of industry the least possible sum. It uses the State Banks at a distance from the agencies, as auxiliaries, without imparting any power to trade in its name. It is subjected to such guards and restraints as have appeared to be necessary. It is the creature of law, and exists only at the pleasure of the legislature. It is made to rest on an actual specie basis, in order to redeem the notes at the place of issue—produces no dangerous reudundancy of circulation—affords no temptation to speculation—is attended by no inflation of prices—is equable in its operation—makes the Treasury notes, which it may use along with the certificates of deposit, and the notes of specie-paying banks—convertible at the place where collected, receivable in payment of Government dues—and, without violating any principle of the Constitution, affords the Government and the people such facilities as are called for by the wants of both. Such, it has appeared to me, are its recommendations, and in view of them it will be submitted, whenever you may require it, to your consideration.

I am not able to perceive that any fair and candid objection can be urged against the plan, the principal outlines of which I have thus presented. I cannot doubt but that the notes which it proposes to furnish, at the voluntary option of the public creditor, issued in lieu of the revenue and its certificates of deposit, will be maintained at an equality with gold and silver, everywhere. They are redeemable in gold and silver on demand, at the places of issue. They are receivable everywhere in payment of Government dues. The Treasury notes are limited to an amount of one-fourth less than the estimated annual receipts of the Treasury, and in addition they rest upon the faith of the Government for their redemption. If all these assurances are not sufficient to make them available, then the idea, as it seems to me, of furnishing a sound paper medium of exchanges, may be entirely abandoned. * * * * *

From the report of the Secretary of War, and other reports accompanying it, you will be informed of the progress which has been made in the fortifications designed for the protection of our principal cities, roadsteads, and inland frontier, during the present year; together with their true state and condition. They will be prosecuted to completion with all the expedition which the means placed by Congress at the disposal of the Executive will allow.

I recommend particularly to your consideration that portion of the Secretary's report which proposes the establishment of a chain of military posts, from Council Bluffs to some point on the Pacific Ocean, within our limits. The benefit thereby destined to accrue to our citizens engaged in the fur trade, over that wilderness region, added to the importance of cultivating friendly relations with savage tribes inhabiting it, and at the same time of giving protection to our frontier settlements, and of establishing the means of safe intercourse between the American settlements at the mouth of the Columbia river, and those on this side of the Rocky Mountains, would seem to suggest the importance of carrying into effect the recommendations upon this head with as little delay as may be practicable.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, will place you in possession of the present condition of that important arm of the national defence. Every effort will be made to add to its efficiency, and I cannot too strongly urge upon you, liberal appropriations to that branch of the public service. Inducements of the weightiest character exist for the adoption of this course of policy. Our extended and otherwise exposed maritime frontier calls for protection, to the furnishing of which an efficient naval force is indispensable. We look to no foreign conquests, nor do we propose to enter into competition with any other nation for supremacy on the ocean,—but it is due not only to the honour but to the security of the People of the United States, that no nation should be permitted to invade our waters at pleasure, and subject our towns and villages to conflagration or pillage. Economy in all branches of the public service, is due from all the public agents to the people—but parsimony alone would suggest the withholding of the necessary means, for the protection of our domestic firesides from invasion, and our national honour from disgrace. I would most earnestly recommend to Congress, to abstain from all appropriations for objects not absolutely necessary; but I tske upon myself without a moment of hesitancy, all the respon ibility of recommending the increase and prompt equipment of that gallant Navy which has lighted every sea with its victories, and spread an imperishable glory over the Country.

The report of the Postmaster General will claim your particular attention, not only because of the valuable suggestions which it contains, but because of the great importance which, at all times, attaches to that interesting branch of the public service. The increased expense of transporting the mail along the principal routes, necessarily claims the public attention, and has awakened a corresponding solicitude on the part of the Government. The transmission of the mail must keep pace with those facilities of inter-communication which are every day becoming greater through the building of railroads, and the application of steam power—but it cannot be disguised that, in order to do so, the Post Office Department is subjected to heavy exactions. The lines of communication between distant parts of the Union, are, to a great extent, occupied by railroads, which, in the nature of things, possess a complete monopoly, and the Department is therefore liable to heavy and unreasonable charges. This evil is destined to great increase in future, and some timely measure may become necessary to guard against it.

