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WASHINGTON.

Wednesday, December 23.

CONGRESS.

PROCEEDINGS ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22.

IN THE SENATE.

The resolutions offered yesterday by Mr. *Noble* and Mr. *Daggett*, were respectively considered and agreed to.

The following bills were received from the other house, twice read and referred, viz: a bill for the relief of Dr. Mottrom Ball; a bill for the relief of the representatives of Alexander Montgomery, deceased; a bill directing the payment of certain bills drawn by Gen. John Armstrong in favor of Wm. Morgan; and a bill regulating passenger ships and vessels.

Some reports were taken up and postponed to different days; after which,

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill to enable the people of Alabama territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states.

The consideration and discussion of this bill was not concluded in to-day's sitting.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Among the petitions this day presented, was one by Mr. *Herbert*, from the Rockville and Washington Turnpike Company, praying to be empowered to make that part of said road which lies between the line of the District and the boundary of the city of Washington; which was referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. *Smith*, of Md. from the committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the military service of the United States during the year 1819; and a bill for the relief of William Coffin and others; which were twice read and committed.

Mr. *Herbert*, from the committee on the District of Columbia, reported a bill to incorporate the Provident Association of Clerks in the several departments of government within the District of Columbia; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. *Johnson*, of Ky. from the military committee, laid before the house a letter from the Secretary of War, respecting the alterations proposed to be made, by a bill now before the house, *in the military establishment*; which was referred to the committee of the whole, to whom the bill was referred.

On motion of Mr. *Scott*, of Missouri, the committee on the post office were instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing a post road direct from Vincennes, in the Indiana territory, to St. Louis, in the Missouri territory.

On motion of Mr. *Peter*, the committee on the District of Columbia were instruted to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the Corporation of the city of Washington to open and use, as a public way, four and a half street west, across the mall, in the city of Washington, until the said mall may be wanted for national purposes.

Mr. *Butler*, of N. H. submitted a motion to instruct the committee on pensions to enquire into the expediency of so amending the act of the last session of Congress, respecting Revolutionary Pensioners, as to embrace such soldiers as enlisted or engaged for a less term than nine months, and at the request of the commanding officer or officers, continued and completed nine months or more actual service, at any one period of the war.

And, on the question to proceed to the consideration of this motion, it was decided in the *negative*.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*, of Ky. the committee of the whole were discharged from the further consideration of the bill authorizing the people of Michigan territory to elect a delegate to Congress, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The engrossed bill making appropriations for the naval service of the United States for the year 1819; and the engrossed bill for the relief of Daniel Renner and Nath. H. Heath, were read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate for concurrence.

On motion of Mr. *Harrison*, of Ohio, the committee on pensions were instructed to enquire into the expediency of granting a pension to To-hon-doche, a Seneca warrior, attached to the command of Brig. Gen. McArthur, and who was wounded in action with the enemy during the late war.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the relief of Ebenezer L. Stevens and others.

This claim is of the date of 1785, and is founded on an award of commissioners authorized, by resolutions of Congress, to examine the claims of Tench Francis, Comfort Sands and others, then late contractors for the moving army, and of Comfort Sands and Co. then late contractors for the post of West Point and its dependencies, for damages sustained by them, from the late Superintendant of Finance having failed to make good the stipulated payments, and from his having withdrawn the contracts. The award was in 1790 reported by the Auditor of the Treasury to be binding on the United States, to the amount of 33,675 dollars for the first company, and 6,623 dollars for the last mentioned company.

The documents on which this award was founded, were also before the house, and were all read through.

When the reading of the documents was finished, the greater part of the day had been consumed.

The committee then rose, obtained leave to sit again; and

The House adjourned.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

DOCUMENTS CONTINUED.

Don Luis de Onis to the Secretary of State.

[TRANSLATION.]

SIR: Notwithstanding the unfortunate events which have occurred since April last, I have received from my court solemn assurances of the sincere desire of his Catholic Majesty, to see every ground of complaint and disagreement between the United States and Spain completely removed, and of his earnest wish to strengthen and cement a good understanding and the most cordial friendship between the two nations. Having transmitted to his Majesty's government the whole correspondence which lately passed between us here, it has been examined with the most profound attention to all the points embraced in it. A multitude of authentic papers, and original documents of the most unexceptionable authority, on each of the several points involved in the controversy between the government of the United States and that of his Catholic Majesty, were examined, offering incontestible evidence of all the rights hitherto sustained by the crown of Spain, and refuting, with the clearness of truths universally admitted, and by facts and vouchers equally notorious and unquestionable, the reasoning and arguments upon which your government found their claims.

It was the earnest wish of his Catholic Majesty, that the whole dispute should be adjusted by his Secretary of State, Mr. Pizarro, and Mr. Erving, the Minister Plenipotentiary of this republic, and that they should proceed to a final arrangement of all existing differences by means of a definitive treaty, which should combine, to the satisfaction of both governments, the inviolable principles of general justice, with the equitable views of reciprocal convenience and utility. His Majesty offered on his part to do every thing that might be possible, or compatible with the rights and dignity of his Royal Crown, liberally to satisfy the desires expressed by the United States.—But Mr. Erving has declined acceding to this adjustment, although the correspondence between him and the Secretary of State was still carried on with a view to that result, at the departure of the Messenger, who was despatched to me, from Madrid, on the 21st of July last.—His Majesty being apprehensive, notwithstanding his wishes, that the amicable termination of these important affairs might suffer delay, has been pleased to give me such instructions and orders as may enable me to adjust with you all pending differences between the two governments—and effect the desired arrangement by means of a definitive treaty. For this purpose His Majesty gave orders that the documents and proofs should be transmitted to me, which were necessary to convince the United States of the unquestionable rights of the crown of Spain to the territories and waters claimed by your government, as forming an integral part of Louisiana. I have received a considerable number of the said documents and proofs, and an examination of many others was taking place in Spain, which are to be sent me. The result of this inquiry established what I stated to you in my notes, during my late abode at Washington, and especially in that which I addressed to you on the 23d March, at the same period, in answer to that which I received from you of the 12th of the same month, upon all the points in dispute. It exhibited the incontrovertible series of facts, from the earliest period of the discoveries, conquest or occupation, and the successive establishments of the crown of Spain, in that part of America, to the present day. It proved that Spain, long prior to any other nation, discovered Florida, that is, all the vast and beautiful country extending from what is now termed East Florida, to the Rio Bravo, or Rio Grande del Norte, which [illegible] the boundary of the kingdom of Mexico, of which she was already in peaceable possession. From the period of the discovery of this extensive region by Ponce de Leon, in 1512, and the establishment of the first act of possession in the name of the crown of Spain, repeated and regular expeditions were formed, composed of troops, artillery, and every thing necessary for penetrating throughout the whole country, examining all its positions from the coast to the interior, and all its rivers, creeks, and bays, reducing the natives, or establishing trade and friendship with them, and for occupying all such places as might appear best calculated to bring, and preserve under the dominion of Spain, the said country, throughout its whole extent. I stated to you, in my said notes, and I am enabled to prove it by the most ample documents, that this was the object of the expeditions of Vasquez de Ayllon, in 1520, and of Panfilo de Narvaez, in 1528. The latter obtained from Charles 1st. of Spain and Emperor of Germany, a solemn authority to reduce the whole country, from the bay of Spiritu Santo, in East Florida, to the river Palmas; he arrived in the said region with a respectable force, and examined it from East to West. In this he had been preceded by Francisco de Garay, who passed through it by land, from the Bay of Spiritu Santo to Panuco. Hernando de Soto was soon afterwards appointed Governor-General of Florida, the name then given to the whole of this vast country—he entered it with a powerful force, and repeated the solemn acts of taking possession of it in behalf of Spain—he afterwards examined its extensive limits, and founded several settlements. He was succeeded, in his government, by Moscoso, who continued to explore the country and extend the settlements. These two first Governors General of Florida, traversed and examined it, as I have said, from East to West, from the point, or Cape of that Florida, now called East Florida, to the Rio Bravo, crossing the Mississippi, which was then called the Palisada, and all the others which empty into it, or into the Gulph of Mexico. From that period Spain has uniformly continued in the dominion and possession of all that country, in which she successively founded the Province of Cohaguila, the Kingdom of New Leon, that of New-Mexico, &c. also the province of Texas, which she has retained until the present time. It is an unquestionable fact, and of universal notoriety, that the whole country I am now speaking of, was known from the beginning by the general denomination of Florida, and included all the coast, from the point of Florida, now called East Florida, to the Rio Bravo, & all the country & the waters of the interior: of this a full and uniform proof is afforded by the history, and most respectable documents of those times. During the lapse of two centuries, the whole of this vast country was known to the nations of Europe, under no other name. Not only the Spaniards, but all foreigners, laid it down in their maps and charts under this name, and with the same limits. I might here cite the English traveller, Dampierre, and several others, who thus denominate and lay down this beautiful region in their maps and descriptions; but, why should I not now dwell on what never admitted of a doubt, or change, until the Frenchman, Delisle, through ignorance, erroneous information, or partial motives, extended in his idea and map, the boundaries of French Louisiana to the Rio Bravo? This error, or extravagance, has ever since been adopted by all those who have had an interest in supporting the illusion, or have carelessly or unguardedly copied the gratuitous suppositions of that geographer. But, as this is in direct contradiction to the history of those early times, and the most unquestionable documents which establish the contrary, these chimerical and absurd suppositions are entitled to no credit whatever, although they had been advanced with great gravity and ostentation.

It is moreover a fact, beyond all dispute, that the crown of Spain was established as the lawful owner and possessor of all the aforesaid region, and that it has uniformly been preserved under her dominion to this day, with the exception of such parts of it, as by treaties, conventions, and other solemn acts, she has transferred to foreign powers. As the introduction of the French into part of that region, has formed the ground of the claims of your government, I shall confine my remarks to them. In the course of our late correspondence, I stated to you in my notes, the manner in which the French got a footing in that part of the Spanish dominions, and how they proceeded to form the colony, to which they gave the name of Louisiana.

But, to form a just idea of the establishment of that colony, and of its precise extent and boundaries, it is necessary to take a view of it, at three different periods; first, under the direction of the government of France; second, under that of Crozat and of the French Western Company; and, thirdly, under the government of the crown of France.

I do not deem it necessary now to detail, minutely, the first attempt of the French on the old Florida, in 1562. It is well known, that John Rivaut, to whom the conduct of the expedition was committed, through the influence of Admiral Coligny, was completely routed by the Spaniards, under General Menendez de Abyles. This General having attacked the French in their fort of Carolina, all those, who escaped the assault, were made prisoners of war; and having pursued their vessels, he, and stormy weather put an end to the wretched remains of this French expedition. Abyles founded the castle and forts of St. Augustine, which then became the Capital of all Florida, established various other posts, and enforced a respect for the dominion of Spain over all the coast and territories of that vast region. The French never again returned there until the last attempt of the celebrated La Salle, who, towards the close of 1684, sailed from France with an expedition to discover the mouths of the Mississippi; at this period, the French had already established themselves in the upper part of Canada.

Fearful of meeting a fate like that of Rivaut, they avoided an interference with the countries belonging to the crown of Spain, and confined their establishments to the coasts of the Atlantic. The Savages, or Aborigines of Canada, had a knowledge of other Indian nations inhabiting beyond the lakes, and of a very remote country, watered by a great river, which, as they said, ran neither to the east, to the west, nor to the north, but which might probably run to the south, and empty into the Gulph of Mexico. It was they who, in 1669, gave the French of Canada an idea of this country and river, although very limited, vague and obscure, and excited in the mind of Joliet, an inhabitant of Quebec, and of the Missionary Marquette, the project of crossing the lakes, and penetrating into the said country, to explore it and the river. They realized their project, embarked on Lake Michigan, ascended the river Zoras to its source, afterwards travelled by land, and, returning to the entrance of the same river, navigated to the westward, and, on the 2d June, 1673, they struck the Mississippi. They then descended this river as low as the Arkansas in 33° north latitude, but, fearful of falling into the hands of the Spaniards, they afterwards retreated to Canada, and, on their return, passed through the country inhabited by the Illinois, whom they found disposed to trade with the French of that Colony.

This excursion produced no result whatever, and would have been wholly forgotten at the death of Marquette, but the famous La Salle, an enterprising and resolute man, who had come to Canada with the design of exploring a passage from thence to Japan, or China, having heard of Joliet's narrative, conceived the project of repeating the same journey. He embarked for France, and on his arrival at Paris, proposed his plan to the Prince of Conti—patronized by him, and the government, he returned to Quebec with a company of thirty associates, and the Chevalier Fonte, a brave and experienced officer. At Quebec he was joined by Father Hennepin, and at the head of this party, set out on the journey formerly made by Joliet and Marquette. Having encountered extraordinary difficulties, he employed several years in accomplishing it. On the 4th of March, 1681, he arrived at the Arkansas; in April, of the following year, he proceeded as low down as the mouth of the Mississippi, & in the spring of 1683, he returned to France to give an account of his discoveries. With all due ceremony, he took possession of the Arkansas and the Mississippi, in the name of the Crown of France, although it was well known, that all those countries were under the dominion of Spain. In performing this journey La Salle did no more than explore distant countries, and [illegible] necessity of defending himself both against the Spaniards and the English, who repeatedly fell in with and attacked him.

La Salle having given an exaggerate account of his discoveries in this part of America, was authorized by his court to search for the mouths of the Mississippi, and occupy some position on its banks. This was the object of the maritime expedition, with which he sailed from France, under the command of Beaujour, for the Gulph of Mexico, which he entered on the 12th of Dec. 1684. In the notes I lately addressed you at Washington, I stated the result of this expedition and of the labors of La Salle. Driven on the coast of the province of Texas, it was with difficulty this distinguished adventurer found safety in the Bay of St. Bernard; he coasted by the Trinity river, and constructed a redoubt to defend himself against the Indians; but, not being able to defend it, he determined on abandoning the country, and was assassinated by his own party. The Indians attacked the fort, or redoubt, in which he had left some of his people, demolished it, and massacred them. Of this unfortunate expedition, seven men only escaped, five of whom succeeded in reaching the Arkansas, on the 20th of July, 1687, and returned to Montreal in the May following. The others found their way among the Cenis or Asinais Indians. I presume that I have fully proved to you, in my former notes, that this shipwreck of La Salle on the coast of Texas, and his entry into the Bay of St. Bernard and adjacent country, can give no right to France to that bay and country, they being already under the dominion of the crown of Spain: In fact, what right could France have to extend herself, from her remote colony of Canada, to those territories? But France only authorized La Salle to search for the mouths of the Mississippi, doubtless in the belief that this river was not within the Spanish possessions. I also stated to you, that the most effectual measures were instantly taken by the vice roy of Mexico and the Spanish government, to drive the French from any position they might have occupied in the Gulph of Mexico, or in the interior. This was one of the special objects of the successive expeditions of Alonzo de Leon, Domingo Teran, and Gregorio Salinas—I say that this was *one* of the objects of these expeditions, because they were likewise charged with forming different establishments in the Province of Texas or of the Asinais, and securing the whole coast from any incursion of foreigners. They executed the object of their mission—so that the French made no further attempts from that time to the expedition of Iberville, in 1698, the period when the French first established themselves on the Gulph of Mexico. Iberville, an experienced seaman, who had distinguished himself by his fortunate expedition to Hudson's Bay, in 1697, appeared off Pensacola with his squadron; but, discovering that the Spaniards were occupied in fortifying that place, he shaped his course for the river Mobile. He entered it on the 2d of February of the same year, and took possession of Massacre Island, which he called Dauphin Island. On the 2d of March, 1699, he entered the Mississippi, and ascended as high as the Bluffs; he there received a letter from the Chevalier Fonti, by which he ascertained that this was really the Mississippi, and that the Indian nations which he had communicated with showed a very favorable disposition to trade with the French. He then returned to Mobile, and, leaving that place in the charge of Sauvole and Bienville, proceeded to France to give an account of his expedition. The court of Spain, having been already informed of these enterprises, determined to expel the French for ever from those positions, and from all the Gulph of Mexico; but, this being about to be executed, the death of Charles the 2d occurred, and the Duke of Anjou succeeded to the crown, under the name of Philip 5th. Spain being then embarrassed with the war of succession, and united by a close friendship with France, overlooked the establishment at Mobile. In January, 1700, Iberville returned there, but made no progress in his projects, from the want of means and the badness of the climate. This feeble colony continued to languish, without any prospect of realizing the extravagant expectations at first formed by the French. Louis 14th, setting little value on it, conferred the entire property of it on Crozat, in 1712. It is unnecessary now to point out the errors and absurdities contained in the grant of Louis 14th to Crozat, as I have already stated them to you in detail: I shall, therefore, only have to speak of the second period—that of the establishment of this colony, and show its progress. La Motte-Condillac being appointed governor, and Duclos intendant, of this famous establishment, they formed, with Crozat, a supreme tribunal for all civil and criminal cases. It was at that time that the excursion of the Frenchman, St. Dennis, into the interior of New Spain took place, in which he passed through various Indian nations, from the Mississippi to the Rio Grande.

In my former communications, I stated what appeared to be necessary on the character and movements of this celebrated adventurer. I shall only add here, that, although his apparent object was the establishment of a traffic with the people of New Spain, yet it merely served to cover the design of exploring the Spanish territories, and of extending the settlements of his countrymen therein. As soon as his views were discovered, measures were taken in Mexico to counteract them, and vigorous orders issued by the court for the same purpose. It was this incident which produced the vigorous measures of the vice roy of Mexico, the Duke of Linares, and the dispatch of the troops and missionaries to the province of Texas, forming the fifth expedition of the Spaniards to that province; a fact which serves as a complete refutation of all that has been advanced by Dupratz and other French writers. Alonzo de Leon informed the Spanish governor, Alarcon, from Texas on the 21st of May, 1717, that he had just founded two establishments there, one of them within ten leagues of the Natchitoos, and that he was about to proceed to the Cadodaches in consequence of having received information that the French were endeavoring to make a settlement there, and that there were already ten men of his nation among the Natchitoos. The chief object in forming this Spanish settlement was to observe and check the French; and it was soon after increased by the construction of a fort called San Miguel de los Adaes, which was garrisoned by a competent force.

St. Dennis promoted the settlement of several Frenchmen among the Natchitoos, for the purpose of serving as an intermediary point in his journeys to the Rio Grande. He called this settlement San Miguel, and this gave rise to the error of Champigny, who has confounded this paltry establishment with that of the Adaes. That which was formed by the French cannot be considered of any importance until May, 1717, when the governor of Mobile first sent a commandant, with a party of ten men, as a garrison; at which time the Spanish fort of the Adaes was already built. Such was the origin of the French settlement and fort at Natchitoches, the only acquisition made by the colony of Biloxi, or Mobile, in the neighborhood of the Rio Roxo, (Red River) under Crozat or the western Company. In 1718 the Company laid the foundation of New Orleans, to which the general government of the colony was transferred in 1722, and the settlement of Biloxi abandoned. In June, 1723, Bienville endeavored to take possession of the Bay of St. Josephs; but, being opposed by Salinas, the Spanish governor of Pensacola, he desisted from his attempt. Thus, the colony went on without making any progress, until the French Company, tired out with the disasters and losses it had suffered in the wars with the neighboring Indians, and convinced of the inutility of that establishment, surrendered their privilege to the crown in 1733 or 1734, which forms the last period of that colony.

I have made no mention of the French settlements in the Arkansas and the Illinois, as they were formed by people from Canada, and tolerated by Spain merely as places occupied for the purpose of trading with the Indians; because, from the reasons I have touched on, it is evident that France could have no right to occupy them but through the permission or toleration of Spain. Louis the 14th had declared to his Catholic Majesty's government, that he occupied Mobile and other places in that region solely with a view to aid Spain in case of a war with the English; and having requested permission of his Catholic Majesty to keep a force at Mobile for that purpose, it was refused by the advice of the council of the Indies. The situation of the French colony did not improve under the immediate administration of the government, part of it [illegible] and the other part, that in the city and island of New Orleans, was, as you know, ceded and delivered to Spain in 1769. That colony was considerably improved in the hands of Spain, by the establishment of several new settlements. It was retroceded, together with them, to France in 1800, by virtue of a treaty in which it was stipulated that Spain retroceded it with the same extent it had when in the possession of France, and which it had at the conclusion of that treaty, in the hands of his Catholic Majesty. I consider all that I have already stated to you on this point as repeated here; and I shall only add, that although the secret convention for the cession of Louisiana to Spain was concluded in 1763, the two high contracting parties reserved to themselves the right of afterwards agreeing on the suitable time for its delivery to Spain, in consequence of which France continued in possession of it until 1769. As this act is undisputed, had completed and realized the cession, it is clear that it could not comprehend the territories ceded six years before to Great Britain. As a further proof, we have to adduce the Royal Cedula of his Catholic Majesty issued at Barcelona, and communicated to the French government, in which his Majesty declares, that he retrocedes Louisiana with the same extent it had when he received it from France, which declaration serves as an addition to the treaty of St. Ildefonso, and was conformed to by the French government, who made use of the said Royal Cedula of his Catholic Majesty in taking possession of the province thus retroceded, without any other claim or demand on their part.

In the simple epitome which I have presented of the principle and progress of the French settlements in this part of the American continent, I have only touched on the capital points, such as are sufficient to remove all grounds of the present dispute. I am ready to prove, in the most ample manner, all that I have advanced, by a multitude of indisputable documents, which I will produce, if necessary, the moment it may be agreeable to you, and you will inform me of your wish to confront them with what I have stated. All the errors which have been disseminated in the narratives and maps of the French authors, and other foreigners who have committed such enormous deviations through ignorance, interest, or the influence of national prejudice, will then be corrected, and the fact established beyond all doubt, that France never possessed any thing to the left of the Mississippi; and that, to the right, she held the post of Natchitoches, Natchez, Arkansas, and the Illinois, solely by the permission or toleration of Spain, as I have before stated. The settlements at Opelusas, Avoyelles and Atacapas, were not yet formed in 1762, as is admitted and affirmed by Mr. Bossu, of the French navy, who did not leave Louisiana until that year, and, who afterwards published his voyages to the West Indies; nor were there any commandants of those settlements appointed by the government, except under the dominion of Spain. La Fourche, which is situated much nearer to New Orleans, was only begun to be occupied by the French in 1763. Villebond, a Frenchman, established himself on the river Ouachita, or the Black river, (Rio Negro) during the second period of Louisiana, by occupying a small valley; but this private settlement was not kept up, but afterwards abandoned. What took place at the Arkansas, Illinois, and the Missouri, could give France no right whatever to the posts which she happened to establish and retain, and which were not claimed by Spain. All the rest could not be considered as an integral part of French Louisiana until the period of the cession to England, and of the restitution and delivery to Spain. It is therefore easy to ascertain and determine what was the extent of Louisiana in the possession of the French, and what were its exact boundaries. Moreover, although the hypothesis be admitted, that she had, or might have, some right to other parts of this vast country, she transferred it to England by the cession she made of it in 1763. And, when Spain acquired from England the territory ceded to the latter, she included therein this right, (such as it might be). Having retroceded to France, in 1800, only what she had received from her, it is evident that she could not restore to her this pretended right. Under whatever aspect, therefore, we view the question, the rights hitherto sustained by the government of his Catholic Majesty in the present dispute remain unquestionable.

I allude to them merely to give you the most satisfactory proofs of this truth, and to establish in respect to the *uti possidetis*, or state of possession of 1763 and 1769, the basis which it is indispensable to lay down for the general and definitive settlement of all pending differences between the two governments. In that basis will likewise be comprehended all the augmentation with which Spain delivered Louisiana to France, and all that by treaties, or other lawful acts, has been ceded to the United States.

His Majesty, carrying his particular consideration for the United States, and his sincere desire to meet the wishes of your government as far as is compatible with the rights and dignity of his crown, has authorized me to remove the principal difficulties, and to offer the government of this republic the liberal proposals which I have the honor to enclose in a separate paper.