I feel it my duty to bring under your consideration a practice which has grown up in the administration of the Government, and which, I am deeply convinced, ought to be corrected. I allude to the exercise of the power, which usage, rather than reason, has vested in the Presidents, of removing incumbents from office, in order to substitute others more in favour with the dominant party. My own conduct, in this respect, has been governed by a conscientious purpose to exercise the inability, or in those in which its exercise appeared necessary, in order to discountenance and suppress that spirit of active partisanship on the part of holders of office, which not only withdraws them from the steady and impartial discharge of their official duties, but exerts an undue and injurious influence over elections, and degrades the character of the Government itself, inasmuch as it exhibits the Chief Magistrate as being a party, through his agents, in the secret plots or open workings of political parties.

In respect to the exercise of this power, nothing should be left to discretion, which may safely be regulated by law; and it is of high importance to restrain, as far as possible, the stimulus of personal interests in public elections. Considering the great increase which has been made in public offices in the last quarter of a century, and the probability of farther increase, we incur the hazard of witnessing violent political contests, directed too often to the single object of retaining office, by those who are in, or obtaining it by those who are out. Under the influence of these convictions, I shall cordially concur in any constitutional measures for regulating and by regulating, restraining, the power of removal.

I suggest for your consideration, the propriety of making, without further delay, some specific application of the funds, derived under the will of Mr. Smithson, of England, for the diffusion of knowledge; and which have heretofore been vested in public stocks, until such time as Congress should think proper to give them a specific direction. Nor will you, I feel confident, permit any abatement, of the principal of the legacy to be made, should it turn out that the stocks, in which the investments have been made, have undergone a depreciation.

In conclusion, I commend to your care the interests of this District, for which you are the exclusive legislators. Considering that this city is the residence of the Government, and, for a large part of the year, of Congress, and, considering also, the great cost of the Public Buildings, and the propriety of affording them at all times careful protection, it seems not unreasonable that Congress should contribute towards the expense of an efficient police. JOHN TYLER.

Washington, December 7, 1841.

From the Norfolk Beacon.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—*The enlistment of Aliens illegal.*—A case of very great interest, and affecting deeply the service of the United States, has been tried before the Honorable Richard H. Baker, during the late term of the Superior Court of Norfolk County, held in Portsmouth.

We allude to the case of George Cottingham, who was brought before the Court upon a writ of *habeas corpus*, directed to Colonel Fanning, the commandant of Fortress Monroe. By the return upon the writ, it appeared that Cottingham was a soldier, under Colonel Fanning's command, and that he had been regularly enlisted in the Army of the United States.

In the petition for the habeas corpus, Cottingham alleged that he was born in Dublin, and that he was, at the time of his enlistment, a subject of Great Britain, and that he had never been naturalized as a citizen of the United States, or taken any steps to become so—and that, therefore, his enlistment was illegal and void, and that he was entitled to his discharge from the military service of the United States. The original enlistment was produced, and the fact of alienage established by evidence, and no proof adduced to prove his naturalization.—The single question for the decision of the Court, was, whether an alien could be lawfully enlisted in the Army of the United States.—The case was elaborately and ably argued by Robert C. Nicholas, Esquire, United States Dist. Attorney, against the petitioner, and by Joseph Segar, and Thomas R. Gray, Esquires, in his favour. In the argument of the question, the general principles of natural and municipal law, applicable to aliens, their capacity to make contracts, and their right to engage in a foreign military service, the right of expatriation, the acts of Congress relative to the Army and Navy, providing for enlistments therein, and many other interesting and important matters, were discussed.

Judge Baker, after mature consideration, decided, that the enlistment of an alien was illegal, and that, therefore, the petitioner was entitled to his discharge.