If these proposals should, as I hope, appear admissible and satisfactory to your government, all the rest which it will be requisite to change or add, to perfect the definitive adjustment between the two powers, cannot fail to follow of course, and be easy to arrange. Finally, if there should arise any difficulty or doubt in the mind of the President upon any one of them, which I can remove or clear up, I shall be happy to be made acquainted with it, and most cheerfully do, for that purpose, whatever may be within the limits of my powers and instructions. I conceive that what I now propose is best calculated to conciliate all the different views and claims, and to adjust all pending differences upon just and liberal principles; it being evident, moreover, that the advantages are wholly in favor of the United States.

In concluding this note, I beg leave to repeat, that if, before we agree on what is requisite to effect the desired arrangement, and with a view to proceed to it with a more perfect conviction of the unquestionable rights of each one of the two powers, you should think it adviseable that we should modify and correct any points stated in the present note, by the production and examination of the documentary proofs which I have offered, I am ready to submit them the moment I receive such intimation from you.

In the mean time, I repeat the assurances of my respect, and pray God to preserve you many years.

LUIS DE ONIS.

Washington, October 24th, 1818.

Translation of Propositions received in Mr. Onis's letter of October 24th, 1818.

1st. The United States declare that they deeply regret the violation of the Spanish territory by the troops under the command of Gen. Jackson; and that, its being done without their orders, and, as the General states, with the view of terminating more promptly the war against the Indians, the United States will restore the town of Pensacola, and the forts of Barrancas, St. Marks, and the other territory occupied by their troops, in the Floridas, to the Spanish officers, duly authorized by his Catholic Majesty to take possession of them; the United States being answerable, as is just, for the injuries caused by the incursions of the troops of the Union, as well to the crown of Spain as to its subjects—upon which point the proper stipulations shall be inserted in the treaty.

2d. His Catholic Majesty, to give an eminent proof of his generosity, and of the desire which animates him to strengthen the ties of friendship and of good understanding with the United States, and to put an end to the differences which now exist between the two governments, cedes to them, in full property and sovereignty, the provinces of East and West Florida, with all their towns and forts, such as they were ceded by Great Britain, in 1763, and with the limits which designated them in the treaty of limits and of navigation, concluded between Spain and the United States, on the 27th of October, 1795: the nations or sales of lands, made by the government of His Majesty, or by legal authorities, until this time, are, nevertheless, to be recognized as valid.

3d. To avoid all cause of dispute, in future, the limits of the respective possessions of both governments, to commence on the Gulf of Mexico, between the rivers Mermenta and Carcasse, following the Arroyo-Hondo between the Adais and Natchitoches, crossing the Roxo or Red river, at the 32d degree of latitude, and 93d degree of longitude from London, according to Melish's map; and thence running directly north, crossing the Arkansas, the White, and the Osage rivers, till it strikes the Missouri, and then following the middle of that river to its source—so that the territory on the right bank of the said river, will belong to Spain, and that on the left bank to the United States. The navigation as well of the Missouri as of the Mississippi and Mermento, shall remain free to the subjects of both powers.

To fix this line with more precision, and to place the land marks which shall designate exactly the limits of both nations, each of the contracting parties shall appoint a commissioner and a surveyor, who shall meet before the termination of one year from the date of the ratification of this treaty, at Natchitoches on the Red river, and proceed to run and mark the said line, in conformity to what is above agreed upon. It is stipulated: they shall make out plans, and keep journals of their proceedings, and the result agreed upon by them shall be considered as part of this treaty, and shall have the same force as if it were inserted therein. The two governments will amicably agree respecting the necessary articles to be furnished to these persons, and also as to their respective escorts, should such be deemed necessary.

4th. The two contracting parties, animated by the most sincere desire of conciliation, and with a view of eradicating all the discussions which exist between them, and to hasten the conclusion of a definitive and prompt arrangement, by which the good understanding they desire perpetually to maintain with each other, may be strengthened, reciprocally renounce all claims for damages or injuries, which they themselves, or their respective subjects or citizens, may have suffered, of whatever nature they may be, whether they have or have not been presented or made until this date, so that they are to be considered as entirely cancelled and adjusted, excepting those which are specified in article 1st.

5th. The treaty of limits and navigation, of 1795, remains in force in all and each one of its articles; but, to avoid questions in future as to the meaning of the 15th article, in which it is stipulated *that the flag shall cover the property*, the two high contracting parties agree that this may be so understood with respect to those powers who recognize this principle; but, if one of the belligerents should not recognize it, the above cited clause of the said 15th article shall not remain obligatory, on either of the two contracting parties, who may act as they think proper on this point, without giving room for complaints or claims, or being considered as infringing the before mentioned 15th article.

6th. Although the two high contracting parties oblige themselves to cause the stipulation contained in this treaty, and in that of limits and of navigation, of 1795, to be complied with, in all their parts—nevertheless, desirous of avoiding all doubt or misinterpretation of their respective clauses, they oblige themselves to make the declarations or laws requisite for the most exact observance of all that is above stipulated, as good faith, and the honor of both governments, require—adopting the most efficacious measures to remedy, and to cut up by the roots, the abuses which, contrary to the laws of nations, and contrary to what is expressly stipulated in the treaty of 1795 above cited, daily occur in some ports of this Union, in consequence of the vague and arbitrary interpretation which it seems the measures until now adopted, are susceptible of, and by which means the law is eluded.

7th. In consideration of the sacrifices which his Catholic Majesty makes, depriving himself, in favor of the United States, of the important provinces of the two Floridas, to satisfy and to cancel forever, all their claims, the United States will certify, in due form, that they have not received any compensation from France, for the injuries they suffered from her privateers, consuls, and tribunals, on the coasts and in the ports of Spain, and they will present an authentic statement of the prizes made, and of their true value, that Spain may claim from France the return of this amount.

(Documents continued on 2d page.)

GEORGETOWN POTOMAC BRIDGE CO.

AN election for three Directors will be held at Semmes' tavern, in Georgetown, on the first Monday in January, 1819. A. MACKALL, Treasurer.

nov 23—wtd

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS a Convention between the United States of America and His Catholic Majesty, made and concluded at Madrid, on the eleventh day of August, in the year one thousand eight hundred and two, by Charles Pinckney, at that time Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States in Spain, and Don Pedro Cevallos, Counsellor of State, Gentleman of the Bed Chamber, First Secretary of State, and Superintendant of Posts and Post Offices, fully authorised and empowered by their respective governments; was duly ratified by the then President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, on the ninth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four; and was ratified by the King of Spain, on the ninth day of July, last past: And whereas the ratifications of the two governments were exchanged, in this city, on the twenty-first day of December, by John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State of the United States, on the part of the United States; and Don Luis de Onis, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Spain, on the part of Spain; which Convention is, word for word, as follows:

CONVENCION entre su Magestad Catolica y los Estados Unidos de America, sobre indemnizacion de perdidas, daños y perjucios irrogados durante la ultima guerra en consequencia de los excesos cometidos por individuos de ambas naciones, contra el derecho de gentes o tradado existente.

Deseando su Magestad Catolica y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de America, ajustar amistosamente las demandas que han ocasionado los excesos cometidos durante la ultima guerra, por individuos de una y otra nacion, contra el derecho de gentes o el tratado existente entre los dos paises; ha dado su Magestad Catolica plenos poderes a este efecto a Don Pedro Cevallos, su Consejero de Estado, Gentilhombre de Camara con exercicio, primer Secretario de Estado y del despacho universal, Superintendente General de Correos y Postas en Espana é Indias; y el gobierno de los Estados Unidos de America a Don Carlos Pinckney, ciudadano de dichos Estados y su Ministro Plenipotenciario cerca de su Magestad Catolica, quienes han convenido en lo siguiente.

1°. Se formara una junta compuesta de cinco vocales de los quales, dos seran nombrados por su Magestad Catolica, otros dos por el gobierno de los Estados Unidos, y el quinto de comun consentimiento; y en el caso de no poderse convenir en el sugeto para quinto vocal, nombrara uno cada parte dexando la eleccion entre los dos a la cuerte, y se procederá en la misma forma en adelante al nombramiento ulterior de los sugetos que reemplazaren a los que actualmente lo son en los casos de muerte, enfermedad o precisa ausencia.

2°. Hechoasi el nombramiento prestara cada uno de los vocales el juramento de examinar, discutir, y sentenciar las demandas sobre que juzgaren con arreglo al dro. de gentes y tratado existente, y con la imparcialidad que dicta la justicia.

3°. Residiran los vocales y celebraran las juntas en Madrid, en donde en el prefixo termino de diez y ocho meses, contados desde el dia en que se junten, admitiran todas las demandas que en consequencia de esta Convencion hicieren tanto los vasallos de su Magestad Catolica como los cindadanos de los Estados Unidos de America que tuvieren derecho a reclamar perdidos daños y perjuicios, en consecuencia de los excesos cometidos por Espanoles y ciudadanos de dichos Estados durante la ultima guerra contra el duo de gentes y tratado existante.

4°. Se autoriza por dichas partes contratantes a los vocales para oir y examinar baxo la sancion del juramento qualezquieva puntos concernientes a las referidas demandas y a recibir como digno de fé todo testimonio de cuya autenticidad no puede dudarse con fundamento.

5°. Bastara el acuerdo de tres vocales para que sus sentencias tengan fuerza de irrevocables y sin apelacion tanto por lo que respecta a la justicia de las demandas, como por lo que hace a las cantidades que se adjudicaren por indemnizacion a los demandantes; pues se obligan las partes contratantes a satisfacerlis en especie, sin rebaxa, en las espocas y parages senalados, y baxo las condiciones que se expresaren en las sentencias de la junta.

6°. No haviendo sido posible ahora a dhos Plenipotenciarios convenerse en el modo de que la referida junta arbitrase las reclamaciones originadas en consequencia de los excisos de los corsarios, agentes, consules, o tribunales, extrangeros en los respectivos territorios, que fueren imputables a los dos govierños: se han convenido expresamente en que cada gobierno se reserve, como por esta Convencion lo hace, para si, sur vasallos y ciudadanos respectivamente todos los derechos que ahora les asistan, y en que promuevan en adelante sus reclamaciones en el tiempo que les acomodare.

7°. La presente Convencion no tendra ningun valor ni efecto hasta que se haya ratificado por las partes contratantes, y se cangearan las ratificaciones lo mas pronto que sea posible.

En fe de loqual, nosotros los infrascriptos Plenipotenciarios, hemos firmado estaConvencion, y hemos puesto nuestros sellos respectivos.

Hecho en Madrid, á 11 de Agosto, de 1802.

PEDRO CEVALLOS.
CHARLES PINCKNEY.

A CONVENTION between His Catholic Majesty and the United States of America, for the indemnification of those who have sustained losses, damages, or injuries, in consequence of the excesses of individuals of either nation, during the late war, contrary to the existing treaty, or the laws of nations.

His Catholic Majesty, and the government of the United States of America, wishing amicably to adjust the claims which have arisen from the excesses committed during the late war, by individuals of either nation, contrary to the laws of nations or the treaty existing between the two countries: His Catholic Majesty has given, for this purpose, full powers to His Excellency Don Pedro Cevallos, Counsellor of State, Gentleman of the Bed Chamber in employment, first Secretary of State and universal despatch, and Superintendant General of the Posts and Post Offices in Spain and the Indies; and the government of the United States of America to Charles Pinckney, a citizen of the said States, and their Minister Plenipotentiary near His Catholic Majesty, who have agreed as follows:

1. A Board of Commissioners shall be formed, composed of five Commissioners, two of whom shall be appointed by His Catholic Majesty, two others by the government of the United States, and the fifth by common consent; and in case they should not be able to agree on a person for the fifth Commissioner, each party shall name one, and leave the decision to lot: And hereafter, in case of the death, sickness, or necessary absence of any of those already appointed, they shall proceed, in the same manner, to the appointment of persons to replace them.

2. The appointment of the Commissioners being thus made, each one of them shall take an oath to examine, discuss and decide on the claims, which they are to judge, according to the laws of nations and the existing treaty, and with the impartiality justice may dictate.

3. The Commissioners shall meet and hold their sessions in Madrid, where, within the term of eighteen months (to be reckoned from the day on which they may assemble) they shall receive all claims, which in consequence of this Convention may be made, as well by the subjects of His Catholic Majesty, as by citizens of the United States of America, who may have a right to demand compensation for the losses, damages or injuries sustained by them, in consequence of the excesses committed by Spanish subjects or American citizens.

4. The Commissioners are authorised, by the said contracting parties, to hear and examine, on oath, every question relative to the said demands, and to receive, a worthy of credit, all testimony, the authenticity of which cannot reasonably be doubted.

5. From the decisions of the Commissioners there, shall be no appeal, and the agreement of three of them shall give full force and effect to their decisions, as well with respect to the justice of the claims, as to the amount of the indemnification which may be adjudged to the claimants; the said contracting parties obliging themselves to satisfy the said awards in specie, without deduction, at the times and places pointed out, and under the conditions which may be expressed by the Board of Commissioners.

6. It not having been possible for the said Plenipotentiaries to agree upon a mode by which the abovementioned Board of Commissioners should arbitrate the claims originating from the excesses of foreign cruizers, agents, consuls or tribunals, in their respective territories, which might be imputable to their two governments, they have expressly agreed that each government shall reserve (as it does by this Convention) to itself, its subjects or citizens respectively, all the rights which they now have, and under which they may hereafter bring forward their claims, at such times as may be most convenient to them.

7. The present Convention shall have no force or effect, until it be ratified by the contracting parties, and the ratifications shall be exchanged as soon as possible.

In faith whereof, we, the underwritten Plenipotentiaries, have signed this Convention, and have affixed thereto our respective seals.

Done at Madrid, this 11th day of August, 1802.

PEDRO CEVALLOS.
CHARLES PINCKNEY.

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, JAMES MONROE, President of the United States, have caused the said Convention to be made public, to the end that the same, and every clause and article thereof, may be observed, and fulfilled, with good faith, by the United States, and the citizens thereof.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this twenty-second day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and of Independence the forty-third.

[L. S.] JAMES MONROE.

By the President:
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS,
Secretary of State.

Saint Mary's County Court,
August Term, 1818.

WHEREAS, the Commissioners appointed on the petition of Michael David, and Celia David his wife, two of the representatives of Barton Thorp, late of Saint Mary's county, deceased, praying that a commission might issue to ascertain whether the real estate of the said Barton Thorp would admit of a division without injury to his representatives, having made a report to Saint Mary's county court, stating that the said real estate would not admit of a division without loss and injury to all the parties interested. And whereas it is represented to the said court, that David Snyder, and Dorcas Snyder his wife, Britannia Thorp, Wilfred Greenwell, Cornelius Greenwell, Mary Greenwell, and Britania Greenwell, seven of the representatives aforesaid, do not reside in the state of Maryland.

It is thereupon ordered and adjudged, that by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in the National Intelligencer once a week for six weeks, before the first Monday of March next, notice be given to the said David Snyder, and Dorcas Snyder his wife, Britania Thorp, Wilfred Greenwell, Cornelius Greenwell, Mary Greenwell, and Britania Greenwell, to be and appear before Saint Mary's county court aforesaid, to be held at Leonard Town, on the said first Monday of March next, to shew cause, if any they have, why the report aforesaid should not be ratified. Given under my hand this 11th day of November, 1818.

True copy, TO. HARRIS,
dec 24 - w6w Clerk St. Mary's county court.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

DOCUMENTS TRANSMITTED TO CONGRESS.

[CONCLUDED.]

The Secretary of State to Don Luis de Onis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, Oct. 31, 1818.

Your letter of the 24th instant, and the proposals contained in it, offered as the basis of a treaty, for the adjustment of all the subjects in discussion, between the United States and Spain, have been received and laid before the President of the United States.

I am directed by him, to forbear entering into any examination of the historical disquisition concerning the original pretensions of Spain to all the territories bordering on the Gulph of Mexico, and the whole country, included in the French colony of Louisiana, which you have thought proper to introduce into your note. The right of the United States to the river Mississippi, and all the waters flowing into it; and to all the territories watered by them, remains as entire and unshaken by any thing now adduced by you, as by any thing which had ever preceded it, in the discussions between the two governments. It is established beyond the power of further controversy, nor could it answer any useful purpose to reproduce proofs which have already more than once been shewn, and which, remaining unimpaired, must henceforth be considered by the U. States not susceptible of refutation.

In confining my attention to the propositions which you offer, as the basis of a treaty, I have to observe that any other proceedings upon the first of them have been rendered unnecessary by the determination promptly taken by this government and communicated to you, to restore the forts of Barrancas and St. Marks, together with Pensacola, to any person duly authorized by you, or otherwise by your government, to receive them. You have been informed of the evidence inculpating the Governors of those places, not only as having utterly neglected to carry into effect the stipulation in the treaty of 1795, by which Spain was bound to restrain, *by force*, the Indians within her territories, from committing hostilities against the United States, or their citizens; but, as having deeply participated in the hostilities of those same Indians. You have been informed that these were the real and only causes of the occupation of those places by the commander of the American forces. Under these circumstances, however the United States may regret the necessity of that occupation, it is for the Spanish officers themselves to answer to their sovereign for the consequences of their own conduct; and the forbearance of the United States, as well as their respect for the rights and the honor of Spain are sufficiently manifested by their readiness to restore the possession, and to consign to oblivion the hostile conduct of those officers of his Catholic Majesty.

The uselessness of any stipulation on the subject of this first proposition, is further demonstrated by the nature of the second, in which you announce your authority to cede all the property and sovereignty possessed by Spain, in and over the Floridas. The effect of this measure being necessarily to remove all cause of contention between the contracting parties, with regard to the possession of those territories, and to every thing incidental to them, it would be worse than superfluous to stipulate for restoring them to Spain, in the very treaty by which they are to be ceded in full sovereignty and possession to the United States. Neither can the United States recognise as valid all the grants of land until this time; and, at the same time, renounce all their claims and those of their citizens, for damages and injuries sustained by them, & for the reparation of which Spain is answerable to them. It is well known to you, sir, that notice has been given by the Minister of the United States, in Spain, to your government, that all the grants of lands lately alleged to have been made by your government, within those territories must be cancelled, unless your government should provide some other adequate fund, from which the claims above referred to, of the United States and their citizens, may be satisfied. From the answers of Don Jose Pizarro to this notice, we have reason to expect that you will be sensible of that necessity, and that some time must be agreed upon, subsequent to which no grant of the lands within the territories in question shall be considered as valid.

The boundary line proposed by you, west of the Mississippi, can as little be assented to by the United States. Instead of it, I am authorized to propose to you the following, and to assure you that it is to be considered as the final offer on the part of the United States.

Beginning at the mouth of the river Sabine, on the Gulph of Mexico: following the course of the said river to the thirty-second degree of latitude: the eastern bank and all the islands in the said river, to belong to the United States; and western bank to Spain—thence due north to the northernmost part of the thirty-third degree of north latitude, and until it strikes the Rio Roxo, or Red River, thence following the course of the said river to its source, touching the chain of Snow Mountains in latitude 37° 25' north, longitude 106° 15' west, or thereabout, as marked on Melish's map: thence to the summit of the said mountains, and following the chain of the same to the 41st parallel of latitude; thence following the said parallel of latitude 41, to the south sea. The northern bank of the said Red River, and all the islands therein to belong to the United States, and the southern bank of the same to Spain.

It is believed that this line will render the appointment of commissioners for fixing it more precisely, unnecessary; unless it be for the purpose of ascertaining the spot where the river Sabine falls upon latitude 32, north, and the line thence due north, to the Red River, and the point of latitude 41, north, on the ridge of the Snow Mountains. To which appointment of commissioners this government will readily agree.

The United States will agree to the proposal that the contracting parties shall mutually renounce all claims for damages or injuries which they, their citizens or subjects have received from each other, until the dat of the treaty; it being always understood that all grants of lands in any part of the territories to be ceded by Spain to the United States, subsequent to the year 1802, are to be held null and void.

1st. To all the cases of claims provided for by the convention of 1802.

2d. To all cases of claims on account of captures by French privateers, and condemnations by French consuls, within the territorial jurisdiction of Spain.

3d. To all claims of indemnities, on account of the suspension of the right of deposit at New Orleans, in 1802.

4th. And to all claims of citizens of the United States upon the government of Spain, statements of which, soliciting the interposition of the government of the United States, shall have been, before the date of this treaty, and since the date of the convention of 1802, presented either to the Department of State of the United States, or to the Minister of the United States, in Spain. But not to claims which the individuals of the United States may have against those of Spain, or against the Spanish government on any other account.

The United States will exonerate Spain from all demands in future, on account of the abovementioned claims; and undertake to make satisfaction for the same, to an amount not exceeding five millions of dollars.

To ascertain the full amount and validity of those claims, a commission, to consist of three commissioners shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Which commission shall meet at Washington, and within the space of three years shall receive, examine, and decide upon the amount and validity of all claims coming within the descriptions above mentioned. And the Spanish government shall furnish all such documents and elucidations as may be in their possession, for the adjustment of the said claims, according to the principles of justice, the said documents to be specified when demanded, at the instance of the said Commissioners.

Your fifth proposition is, that the treaty of limits and navigation of 1795 shall remain in force, in all *that* each of its articles, with the exception of that part of the 15th article which stipulates that *the flag shall cover the property*.

The 2d, 3d, 4th, 21st, and the second clause of the 22d article of the treaty of 1795, have either received their entire execution, and can no longer be considered as remaining in force, or have been rendered inoperative by subsequent events. Whatever relates in them to limits, or to the navigation of the Mississippi, has been extinguished by the cession of Louisiana to France, and by her to the United States; with the exception of the line between the United States and Florida, which will also be annulled by the cession of Florida, which you now propose. I am authorized to agree to the confirmation and recognition of all the remaining articles of that treaty, as still in force. And to assent to the exception, proposed by you, of part of the 15th article, to this extent.—That if hereafter, either of the contracting parties shall be at war with a third party, and the other neutral, the flag of the neutral shall cover the property of enemies, whose governments recognize the same principle, and not of others.

Your sixth proposition is inadmissible. The United States do not know that any additional laws or declarations are necessary to secure the fulfilment on the part of Spain, of her engagements in the treaty of 1795. Numerous and just as their complaints have been, of the violations of that treaty, under the authority of Spain, they consider the Spanish government fully competent to make reparation for them, and to secure the faithful observance of their engagements in future, without new laws or declarations. Nor are they aware of any vague or arbitrary interpretation in any of the ports of this union, by which, contrary to the laws of nations, or to the stipulations of the treaty of 1795, the law is eluded. The interpretation or construction given to the stipulations of the treaty of 1795, within the United States, are subject to the decisions of the judicial tribunals of the United States, who are bound to consider all treaties as the supreme law of the land. Their proceedings are all public, and their decisions upon all questions of interpretation are recorded and published. In this there is surely nothing vague or arbitrary—nothing requiring new laws or declarations. Of the many complaints which you have addressed to this government, in relation to alleged transactions in our ports, the deficiency has been, not in the meaning or interpretation of the treaty, but in the proof of the facts which you have stated, or which have been reported to you, to bring the cases of complaint within the scope of the stipulations in the treaty.

In consideration of the cession of the Floridas, by Spain, to redress and cancel the claims of the United States and of their citizens upon Spain, and always understood that the late grants of the lands from which the indemnity for those claims is to be sought shall be held null and void, the government of the United States will certify that they have not received any compensation from France for the injuries suffered from French privateers, Consuls and tribunals on the coasts and in the ports of Spain, and will present an authentic statement of the prizes made, and of their value, that Spain may avail herself of it in such manner as she may deem just and proper.

Upon the basis offered by your propositions, modified conformably to the observations now submitted to you, I am authorised to conclude a treaty with you. But, as the session of Congress is at hand, I am directed to request your immediate and frank reply to this communication. The President is deeply penetrated with the conviction, that further protracted discussion of the points at issue between our governments cannot terminate in a manner satisfactory to them. From your answer to this letter he must conclude whether a final adjustment of all our differences is now to be accomplished, or whether all hope of such a desirable result is, on the part of the United States, to be abandoned.

I pray you to accept the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

Don Luis de Onis to the Secretary of State.

[TRANSLATION.]