We understand that it is the intention of the District Attorney to apply to the Court of Appeals for a writ of error, to the judgment of the Court.

COMMUNICATIONS.

MR. EDITOR,—

In your paper of 27th ult., I ventured some observations on the injustice done to Agriculturists, and indeed all landed interests, by not allowing Farmers to cut their meats in the Saint John Market, to suit all purchasers. Meats are at the base, as it were, of all agricultural calculations: when they sell well, the Farmer's stock is valuable, and he cultivates with care and assiduity those herbages most suitable for their support, fattening, and multiplication; and is remunerated as well by the consequent accumulation of their manures as by their produce in money when sold. Those manures enable him to extend his culture, and the public have the benefit in reasonable prices for his produce. The present system, by forcing him to sell his meats at lower rates, has of course a direct contrary tendency—and while he is oppressed, the public are not benefited. The Butcher, at his ease without care or effort, having no competition but from those embarked in the same interest with himself, accumulates capital, or what is even worse, lives lasciviously, or spends in revelling what he thus gains from the poor Farmer. Competition is the grand corrector and leveller, and here none exists. Let the Farmer fairly, and on a system of perfect equality, compete with the Butcher, and in a short time very superior meats would be brought to market—the Farmer would then have himself the benefit of his exertions in stall-feeding, and he would exert himself accordingly. It is notorious that the very persons who are best able to give good prices for superior meats, are those who habitually go to the Butcher, and in no case to the Farmer, even if desirous of serving him—it is out of their way to buy large quantities at a time—they are generally too much occupied with matters of superior importance to themselves than the profits to be made by marketing on a large scale; and thus the Farmer, whatever interest he may possess among the opulent, must sell as things are now managed, only to those whose direct interest it is to buy at the lowest possible value—in fact the profits of whose business lie exclusively in laying in cheap provisions. This must be obvious to all your readers, and is manifestly unjust both to the citizen and the farmer. I see no good reason why dead meats should not, like other farm produce, be subject to be offered in the market a given time by the owner, before selling to the dealer, whether Butcher or Shop-keeper. Every effort should be made, by preventing every kind of forestalling, to burthen provisions with as few profits or commissions as possible, in order that the labouring classes should be cheaply supplied.

It may be said that I write in hostility to the Butchers. I disclaim all hostility. The Butcher will always be necessary in society, and to the Farmer more than to any other class; and in every case he will sell to him rather than retail himself if fair value be given for his animals; but, like all other classes, the Agriculturists should be left at liberty to sell how they please—in fact, placed in the position in which they are in all other countries. Let them also, as well as the Butcher, sell where they please, subject to indictment for nuisance, and not be forced by a specific law to go to a particular place. They will both go to the market-house if they can meet customers better there than elsewhere. I know not where the Magistracy of Saint John imbibed the arbitrary system of legislating for every particular, and forcing all classes into discipline—it is no British system, however. Freedom is the birthright of every Briton, and his liberty should not be infringed upon except in cases of absolute necessity.

This brings me to the consideration of the Law coercing seller and buyer in the matter of sales of Corn. There again no choice is left, as if the small quantity grown in the Colony could not be transferred without a sworn measurer. As well might a sworn weigher or measurer be placed in each merchant's warehouse in the City. Is it more difficult to measure oats than potatoes and turnips, or than weighing sugar or tea? It may be said that weighers and measurers are appointed in the Mother Country. True, they are so; but none are obliged to employ them but such as choose. There is no forcing men to employ and pay them as here—and this is the grand point of distinction. Let the Common Council appoint as many as they please, so that people are at liberty to employ them or not as they may find necessary. As much corn is weighed each day in Liverpool, for instance, as in Saint John in a year, and not a twentieth part is weighed by sworn weighers. These details, in all goods bought and sold at home, may be left with perfect safety to the competition of seller and buyer.

I come now to the same system of coercion with respect to the weighing of hay. In the old country, those who employ weighers or public scales, of course pay for them: here, we pay whether we weigh or not. In fact we are left no option whatever. But I make a more serious charge against the Common Council than that of merely forcing us to weigh our hay. They tax us in this case directly. Hay sells, on an average, from 30s. to 60s. per ton, and a load is from 4 cwt. to 10 cwt. For this load the Farmer pays 1s. for weighing—that is to say, for 4 cwt. of 30s. per ton hay, about 16½ per cent.; and for 10 cwt. of hay, at 60s., about 3½ per cent. on its value—averaging probably somewhere about 7½ per cent. on the value of all hay brought to market. The scales probably cost about £100, and the Corporation drew from them this last year, £100 profit, besides handsomely remunerating the lessees. This is monstrous, and I contend, illegal. If the Common Council can tax the Farmers of New-Brunswick, directly or indirectly, by Charter from the Crown, then have we all our battles to fight over again—the ship-money, the tonnage and poundage, and forced loans of Charles 1., which brought him to the scaffold, were legal and constitutional. The old Colonies rebelled against their Sovereign for nought, and taxation without representation is again the order of the day. But it is not so: no British subject can be taxed but by his representative, and the Farmers of New-Brunswick have no representative in the Common Council of St. John. They cannot, therefore, legally charge for their accommodation more than a fair profit, or interest, on the capital invested, just as any individual might do. Three-pence a load would pay them for this interest; the residue is a tax.

You will say that these are bold and sweeping charges, Mr. Editor—I grant they are; but if I am in error, let it be shown. I aver that the forcing the Farmer to sell meat by the quarter is an indirect tax on him, inasmuch as the Butcher pays four times the proper rent for his stall, in consequence of the monopoly he enjoys; and that the charge for weighing hay is a direct tax to the amount probably of 5 per cent. on all hay sold.

The citizens of St. John may be said to be in some sort represented in the Common Council; nevertheless, I guess there would be a pretty kick up were they obliged to weigh their articles of trade at Corporation scales, and pay 5 per cent—or 1 per cent. on their value, for the accommodation. The Farmers of New-Brunswick are in a pretty delemma, if they can be taxed by the Provincial Legislature for all they have occasion to buy, and by the Common Council of St. John for all they may want to sell. This system is encouraging Agriculture with a vengeance. But I have done at present.

I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant.

LYNX.

MR. CHUBB,—Having noticed in the *Chronicle* of last evening some remarks respecting the late fires in Portland and Saint John, in which the editor in a most wanton manner slanders a large body of poor (but I believe honest) men, I hope you will not allow such sentiments to pass without expressing in the strongest language your great indignation at their malicious tendency.—Sorry am I to find that there are not wanting individuals in our community, who considering themselves clever, and itching to gain notoriety, would calumniate a dense population, and create excitement at a time *like this*.

By inserting these few observations, you will oblige your's, &c. A. Z.

Portland, 18th December.

The Courier.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1841.

It appears by recent accounts from the Mother Country, that an extensive measure of Immigration to these Colonies is at present engaging the attention of Government. The view taken of the subject by the London Standard, from which we made an extract last week, is certainly the most judicious one that we have seen for some time. It is to the effect, that, while emigration from Britain would greatly relieve the country, in the present commercial depression and inactive state of its manufactories; yet, to make the measure *generally* beneficial, *money* must go to the Colonies as well as *men*. This view of the matter could not be better elucidated, so far as this Province is concerned, than by the present state of affairs in its commercial metropolis; where, at present, many are suffering from want of employment, who, were the means at hand to open the vast resources of mineral wealth which abound throughout the length and breadth of the land, would not only be reaping a good return for their own labour, but would also be lending their aid to develope the hidden riches with which our favoured land abounds; and which would be the means of reducing our imports of Coals and Iron ware, and of paying, in part, by the exportation of those articles to the United States, for the bread stuffs with which our Western neighbours supply us.