Sir: I have attentively perused the note of the 31st of October last, which you addressed to me, by order of your government, in answer to mine of the 24th of the same month—by which I perceive that you have received the President's orders not to take into consideration the legal titles and grounds on which Spain rests her rights and claims to the sovereignty of the territories and waters claimed by your government, as forming an integral part of Louisiana, as it was retroceded by his Catholic Majesty to France, in 1800, and sold or ceded by the government of that nation to the United States, in 1803. As these rights and claims repose on a basis as solid and as venerable as that which can be presented by the most equitable government on earth, to demonstrate its legitimate property to the country it possesses, I should be wanting in my duty, were I not to maintain the same principles which I advanced in my former notes to you on this head. Being self-evident, they are as incontrovertible and invariable as the fundamental principles of universal justice. It is impossible to reject or impugn them without attacking those original and primitive titles which do, and ever have sanctioned, throughout the whole world, the rights of property and complete sovereignty, enjoyed by all independent states and kingdoms, in their respective acquisitions. You assert the indisputable right of the United States to the river Mississippi, I say, and the fact is obvious, that, even admitting your assertion in its fullest latitude, notwithstanding no argument has ever been advanced by the United States to establish it, and that it is contradicted by the most unquestionable documents and proof, the pretension to extend your claims beyond the Missouri, would always be inconsistent and exorbitant. Even the absurd and extravagant grant of Louis 14th to Crozat, does not point out a greater extent, as respects the frontiers of New Mexico and other Spanish settlements and possessions, which existed long before the time that grant was made, and before the famous expedition of Mr. La Salle. Keeping, therefore, in view the truth of facts, and the immutable principles of things, and endeavoring to reconcile them with the sincere and uniform desire of his Catholic Majesty to remove, on his part, the obstacles that have opposed the amicable adjustment of all existing differences between the two powers, as far as is consistent with the rights and dignity of his royal crown, I will approximate my proposals, as nearly as is possible for me, to those you have made me, on the part of your government.

The first refers to the satisfaction due by the United States to His Catholic Majesty, and to his subjects, in consequence of the invasion and capture of Pensacola, and other forts and territories in the Floridas. You must be sensible that it is impossible for me to desist from the demand of a just and adequate reparation or indemnity to His Majesty, and the inhabitants of both provinces, and particularly those of Pensacola, for all losses and injuries by them sustained from the officers and troops of the United States. No principle can be adduced to support or justify the hostile proceedings of Gen. Jackson in Florida, marked, as they are, by a series of outrages unprecedented and unknown in history. The American commander on that occasion, as your government itself admits, acted contrary to the orders and instructions given to him. Public opinion in the United States has uniformly reprobated these excesses, as well as all the specious pretexts with which he has endeavored to gloss them over. The charges artfully produced against the Spanish commandants and officers, are entirely frivolous, and are contradicted by the well known truth of facts, and the formal declarations and statements of those same Spanish officers, so that, in every view of the case, the United States are in justice bound, by the most solemn obligations, to make satisfaction to the crown and subjects of Spain, for the said losses and injuries. The Spanish government are, in like manner, entitled to the full amount of all revenue collected and received by the United States, in the places and territories occupied by them in the said provinces—since, as the sovereignty of Spain is indisputable, she could in no wise be dispossessed of her right to receive her revenues; and this point was from that time reserved as an object of future discussion. I shall be happy to contribute, as far as in my power, to this arrangement, and to the stipulation of a fair sum to be paid by the United States, for all such damages, that all discussion may thus be speedily and amicably terminated.

My second proposal has been admitted by your government, with this modification, that all grants and sales of lands, made by His Catholic Majesty, or by lawful Spanish authorities, in the Floridas, from the year 1802 to the present, shall be null and void. To this modification, in its absolute sense, I cannot assent, inasmuch as it is offensive to the dignity and imprescriptible rights of the crown of Spain, which, as the legitimate owner of both Floridas, had a right to dispose of the lands as it pleased; and, further, as the said modification would be productive of incalculable injury to the *bona fide* possessors, who have acquired, settled, and improved these tracts of land. The extent of what I can agree to, is, that the late grants made by His Majesty, in the Floridas, since the 24th January last, the date of my first note, announcing His Majesty's willingness to cede them to the United States, (the said grants having been made with a view to promote population, cultivation, and industry, and not with a view of alienating them,) shall be declared null and void, in consideration of the gratuities not having complied with the essential conditions of the cession, as has been the fact.

My third proposal refers to the boundary line to be established between the possessions of the crown of Spain and those of the United States. Acceding, as far as is possible for me to do, to the modifications proposed by you and with a view of offering to the United States an additional proof of my wish to remove existing difficulties, I will undertake to admit the river Sabine, instead of the Mermento, as the boundary between the two powers, from the Gulf of Mexico, on condition that the same line proposed by you shall run due north from the point where it crosses the river Roxo, (Red river,) till it strikes the Mississippi, and extend thence along the middle of the latter to its source, leaving to Spain the territory lying to the right, and to the United States the territory lying to the left of the same.

What you add respecting the extension of the same line beyond the Missouri, along the Spanish possessions to the Pacific Ocean, exceeds, by its magnitude, and its transcendency, all former denisnds and pretensions asserted by the United States. Confining, therefore, myself to the powers granted to me by my sovereign, I am unable to stipulate any thing on this point, which may remain open for further negotiation, as I have no doubt of His Majesty's disposition to agree to the appointment of a joint commission, to determine and establish the future boundaries, from the source of the Mississippi to the north and west, in a manner conformable to the titles and documents of property and possession, respectively exhibited. Leaving, therefore, this point unsettled, as I have just observed, I conceive that my proposal for the adjustment of boundaries will be attended with no difficulty whatever.

My fourth proposal to your government has for its object the renunciation, by both governments and nations, of all claims for spoliations respectively suffered by either of the two powers, for their subjects, until the signing of the treaty. This proposal has been admitted by your government, with the exception of such claims as American citizens may have on the subjects of His Catholic Majesty, or on the Spanish government, and which have not been laid before the Department of State of the United States, or their Minister at the court of Spain. I have no hesitation in assenting to this exception; but it should be made reciprocal for the subjects of the crown of Spain, who may be entitled to claims on American citizens, or on the government of the United States, and which have not yet been presented, in due form, to His Majesty's Secretary of State, or to his Minister near the United States. My proposal will thus be free from difficulty, and conform to the modifications you have suggested.

Nor do I find any difficulty in agreeing to the modifications you offer to my fifth proposal; and, proceeding to the sixth, the object of which is to remedy the abuses and violations, repeated & malicious examples of which have occurred in different ports of this Republic, through the toleration and countenance given therein to piratical and privateering armaments against the commerce and navigation of Spain, I observe you state that what I propose is inadmissible; but I have received orders from my sovereign to insist on this point, and to claim of your government such measures as are imperiously called for by the very nature of these abuses and violations, as they not only contravene the existing treaty, but are in direct opposition to the most respectable compacts, founded on international and public law. Whatever may be the forecast, wisdom, and justice conspicuous in the laws of the United States, it is universally notorious that a system of pillage and aggression has been organized in several ports of the Union, against the vessels and property of the Spanish nation; and it is equally so, that all the legal pursuits hitherto instituted by His Majesty's consuls in the courts of their respective districts, for its prevention, or the recovery of the property, when brought into this country, have been, and still are completely unavailing. The artifices and evasions, by means of which the letter of the law has, on these occasions, been constantly eluded, are sufficiently known, and even the combination of interests in persons who are well known, amongst whom are some holding public offices. With a view to afford you and the President more complete demonstration of the abuses, aggressions, and piracies alluded to, I enclose you correct lists, extracted from authentic documents deposited in the archives of this legation, exhibiting the number of privateers or pirates fitted out in the United States, against Spain, and of the prizes brought by them into the ports of the Union, as well as of those sent to other ports, together with the result of the claims made by Spanish consuls in the courts of this country. Among them you will find the case of the two armed ships, the Horatio and the Curiazo, built at New-York, and detained by His Majesty's consul there, on the ground of their having on board 30 pieces of cannon, concealed, with their carriages, and a crew of 160 men. On which occasion it was pretended that it could not be proved that these guns were not an article of commerce, and they finally put to sea without them, the extraordinary number of officers and crew passing for passengers. The number of privateers or pirates fitted out and protected in the ports of this Republic, as well as of the Spanish prizes made by them, far exceeds that contained in the within lists; but I only lay before your government those of which I have certain and satisfactory proofs. The right of Spain to an adequate indemity for all the spoliations committed by these privateers or pirates, on the crown and subjects of His Catholic Majesty, is undeniable; but I now submit it to your government only to point out the extreme necessity of putting an end to these continued acts of hostility and depredation, and of putting short these enormous and flagrant abuses and evils, by the adoption of such effectual precautions and remedies as will put it out of the power of cupidity or ingenuity to defeat or elude them. In vain would we endeavor amicably to settle and accommodate all existing differences, and thus establish peace and good understanding between the two nations, if the practice of these abuses, and the course of these hostilities and piracies on the commerce and navigation of Spain, should, as heretofore, continue uninterrupted in the United States. From the tenor of the documents now enclosed, and the reflections suggested by the very nature and state of things, the President cannot hesitate to assent to my proposal on this subject; and, as the Congress is now in session, I feel assured that the proper opportunity is afforded for the adoption of the necessary measures I have alluded to, and which I solicit, as an essential basis of securing and maintaining a mutual friendship and good understanding between the two nations.

My seventh proposal having likewise been accepted by your government, I agree to what you propose in answer thereto.

If my proposals, thus modified, should be agreed to by your government, I am ready to sign them, after they are corrected and reduced to proper form, and augmented by such others, although inferior and of minor importance, as are consequent on them, and essential in giving due solidity to the inestimable blessing of peace and good understanding between the two governments, and in avoiding every difficulty and disagreement in future between the individuals and authorities of either nation.

I flatter myself that, by what I have just submitted, I give you and every impartial person a convincing proof of the generosity, frankness and good faith of His Catholic Majesty's government in the present negotiation, and of my sincere and uniform desire to terminate it to the satisfaction of both powers. I shall add, that, relying on His Catholic Majesty's wish, to see a final arrangement speedily and amicably effected, if it should be proposed only to draw the line, from the point mentioned on the Red River (Rio Roxo) somewhat obliquely (con alguna oblicuidad) to the Westward of the right line due north, which I offer as the boundary of the two countries, I shall not hesitate to take upon myself the arrangement of this point, it being always understood that the proposed line shall strike the Missouri.

Having thus approximated my proposals to the modifications offered by you, as closely as my duty and powers permit me, I have the hope that they will be accepted by your government, as they offer great sacrifices on the part of Spain in favor of the United States—but if unfortunately they should not, and the President still insists on those which you communicated to me, as well as on the peremptory declaration that neither they, nor the documents which I have offered to produce in support of the sovereignty of the crown of Spain to all the territory claimed by the United States, can be further discussed, the only discretionary power left me is to request of the President, in the name of my sovereign, that the negotiation, in its actual state, may be submitted to the decision of the great Monarchs now assembled in Congress at Aix La Chapelle, in either of which cases, I will immediately despatch a Courier to my Court with all the necessary information for His Catholic Majesty, that His Majesty may decide on the measures most proper to be adopted on the occasion.

I trust that you will communicate to me the decision of the President; in the mean time, I offer you the renewed assurances of my respectful and distinguished consideration. God preserve you many years.

LUIS DE ONIS.

Washington, 16th November, 1818.

The Secretary of State to Don Luis de Onis.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 30th Nov. 1818.

Sir: I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 16th instant, and am directed by the President to inform you, that in making to you the proposal contained in

my letter of the 31st of last month, with regard to the western boundary between the United States and the bordering territory of Spain, it was with the view, by the magnitude of the sacrifice which it involved, on the part of the United States, to manifest the deep solicitude which he felt, in terminating, by a general adjustment of all the differences which have been so long in discussion between the two nations, a state of things so unpropitious to the good understanding between them, and so much to be regretted by both.

As it was believed this article could alone present an ultimate obstacle to the agreement thus earnestly desired, I was directed frankly to present you at once the utmost extent to which the government of the United States felt itself warranted, consistently with its duties to the rights and interests of the nation, to concede, of those unquestionable rights, to accommodate the wishes and to quiet the pretensions of your sovereign. But, in yielding thus much, you were explicitly notified that the proposition was final, and that upon your acceptance of it depended the only remaining hope, in the mind of the President, of a termination to this negotiation satisfactory to both parties.