The London *Mining Journal*, of the 13th November, in noticing the discoveries of our Provincial Geologist this season, as detailed in letters to His Excellency Sir William Colebrooke, published in the Royal Gazette, and copied into many other public journals, both in this country and in Britain, after alluding to some Coal Mining Company proceedings at home, remarks:—

"It is not of the one or other of these sad doings that we propose making any remarks on the present occasion, but to direct attention more especially to the mineral resources of a district hitherto only partially proved, but which, from the reports before us, promises to be of aid to this country, on which it is dependent, in providing for itself by its own resources.

"It is, indeed, but a few years since that mining undertakings in New Brunswick would have been scouted, and looked upon as the act of a visionary; yet with the little enterprise which has been displayed, (to take one instance of the progress made in an adjoining Province) we find that 400 chaldrons of coal per diem have been shipped from Pictou alone for the United States. The Government of New Brunswick have also, as we are informed, lately granted several mining leases, and a new spirit seems to have sprung up, aided, no doubt, by the capital and enterprise which is ever to be found in the Mother Country."

After giving an extract from Dr. Gesner's letter, relative to the extensive deposits of Iron Ore on the farm of Colonel Ketchum at Woodstock, the Mining Journal further remarks—

"The importance to be attached to the discovery of so vast a body of hæmatite, situated, as it appears to be, in a dense forest, yielding the fuel for its reduction, is such as will, doubtless, attract the attention of the capitalist; at the same time we may observe, that we are not aware, except under any patented process never yet put in practice, that hæmatite can be used otherwise than as a mixture, and that pig iron has not hitherto been produced from that ore alone. It is valuable when mixed with clay ironstone, and renders the poorer stone available, which otherwise would, in many cases, be valueless; but we do not know of any practical operation having been carried out successfully. We have heard of many experiments, at home and abroad, and of many patents—perhaps some of our correspondents may on this point furnish information of which we are not in possession."

We are pleased to find that the natural resources of New-Brunswick are thus brought to the notice of the capitalists of Great Britain by a leading scientific journal in the great metropolis; and we have no doubt, if the proposed measure of immigration to our shores be carried out with a due regard to the interests of this Province, that the result will be greatly conducive to the advancement of our prosperity.

At present, we think much good might be done in assisting parties, now idling about the towns, who are inclined to settle upon lands in the country, to do so; and as Sir William Colebrooke appears very favourably disposed towards furthering the views of such persons, we have no doubt that every facility would be given to them at Head Quarters. We have heard with much satisfaction that nearly thirty families from this City and the adjoining Parish of Portland, contemplate forming a settlement forthwith in the vicinity of Eel River, where the land is known to be of excellent quality, and only six miles distant from settlements on the Saint John; in this desire they are assisted by a philanthropic gentleman of this City, and we trust their example will be a stimulant to many others to "go and do likewise."

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—In the absence, this week, of more generally important matter, we have made lengthy extracts from President Tyler's Message to Congress, at the opening of the annual session on the 8th inst. The parts which we have omitted, relate to a revision of the tariff, the condition of the currency and exchanges throughout the Union,—and the debts which many of the States have contracted abroad, and under which they continue to labour, amounting, in the aggregate to $200,000,000!!!—For the debts thus contracted, the States are alone responsible; and the President expresses his belief that each State will feel itself bound, by every consideration of honour, as well as of interest, to meet its engagements with punctuality. The statement of the condition of the national finances, it will be seen, is not of a very flattering character. The New York Courier and Enquirer considers "all that is said in relation to England to be well put, and, while it breathes a spirit of moderation which cannot fail to be approved, its tone is sufficiently decided to meet the approbation of all parties."—With respect to Mr. McLeod's case, the President puts the best face upon it, and proposes a remedy against the recurrence of similar dangerous cases in future.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—*Phrenology.*—Mr. A. Young's Introductory Lecture on this subject, last Monday evening, was very numerously attended.—The Lecturer, at much length, took great pains to impress upon the audience, which was highly respectable, the advantages of the system which he advocated; and apparently, not without considerable effect.

Last evening, Mr. Young gave his second Lecture on Phrenology, which, notwithstanding the snow storm that prevailed during the day, and the torrents of rain that fell in the evening, was well attended.

Mr. Young's third Lecture will be delivered at the usual hour on Monday evening.

It will be seen by an advertisement in another column, that charts of the constitutional character of the mind may be obtained by persons desirous of having their mental organs examined, on application to Mr. Young. In this branch of the system, Mr. Young displays much cleverness, and an intimate acquaintance with the peculiarities of individual character, as developed by the formation of the head. The following recommendation to that effect, is one among many which have been freely given:—

Montreal, September 30, 1840.

SIR.—I have read several of the characters of my Military acquaintances, and members of their families, drawn by you, from examinations of their Phrenological developements, and observe with much pleasure, that they are, in most cases, extremely correct: amongst others, that of Colonel Love; which, he assures me, coincides with one given him by Dr. Spurzheim, at Paris.

Wishing you success in this branch of science, I am, Sir, your's ever truly,

JOHN RUSSELL, M. D.

To A. A. Young, Esq. *73d Regiment.*

THE AMARANTH, for December, made its appearance on Monday last. This number is a very good one, and completes the first volume. We are pleased to find that the proprietor of the Amaranth has been so far successful in his laudable efforts to establish a literary Magazine in the City, that he contemplates continuing it permanently; and we have no doubt that the coming volume will, in many respects, surpass its predecessor, and be still more worthy of public patronage.

LAUNCH.—On Tuesday last, a very beautiful ship of about 600 tons, called the "*Augusta*," was launched from the Building Yard of Messrs. Francis and Samuel Smith, in the Parish of Portland. This fine vessel is highly spoken of by all who have examined her, as combining the qualities of a first class ship, and is truly creditable to her builders.

ARREST.—*William Manderson*, charged with an unnatural crime, attended with most aggravated circumstances, made his escape from the constable who was conveying him to the gaol of the County of Gloucester, on the night of the 30th ult. A notice from the High Sheriff of that County, offering a reward of £20, for his apprehension and committal at Bathurst, having been published in the Miramichi Gleaner, Manderson was apprehended in this City on Wednesday last, by two of our officers, Messrs. M'Geachy and Stockford, and committed to prison by Alderman Porter, for safe keeping, until he is taken to Gloucester County.

PROVIDENTIAL AND MIRACULOUS ESCAPE.—On Saturday night, (the 11th instant,) as our much respected Commandant was on his return from a friend's house, an accident occurred which, although it has been attended with no serious results, was near proving fatal to one who has a large host of admirers in this community.

It appears that as the sentry opened the Barrack Gate, and before he had time to take away the bottom bar, the Colonel drove in, not perceiving the obstacle, owing to the extreme darkness of the night. The horse he was driving being a very spirited animal, the consequence may be easily imagined. The Colonel and his servant were both precipitated to some distance in front of the waggon; the former fell on his temple, and the wheel, which completely flattened his cap, passed over part of his head, and severely lacerated his ear. Owing to the quantity of blood and dirt with which his face was besmeared, it was some moments before the Surgeon, Dr. Scott, (who, with his usual alacrity, was on the spot,) could ascertain whether he had received any serious injury. Upon examination, it was found that the wound was confined to the ear, and to some scars on the forehead and cheek, which, although very painful, were not dangerous.

We are now happy to have it in our power to announce to the numerous friends of this distinguished Officer, throughout the Province, that he is once more able to resume those Military duties for which he is eminently qualified, and the exercise of which has ever been his greatest enjoyment, having foregone many comforts at home, for the purpose of commanding his Regiment, to the improvement of which he devotes every moment of his time.—*Communicated for the Mirror.*

LORD MORPETH.—This nobleman has of late been feasted on several public occasions in New-York. At the St. Andrew's dinner, on the 30th ult., his Lordship, in returning thanks on his health being drunk, claimed descent from the Borderer, "*Belted Will*," and very appropriately alluded to the extinction of the cruel hostilities of the English and Scottish Borderers of former days, as a pleasing instance of the improved character of the present times. His Lordship continued:—