As you have now declared that you are not authorized to agree, either to the course of the Red River (Rio Roxo) for the boundary, nor to the 41st parallel of latitude from the Snow Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, the President deems it useless to pursue any further the attempt to an adjustment of this object by the present negociation. I am therefore directed to state to you, that the offer of a line for the westward boundary, made to you in my last letter, is no longer obligatory upon this government.

Reserving then all the rights of the United States to the ancient western boundary of the colony of Louisiana by the course of the Rio Bravo del Norte, I am yet authorized to conclude a convention or treaty with you upon the other subjects of existing difference. But it is proper, in the first instance, and in reference to the first of the propositions made by you on the 24th of last month, to correct an erroneous impression which you entertain, and which is certainly not warranted by any communication which you have received from this government. You have been informed that the contingencies upon which Gen. Jackson adopted those measures which you represent as hostilities and outrages, not having been anticipated, had not been provided for in his instructions; that they were unforeseen emergencies, upon which, judging measures of energy necessary, he had recurred to them upon his own responsibility, and upon motives which he had, himself, explained; that these measures were dictated by the hostile spirit, not of the American commander against Spain, but of the Spanish commanders against the United States. I informed you that the President of the United States had directed that the proofs of this hostility to the United States, of those Spanish officers, furnished by Gen. Jackson, should be embodied and presented to the government of his Catholic Majesty, with a demand that the misconduct of those officers should be suitably punished. I have now the honor of stating to you that this has accordingly been done; that the proofs collected by Gen. Jackson, together with others accumulating demonstration of the justice of his charges against Don Jose Mazot, Governor of Pensacola, and Don Francisco C. Luengo, commandant of St. Marks, have been forwarded to the Minister of the United States in Spain, with instructions to lay them before your government, and to call for their just animadversion upon the violation, by those officers, of the solemn engagements of their country to the United States.

After full and deliberate examination of these proofs, the President deems them irresistibly conclusive, that the horrible combination of robbery, murder, and war, with which the frontier of the United States bordering upon Florida has, for several years past, been visited, is ascribable altogether to the total and lamentable failure of Spain to fulfil the 5th article of the treaty of 1795, by which she stipulated to restrain, by force, her Indians from hostilities against the citizens of the United States. Without adverting to the transactions of the late war between the United States and Great Britain, who can mistake the character of the fact, that a fort on Spanish soil was garrisoned by hundreds of negroes and Indians, with an English banner flying upon its wall, for the desolation of the American borders; and that, sixteen months after the peace of America and of England, the Governor of Pensacola called upon Gen. Jackson to break up this lair of human tigers, pleaded his inability and want of orders from his Governor General to comply with the request? Who can mistake the character of the fact, that, six months after the strong hold of those savage banditti had been blown up, by a shot from an American gun vessel, a pretended Indian trader, a foreigner, both to Florida and to Spain, was permitted to come into a Spanish province, there to bribe the savages by presents, and to stimulate them, by the grossest falsehoods and absurdest misrepresentations, to war against the Americans? Do the Governors of Florida, the instant they learn the appearance of this intruding incendiary within their jurisdiction, seize and imprison him? Do they even command him to depart from the province? Nay, do they so much as require him to obey the laws and respect the engagements of their nation, and the duties of their stations? Far from it: Alexander Arbuthnot, a British subject, from the island of New Providence, lands in the Spanish province of Florida, and there opens a warehouse for traffic with the Indians—By whose license or permission? It has not been the custom of Spain to allow the subjects of foreign powers to intrude upon her colonial possessions, and more than one American citizen is at this moment pining in the dungeons of Spain for having set his foot upon their soil. By whose permission then was Arbuthnot allowed to intermeddle in the province of Florida, even had it been only for the purpose of innocent trade with the Indians? Had he a license, or had he not? If he had, it is for the Governors of Florida to explain, by whom, and upon what motives it was granted. If he had not, it is for them to show, why he was suffered, within their jurisdiction, to trample upon the laws of Spain with impunity. But innocent traffic was not the real purpose of Arbuthnot. He was there to stimulate, as well the Indians of Florida as the fugitive outlaws from the Creek nation among them, to war against the United States. He was goading them by the absurd pretence, that the United States were bound, by the treaty of Ghent, to give up to them the lands within the borders of the United States, which had been ceded by the Creek nation to the United States six months before the treaty of Ghent was signed. With the profoundest treachery to those Indians, themselves, he was promising them that the British government would support them in this pretence, and was writing letters to the Governor of New Providence, to the British Minister here, and, through Col. Nicholls in England, to the British government, soliciting arms and ammunition, for war against the United States. Nor was this all: he obtained from a number of Indian chiefs a power of attorney authorizing him to write letters and deliver talks, in their name and behalf, and to the copy of that power, transmitted by him to England, to be laid before the British government, was affixed the signature and *approbation* of F. C. Luengo, commandant of St. Marks. By virtue of the same power, he wrote, in the name of those Indians, a letter to the Governor General of the Havana, falsely pretending that the Americans were settling upon their lands, within the Spanish territory, and calling upon him forthwith to drive them out. This letter, too, asserts, that its contents were sanctioned by the approbation of the commandant of St. Marks.

Arbuthnot was taken by Gen. Jackson at St. Marks, and was then an inmate of the family of the commandant. Among his papers was found a letter from the commandant, written shortly before, styling him his *friend*, giving him notice of the approach of the American force, and advising him to come and provide for the safety of his *little affairs*, and hold consultation with him upon subjects which *could not with prudence be committed to writing*. What consciousness of participation in the abominable purposes of Arbuthnot is betrayed in those few words! What were those common concerns of an English Indian trader and of the Spanish commandant of a fort, which required so thick a veil of mystery to conceal them from detection, that this officer should be afraid to expose them to the possibility of discovery, by committing them to paper? They were, that St. Marks was the centre of Arbuthnot's intrigues with the Indians against the United States; that councils of the hostile Indians were held at the commandant's quarters, at which he personally attended; that white men, Spanish subjects, inhabitants of Florida, had been taken prisoners by the Indians, under the influence, and by the direction of Arbuthnot, reserved by the Indians for torture, delivered as prisoners to the custody of the commandant of St. Marks: received by him as prisoners, and held as such until delivered by General Jackson's approach to that place. They were, in fine, that St. Marks had, in substance, become an Indian fort, under a Spanish standard; and to such an extent did the commandant countenance the savages in their depredations upon the borders of the United States, that he actually contracted with some of them to purchase cattle, to be robbed by them from the citizens of Georgia; actually purchased them after they had been robbed, and actually sold them, as his private property, to the purveying officers of Gen. Jackson's army, after he took possession of the fort.

It is to the artifices and instigations of Arbuthnot, thus, to say the least, tolerated by the governor of Pensacola, and thus aided and abetted by the commandant of St. Marks, that this war with the Seminole Indians has been due. But for them it would undoubtedly never have happened. If no direct proof has appeared that the governor of Pensacola was implicated in the criminal proceedings of Arbuthnot as deeply as the commandant of St. Marks, ample evidence has been produced of his having aided, assisted and sheltered the Indians; of his having, as long as he dared, furnished them with supplies, including munitions of war. And his hostility to the United States has been sufficiently manifested, by his exposing their army to the danger of famine, from the impediments opposed by his orders to the passage up the Escambia river of their supplies. That he harbored one Indian chief hostile to the United States, and not even belonging to Florida, is apparent by the article of the capitulation which he obtained in his favor. That he suffered another, George Perryman, to escape from Pensacola upon General Jackson's approach, and go to England, there to renew, if possible, the negociations of the Prophet Francis, is announced as a late article of news in the English journals. That a number of other Indians were enabled, by the assistance of officers under his command, to escape from Pensacola on the very day it was taken by General Jackson, is proved by the certificates of several witnesses. And, lastly, he did not hesitate to write a letter to that commander before he took Pensacola, threatening, in the event of his not immediately withdrawing from Florida, to resist what he termed his aggressions, by force.

It is, therefore, to the conduct of her own commanding officers that Spain must impute the necessity under which General Jackson found himself of occupying the places of their command. Had the engagements of Spain been fulfilled, the United States would have had no Seminole war. Far, then, from being under obligation to indemnify the crown of Spain for any losses which it may have sustained in consequence of this necessity, the United States are entitled to demand, and the Minister of the United States at Madrid has been instructed accordingly, that the crown of Spain should indemnify them for the extraordinary and indispensable expences which they have been compelled to incur, by the prosecution of this war, which Spain was bound to prevent. The revenue collected, in the places occupied, is very far from being adequate to that object. As to losses or injuries to the inhabitants, as private property, both at St. Marks and Pensacola, has been inviolably respected, no injury can have happened to them, for which the United States should be responsible.

With respect to the other articles suggested in your propositions of 24th October, and your observations upon the modifications to them proposed by me, as well as to other objects of minor concernment, to which your last note alludes, I am not aware of any insuperable obstacle to our coming to an agreement upon them. Should your instructions authorize you to waive the further consideration of these articles, upon which I have now communicated to you the final determination of the President, and to proceed in the discussion of the rest, I shall be happy to confer with you verbally concerning them, as soon as may suit your convenience. After the explicit answer given you in my note of 12th March last, to your proposal of referring the differences between our governments to the mediation of Great Britain, and the reasons there assigned for declining that overture, the offer which you make of referring them to the allied monarchs, whom you state to be now assembled at Aix-la-Chapelle, was not to be expected. As you have, however, thought proper to make it, I refer you to my abovementioned note for the grounds on which it is declined. If you do not feel yourself at liberty to proceed in the negociation, on the terms herein proposed, postponing the articles relative to the western boundary, and to the late transactions in Florida, I shall be ready, at your convenience, to exchange with you the ratifications of the convention of 1802.

I embrace with pleasure the occasion of renewing to you the assurance of my distinguished consideration.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

WASHINGTON.

Thursday, December 24.

The Treaty which we this day publish, by authority, is that which was concluded at Madrid, in 1802, but the ratification of which, by Spain, has been withheld until recently.

This Treaty, it will be seen, provides for the settlement, by the arbitration of Commissioners, and in the most unexceptionable manner, of all claims, prior to the year 1802, of the citizens of Spain and of the United States, respectively, for losses sustained by the depredations of citizens of the two governments, prior to the year 1802.

The claims for spoliations by French privateers carrying their prizes into the ports of Spain, during the same period, and which have been ever since the subject of negotiation, are not provided for. They are, however, expressly reserved, and the existence of the claims thus distinctly recognized.

Public Lands.—By a Report from the Land Office, in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Representatives, it appears that the amount due to the United States for purchases of the Public Lands northwest of the river Ohio, is $7,290,489. The lands sold prior to the year 1812, have been paid for, or have reverted to the United States, because the period of original credit, and the extension of time for payment, (three years) have expired. The whole amount of sales during the intermediate period have been 14,447,676; and there have been received, by the United States, 8,615,055 dollars.

We are requested by a friend to state, that Mrs. French, of Baltimore, whose personal character is esteemed no less than her vocal powers, proposes to give a Concert in this city on the evening of New Year's Day.

Fictitious distress.—We are now (says the Columbian) blest with peace and prosperity—the earth yields her fruits in abundance, and no distress is felt except by imprudent persons who have rushed their credit too far. The honest and industrious part of the community suffer some inconvenience and loss by the distracted state of the currency; but such men as avoid the bank mania have little to fear by these adverse times. Truly "wretched is that poor man who hangs on *banking* favors."

MARRIED,

At Thomas H. Wilkinson's, Esq. by the Rev. Mr. Edelin, Octavius C Taney, M. D. to Miss Jane Gray, both of Calvert County, Md.

DIED,

In Washington, N. C. on the 4th inst. Mrs. Margaret Brown, relict of Dr. G. R. Brown, of Port Tobacco, Md. Mrs. B. was far advanced in years, and, at the time of her death, was living with her only daughter, the wife of Thomas H. Blount, Esq. collector of that port. She was a woman justly esteemed for her many virtues, and her death is seriously regretted.—*Recorder.*

On Thursday evening in New York, Jane Johnson, a colored woman, native of Newark, N. J. aged 105. Her sister, aged 110, came to the city from Newark to attend her funeral.

CONGRESS.

PROCEEDINGS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23.

IN THE SENATE.

Mr. *Ruggles* presented the Memorial of the Religious Society of Friends, in the State of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, praying for the adoption of measures for the civilization and improvement of the Indians; which was referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

Mr. *Morrow* reported a bill for the relief of John Rice Jones; which was read.

The bill from the House of Representatives for the relief of Renner and Heath, and the bill making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the United States, for 1819, were received and read.

Mr. *Williams*, of Mississippi, submitted for consideration the following resolution;

Resolved, That the committe on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting by law to the state of Mississippi, certain portions of the public lands for the seat of government, and for the support of seminaries of learning within the said state.

On motion of Mr. *Johnson*, the committee on the Public Lands, was discharged from the further consideration of the petition of N. Amory, and he had leave to withdraw his petition and papers.

The bill prescribing the mode of settling controversies between two or more states, was read a second time.

The bill authorizing the people of Alabama to form a constitution, &c. the two bills from the House of Representatives, for the relief of the widows and orphans of the Militia, with some bills of minor importance, were postponed to Monday and Tuesday next; and the bill for the more convenient organization of the Courts of the United States, &c. was postponed to the first Monday in January; and

The Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. *Anderson*, of Kentucky, is appointed a member of the committee of Foreign Relations, in the place of Mr. *Allen*, of Vermont, resigned.

Mr. *Rhea*, from the committee of Pensions, made an unfavorable report on the petition of Archibald Felts and Henry Tatum.

Mr. *Smith*, of Maryland, from the committee of Ways and Means, who were specially instructed to enquire into the expediency of allowing goods on which the duty had been paid or secured, to be transported coastwise, to one or more districts within the United States, without loss or debenture, made a report against the expediency of this measure; which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. *Smith* also reported a bill to encrease the duty on cotton imported into the United States, and to prohibit the allowance of drawback on the exportation of gunpowder; which was twice read.

Mr. *Smith* also reported a bill to authorize payment in certain cases, on account of Treasury Notes which have been lost or destroyed; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. *Poindexter* reported, from the committee of Public Lands, a bill to extend, for the term of twelve months, the time allowed to J. J. Dufour, and his associates, of Vevay, Ind. for completing the payment for the lands purchased by them from the United States.

On this bill arose a debate, which wholly occupied the house until the usual hour of adjournment; in the course of which, the bill was so amended as to make the extension for six, instead of twelve months.

The debate was more animated, than at the first glance, one would have expected such a question to produce. The petitioners ask this indulgence, because such money as they have, the receiver of public monies will not take from them. The bill therefore was supported on various grounds, on the reasonableness of the request, and on the merit of the petitioners, on whom a high eulogium was pronounced. The bill was opposed on the general ground of the inexpediency of making a discrimination between these claimants and other petitioners. Messrs. *Poindexter*, *Harrison*, *Taylor*, *Hendricks*, *Trimble*, *Mercer* and *Beecher* supported the bill; and Messrs. *Williams* of N. Carolina, *Simkins*, *Mills*, *Storrs*, *M'Coy*, *Sergeant* and *Desha*, opposed it.

The question on ordering the bill to a third reading having been taken by Yeas and Nays, was decided in the affirmative: Yeas 73: Nays 67.

And the House adjourned.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

The following is the letter from the President of the Bank of the United States, accompanying the Report to Congress of the state of the Bank, from which we have already extracted all the tabular statements which appeared to be materially important:

Bank of the United States, Nov. 11, 1818.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit the statements required by the resolution of the Senate of the 15th of April, a copy of which you were pleased to communicate in your letter of the 17th of June last.

The statements are numbered in the order of the several members of the resolution, and the details and accompanying remarks, it is considered, will render them perfectly intelligible.

In respect to the payments, made on account of the cash part of the second and third instalments of the capital of the bank, it is impossible to designate the amount actually paid in coin.

When the second instalment became due, the Bank of the United States was in operation, and had issued a large amount of its notes: bills were also discounted, and passed to the credit of individuals, and specie received on deposite; therefore, the notes of, and checks on the bank, were equivalent to specie, and would have drawn out the specie to pay the cash part of the instalments, if the literal formality of paying in specie had been required. The general course pursued by the subscribers was to deposite the coin and notes in the bank, and draw a check for the precise amount of the cash part of the instalment.

The banks in the principal cities resumed specie payments on the 20th February, 1817, and the third instalment became due on the 1st of July following: their notes were, of course, received in all payments due to the bank and to the revenue, and also on deposite, for which specie was liable to be drawn; of course, the notes of, and checks on the Bank of the United States, and the notes of the banks actually paying specie, were indiscriminately received, with gold and silver, in payment of the cash part of this instalment.

In the statement exhibiting the debts due to the bank and its offices, the amount of bills discounted bears an undue proportion to the relative trade and importance of the respective places; but the efforts of the board of directors to produce a more equal apportionment have been counteracted by circumstances which they could not control, the origin of which may be referred to the state of the currency, and of domestic exchange, at the period immediately preceding the establishment of the bank, the consequences of which are yet visible in the monied operations of those places.

The funds of the cities east of Philadelphia, derived from the sale of their imported commodities, had been suffered to accumulate during the late war, & until the establishment of the bank, chiefly in the cities of Philadelphia and Baltimore, to an immense amount, in anticipation of that event, and the prospects entertained of the consequent improvement in the currency. The public revenue had also accumulated in the middle and western sections of the United States, to the amount of many millions, particularly in the Banks of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and the District of Columbia; and the banks of those places were greatly indebted to those to the eastward of them, respectively.

Shortly after this period, as you will recollect, sir, the banks of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Virginia, agreed to resume specie payments on the 20th of February, under a special agreement with the Bank of the United States, which, in order to bring about this desirable and indispensable event, engaged its credit and resources in protecting the debtor banks, and in liquidating these immense balances, by actual remittances to the eastward, in specie and bills at par, as the only possible means of maintaining what had been so happily begun. In the mean time, the public deposites in the banks of those places, which had been transferred to the Bank of the United States, and the revenue subsequently collected in the same, were chiefly expended in the cities east of the Susquehanna.

These circumstances have constantly maintained so great a demand for exchange in the eastern cities, that the directors have been unable to extend the discounts at the offices at New York and Boston, as they have earnestly desired to do, without getting into debt to the banks of those places, and incurring the immediate liability to a demand of payment in specie of the large importations of which, by the Bank of the United States at a great expense, not one dollar has been expended, south, or west of Philadelphia. It is a fact, corroborated by the experience of all banks, that their operations must necessarily be regulated by those of the banks in their immediate vicinity, otherwise, those which are most prudent or parsimonious, will become the creditors of those who are the most liberal or extravagant; the consequence of which is, an immediate specie responsibility. The Bank of the United States and its offices, do not form an exception to this rule, and facts have demonstrated, that a bank of very limited resources, governed by an avaricious policy, and applying its means, not to the purpose of public accommodation, but to the traffic in specie, by collecting the bills of other banks, drawing out the specie for sale, and repeating the operation daily, may subject the largest capital to incessant contribution. It is conceived, that what has been said will satisfactorily prove, that the Bank of the United States could not remit and liquidate, debts of the southern, western, and middle sections, to the eastern cities, and, at the same time, loan a large additional capital to the latter: and that, if the latter have not participated in the loans of the bank, in proportion to their great wealth and commerce, they have at least derived as substantial benefits from the operations of the bank, as any other section of the Union.

In regard to the discount on bills, secured by the pledge of public and corporate stocks, it is respectfully observed, that these loans originated in the sudden redemption of $13,000,000, of the funded debt, part of the capital of the bank, with the public funds which had been transferred to the bank in the manner represented.

This event took place a few months after the bank had commenced its operations, when few of its offices were in operation, and while the circumstances of the institution precluded the possibility of an equitable distribution of its capital.

It, therefore, became a desirable object to employ this capital for the benefit of the institution, without delay, and the only question which the case appeared to involve, was, whether the loans ought to be made on the collateral security of public and corporate stocks, or on the more precarious security of mere personal responsibility, where that species of accommodation did not appear to admit of so great an extension. The board determined upon the former course, and proceeded to discount bills on the pledge of stock, without regard to persons or place, and indiscriminately to the extent which it was offered, and of course the greatest loans have been where the greatest amount of stock was held. The whole amount of the loans on pledged stock of every description, have not at any time reached, by two millions, the amount of funded debt redeemed by the government; although the original amount of the funded debt, part of the capital of the bank, was intended to have been $28,000,000. To have loaned these funds in New York and Boston, would have required their previous conversion into specie, or the funds of those cities, which, from the course of exchange, and the extraordinary demand for specie, was impracticable; and, to have demanded the immediate payment of specie due by the banks in Philadelphia, Baltimore, District of Columbia, and the western country, would have been to require impossibilities. The funds were, therefore, loaned where they were current, and in their operation produced the gradual diminution of the debts due by the banks in those places, to the bank of the United States, which they had not the ability to discharge, in specie, on demand. The reason why no part of the coin in possession of the bank, is exhibited in the statement No. 2, of the existing capital of the bank, is assigned in the note annexed to that statement; but the whole amount of specie in the bank and its offices, at that time, was $2,815,208 96, as exhibited in the general statement rendered to the department.

The crisis in which the directors of the bank of the United States have acted, has been one of peculiar delicacy and difficulty. The policy and effect of their administration, cannot be appreciated by an abstract view of any single measure: it must be taken in connexion with every other which it involves. They have earnestly endeavored to promote the interests of the public and of the institution, but they disclaim the presumption that would exempt them from error.

I have the honor to remain, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant, WM. JONES, President.

The hon. Wm. H. Crawford,
Secretary of the Treasury, Washington city.

☞ *In conformity to established usage, Friday being Christmas Day, no paper will be issued from this office on the day following.*

CITY COUNCIL.

THE Members of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Common Council of the City of Washington, are requested to meet at the Council Chamber, THIS AFTERNOON at 3 o'clock, on business of importance.

By order of the Mayor.

WM. HEWITT, } Secretaries.
dec 24— P. D. STELLE, }

FANCY STORE,

Opposite Mr. Raphael Jones's, Georgetown.

JOHN CLAXTON solicits the attention of his friends, and the citizens of Georgetown and Washington, to a variety of FANCY ARTICLES, just received by late arrivals. Amongst which are—a superior collection of petrifactions, such as chimney ornaments, candlesticks, vases, sugar bowls, bee hives, grottos, violet stands and egg cups; also, single and compound microscopes, pocket telescopes, patent pocket lamhorns, &c. He has on hand a few violin strings, and silver violincello, of a very superior quality. dec 24—9t

GLADE BUTTER & SEASONABLES.

FIFTY boxes fine Raisins, fine Zante Currants
4 fresh supply Jordan Almonds
Soft shelled Filberts
14 kegs fine Glade Butter
Just received and for sale by
dec 23—3t CLEMENT T. COLTE & CO.

NEGROES FOR SALE.

A Small family of Negroes, among whom is a good carpenter. For terms apply to
dec 24 3t H. & J. CASSAWAY.

GRAND LODGE.

THE officers, officers elect, and members of the Grand Lodge will meet at the Lodge Room, on Sunday the 27th inst. being St. John's day. The officers and members of the subordinate Lodges are invited to attend, as it is contemplated to have a procession. Hour of meeting 10 o'clock, a. m.

dec 24— S. BURCH, Secretary.

BLACKING FOR BOOTS, SHOES, &c.

HUDSON'S Superior Japan Blacking for boots, shoes &c. of a very superior quality, for sale by
dec 23— DAVID OTT.

PUBLIC SALES.

THIS DAY at 11 o'clock.

BY JOHN PEABODY, Auctioneer.

WILL be sold, this day at 11 o'clock, a variety of seasonable Dry Goods, making a good assortment, viz.

Black, Brown, Blue, Mixt } Cloths
20 pieces flushings
Flannels
Baize
Shawls
Handkerchiefs
India cottons
Calicoes
Linens
Flat ties
Hosiery
Cotton drawers
Umbrellas, &c.

Also, hats, shoes, plated castors, coasters, candlesticks, watches, chains, seals, rings, &c.

☞ The sales will be continued at candle light

Georgetown, dec 24—

EVENING SALE.