"Institutions, gentlemen, like yours and those which are this evening represented, following the laws of charity, and accomplishing the good of so many—such institutions for such purposes have the most salutary effect. They make us literally familiar with the scope of human misery, and influence all. Even beyond their sphere they have an influence for good, in softening asperities, and in binding tighter and tighter the links of that golden chain, which is one day to bind nation to nation and earth to heaven. (Cries of "hear," "hear," and great applause.) Therefore, gentlemen, though you may be far away from Scotland, you may find this as much a "land of cakes" as the land you have left. An institution like this, too, connects you with your ancestors for all past time. Scotland, in all past history, and in every portion of the globe, has borne a signal part in all the exertions and successes of our common Empire. You have supplied distinguished men for the public service in India, and many of your countrymen are now usefully and honourably employed in Canada. Your trophies in literature have already kept pace with your trophies in arms. You have your Campbells, and Burns, and Scotts.—These laurels you will continue to wear in peace and in war, wherever you can find a field for your enterprise. The parish schools that flourished in your midst, the administration of your glorious clergy, the Bible which you grasped in one hand, while you siezed the claymore in the other,—these are all guarantees of your future greatness. Whatever region you may explore—whatever country you may occupy—institutions like these will prove a most worthy handmaid of good-will, mercy, and benevolence. I thank you, then, for allowing me to be present at this celebration."

Lord Morpeth closed here, and the speech was most satisfactory to all present. It spoke a liberal sentiment throughout, and not only for the old world, but for the new.

[From the Royal Gazette, Dec. 15.]

By His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel Sir WM. MACBEAN GEORGE COLEBROOKE, K. H., *Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of the Province of New-Brunswick, &c. &c. &c.*

W. M. G. COLEBROOKE.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the General Assembly of this Province stands prorogued to the third Tuesday in December instant, I have thought fit further to prorogue the said General Assembly, and the same is hereby prorogued to Wednesday the nineteenth day of January next, then to meet at Fredericton for the despatch of business.

Given under my hand and seal at Fredericton, the tenth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-one, and in the fifth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's command,

WM. F. ODELL.

The Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to appoint James Clarke Buchanan, Esquire, to be Emigrant Agent at New York for this Province.

A. READE, *Private Secretary.*

Government House, 8th Dec. 1841.

A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty GOD, for the safe Delivery of the QUEEN, and the happy Birth of a PRINCE; to be used at Morning and Evening Service, after the General Thanksgiving, in all Churches and Chapels, in the Province of New-Brunswick, upon the Sunday after the respective Ministers thereof shall receive the same:—

"O merciful Lord and Heavenly Father, by whose gracious gift mankind is increased, we most humbly offer unto Thee our hearty thanks for thy great goodness vouchsafed to thy people, in delivering thy servant, our Sovereign Lady the Queen, from the perils of childbirth, and giving her the blessing of a son. Continue, we beseech Thee, thy Fatherly care over her; support and comfort her in the hour of weakness, and day by day renew her strength.—Preserve the infant Prince from whatever is hurtful either to body or soul; endue him, as he advances in years, with true wisdom; and make him, in due time, a blessed instrument of thy goodness to this Church and nation, and to the whole world.—Regard with thine especial favour our Queen and her Royal Consort, that they may long live together in the enjoyment of all earthly happiness, and may finally be made partakers of everlasting glory. Implant in the hearts of thy people a deep sense of thy manifold mercies, and give us grace to shew forth our thankfulness by dutiful affection to our Sovereign, by brotherly love one towards another, and by constant obedience to thy commandments; so that passing through this life in thy faith and fear, we may in the life to come be received into thy Heavenly Kingdom, through the merits and mediation of thy Blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

MIRAMICHI, Dec. 14.—*The Weather.*—On Saturday forenoon, a Schooner from P. E. Island arrived. This, we believe, is the latest period at which a vessel ever entered our port. On that day a considerable quantity of snow fell. On Sunday we had some rain, but in the evening it cleared, and was succeeded by a sharp frost.