ON Saturday the 26th, at early candle light, will be sold, a variety of Dry Goods and Fancy articles, in lots to suit purchasers.

J. PEABODY, auct.
Georgetown, dec 22—

MARSHAL'S SALE.

WILL be exposed at public auction, on Monday the 25th day of January next, for ready money, at John Davis's tavern, on the Pennsylvania avenue, in the city of Washington, at 12 o'clock meridian, the following real property, viz. all that part of a tract of land called "The Widow's Mite," containing about seven acres, situated on Rock creek, above Georgetown, together with the paper mill & all other buildings and improvements thereon, or thereunto belonging, and which said property is now in the tenure and possession of Mr. Joseph Gibson

Also, at the same time and place, the following lots of ground, situated in the city of Washington, viz. lot No. 18, in sq. 634; lots no. 2, 4, 5, 7 & 10, in sq. No 683; lots No. 4 & 7 in square No. 685; No. 8 in square No. 725; No. 4, in square 758; Nos. 8, 9, 12 and 13, in square 759; Nos. 4, 7 and 14, in square 786; No. 4, 8, 9 and 13, in square 787; Nos 6 and 8, in square No 762; No. 5, 7, 12 and 16, in square 793; and No. 9 and 13, in square No. 761 Seized and taken by virtue of a writ of fieri facias, issued out of the Circuit Court for the county of Washington, in said district of Columbia, at the suit of the President and Directors of the Union Bank of Georgetown, and to me directed. TENCH RINGGOLD,

dec 24—eots Marshal D. C.

THIS EVENING—at early candle light.

BOOK AUCTION.

ON Thursday the 24th inst. at early candle light, will be sold at our auction rooms, an assortment of valuable Law and Miscellaneous Books, Stationery, watches, &c. now open for inspection, and Catalogues ready for delivery on Wednesday.

dec 22 TUCKER & SON, auct.

POSTPONED SALE.

MARSHAL'S SALE.

IN virtue of sundry writs of fieri facias, issued out of the hon. Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, and to me directed, I shall expose at public sale, for cash, on Thursday, the 24th day of December, at 12 o'clock, noon, on the premises, all the rights, titles and interests of John M'Gowan, Toppan Webster, and James Patterson, to the following described property, viz. all that part of lot numbered 3, in square numbered 225 on the plan of the city of Washington, contained within the following metes and bounds, and beginning for the same at the south west corner of the said lot on Pennsylvania avenue, and running with the line of the public alley about one hundred feet to an alley; thence with said last mentioned alley about twenty six feet; thence parallel with the first mentioned alley about one hundred feet; thence to the line of Pennsylvania avenue to the beginning; together with the buildings and tenements thereon erected. Seized and taken in execution as the property of said M'Gowan, Webster and Patterson, and sold to satisfy certain judgments due to Robert Brent, use of the Patriotic Bank.

Also, at the same time and place, a great variety of household furniture, consisting of beds, beds-steads, tables, chairs, &c. &c.

TENCH RINGGOLD,

nov 21—2awts Marshal D. C.

☞ The above sale is postponed until Thursday the 7th day of January next, at the hour above mentioned.

dec 24—

POSTPONED SALE.

PUBLIC SALE

Of Military Clothing and Camp Equipage.

AT John Peabody's auction rooms, Georgetown, will be sold by public auction, on Thursday the 24th inst. at 11 o'clock a m a parcel of military clothing and camp equipage, without reserve, the same being reformed, and partly damaged

Blue coats, linen overalls, linen gaithers
Leather caps, leather stocks
Blankets knapsacks, hospital sheets
And a large quantity pewter cap plates

By order of the Commissary General of Purchases,

J. LAVAL, Military Storekeeper,
dec 22—3t Washington

☞ The above sale is indefinitely postponed.

dec 24—

This Day, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

FURNITURE AT AUCTION.

WILL be sold on Thursday the 24th at 10 o'clock a m at the house now occupied by N. P Bixby, nearly opposite the Union Bank, Bridge street, Georgetown, a quantity of household and kitchen furniture, consisting of the following articles:

2 large mahogany sideboards
Dining and breakfast tables, of mahogany
1 dozen fancy rush bottomed chairs
3 do windsor chairs
6 feather beds, 3 matrasses,
1 sofa, 2 bureaus, 1 mahogany bedstead
2 looking glasses, 3 carpets, &c.
With a quantity of kitchen furniture.

Bills will be printed and distributed on the morning of sale. ELIJAH WERVIS, auct

Georgetown, dec 22— for N. P. Bixby & Co.

THIS DAY at 12 o'clock.

PUBLIC SALE.

ON Thursday the 24th inst. will be sold, at 12 o'clock on the premises, in square No. 103, two valuable corner lots, fronting on I and 19th streets; sold subject to a claim of Mrs. Redgley, and some balance due to the estate of Benjamin Stoddart, deceased, which will be explained at the time of sale, when it is hoped punctual attendance will be given by those who may wish to purchase, as the sale will take place precisely at the hour mentioned.

J. M SPEAKE,
Trustee of Thomas Johnson, an insolvent debtor.
dec 18— D. BATES, auct.

THIS DAY at 12 o'clock.

PUBLIC SALE.

WILL be sold at public auction, on Monday the 21st inst. at 2 o'clock p.m. on the premises, part of lot No. 2, in square 431, fronting 20 feet on 8th street, running back 114 feet, situated between the General Post Office and the Centre market with a neat little two story brick house thereon. Terms, one half cash, the balance in six months. D. BATES, auct.

dec 18—

The above sale is postponed until Thursday next, the 24th inst. at 12 o'clock.

dec 22—

National Intelligencer.

The proposition to authorize the People of the Alabama territory to form a State Government, and for its admission into the Union, was yesterday under discussion in the Senate. The bill proposes that the Members of the Convention shall be apportioned according to the present territorial apportionment; and that the Convention shall assemble at Huntsville on the 1st Monday in July next. The population, according to a certified copy of the census, laid before the Senate, was, some months ago, found to be 67,000 souls, and has since increased by emigrations in a surprizing degree. The sales of public lands in the Alabama territory have been very extensive, and are estimated already to have amounted to *ten millions of dollars*. During the last year, it is believed the sales have exceeded four millions of dollars in that territory alone.

WINTER SOLSTICE.—Dec. 22, 1818.

The centre of the Sun is on the tropic of Capricorn this morning, (Dec. 22) at 9′ and 55″ past 4 o'clock. His centre is then *vertical* to a point on that tropic, in the longitude of 178°, 1′ and 15″ east of the capitol; and in the *horizon*, to a point on the arctic circle, in the same longitude. The first of these points is between Madagascar an Africa; the other is at Cape Bund, of the White Sea, in Russia. Z.

The Corao del Orinoco, of the 10th of October, mentions the resolves of the Kentucky Legislature in favor of the South American cause, and the speech of Mr. Clay on the same subject; and it expresses gratitude to the defenders of their cause in the United States. We are glad to perceive the editors of the new states of South America so attentive to the conduct of those republican friends who advocate their cause in this country.—*Gazette.*

NEW-YORK, DEC. 18.

From Venezuela.—We have a letter from Venezuela of Nov. 6, and a paper of a late date. Bolivar had, by a proclamation, resigned his office to the people, who were to elect a successor. He declared he would accept of a military station only, and, the first day of peace, he would retire to private life. Our correspondent represents him as an imbecile usurper who resigns from necessity only. It is believed the Independents will soon attain their object during the present campaign.—*Columbian.*

Valuable improvement.—A few days since (says the Albany Register) we had occasion to call at the shop of Messrs. Van Vechten and Seymore, Book binders, manufacturers and fancy binders, where we witnessed with much pleasure an improvement which cannot but be interesting to the merchant and mechanic. It was a machine which ruled *both sides of the sheet at once*, and with a rapidity and beauty truly astonishing. By means of this labor-saving machine, (the inventor of which we do not recollect) paper can be ruled at about 75 per cent cheaper than heretofore. Those acquainted with the process of ruling for blank books, can appreciate its value when we inform them that two lads in the shop have repeatedly faint-lined a ream of paper on *both sides*, *in twelve minutes.*

UNITED STATES' BANK.

FROM THE BALTIMORE PATRIOT.

We find the New-York papers still continue their censures against the United States Bank for the loans made to the south and west, and we really think without reason, as the following facts will plainly shew. It is then a fact, that the whole amount subscribed to the Bank of the United States, north and east of Philadelphia, did not exceed five millions of dollars; that the subscribers subsequently sold out three million—so that the rich state of New-York, with New-Jersey, and all the New-England States, now own but about two millions of stock in said bank. It is a fact, that Charleston, S. C. owns more stock than New-York, New-Jersey, and all the New-England states, and that Baltimore owns near four times as many shares. It is a fact, that the branches east of Philadelphia have been a dead weight on the mother bank, and that the institution would have gained more than half a million of dollars, if she had never established a bank in N. York, & east of it, for the whole gross amounts of their discounts will not make good to the institution the loss in the specie sent there, and which exceeds seven millions of dollars. It is a fact, that the southern and western branches have not received one dollar in specie from the mother bank, but have sent to the bank at Philadelphia three millions of dollars. It is a fact, that the southern and western branches have paid nearly all their expenses out of profits made on exchanges, and that nearly the whole gross receipt for discounts has been divided as profits. If the same could be said of the New-York and the eastern branches, the situation of the institution would be far different from what it is now; for the small dividend made in July, and still smaller which probably will be made in January, are entirely to be attributed to the losses sustained by the bank, in furnishing New-York and Boston with specie. Now, who have a right to complain, the southern stockholders, or the New-York merchants?

Northern Canal.—The season for working in the Canal having closed, it may be gratifying to the public to learn, (says the Albany Daily Advertiser,) that the operations have been so far successful, that the digging and excavating of the Canal, in its whole extent, from Fort Edward to Whitehall, with some trifling exceptions, have been completed; and that nothing no longer remains, unless there should be a failure in some of the contractors in building and constructing the locks, and which is far from being anticipated, as much of the materials are already collected and prepared, this Canal will be finished, and water communication opened between Lake Champlain and the Hudson river, before the close of another season.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Speech of Mr. HARRISON, *of Ohio, in the House of Representatives, on the bill to extend for five years longer the pensions to widows and orphans of militia killed in battle or who died in service during the late war.*

Mr. HARRISON said, that he should be amongst the last men who would attempt to introduce into this country that system of sinecures and pensions which had produced so much misery in the other hemisphere of the world, dividing almost the whole population of Europe into two very unequal divisions—the one extremely rich, the other miserably poor. There could, however, (he said) be no danger of this as long as our free constitution remains. As long as the money of the people is appropriated by the real representatives of the people, it will be given only for an equivalent public service, or for some suffering in the service claiming the public beneficence. An examination of one of the pension lists of a modern European government would present a very different aspect from that on your table. Not moderate allowances for real services, but enormous grants for nominal duties, or for services to a government whose interests are in direct hostility to the interest of the nation. It is not even the constant and unnecessary wars in which these governments are engaged that have rendered their subjects miserable, but the wild profusion and extravagance of their corrupt courts. It is this which, in the language of our great countryman, "obliges the European laborer to go supperless to bed, and moisten his bread with the sweat of his brow."

There are two kinds of suffering, said Mr. H. in the public service, which are recognized by our laws as giving a claim to the public bounty. The one in the case of wounds, or disability incurred in the army or navy of the United States. The other, an indirect suffering, as in the case of widows or children, who had lost their husbands or parents in that way. The claims of the first are not questioned. It is admitted by all, that the man who has lost a leg or an arm in serving the nation, as it lessens his ability to maintain himself, should be provided for during the continuance of his disability. But what appears to me, said Mr. H. to be a singular inconsistency: to the woman who has lost her husband who supported her, the child its parent, on whose exertions alone it depended for maintenance and education, our laws allow a limited assistance, leaving the sufferers often in a worse situation than it found them.

I consider this difference, said Mr. H. at war with the dictates of justice, of sound policy, and the first republican principles. Permit me, Mr. Speaker, said Mr. H. to ask what was the motive for the enactment of the law of 1816 in relation to pensions? Was it to establish the great national principle of indemnity to the sufferers as far as indemnity could be given? Or was it intended as a mere temporary relief, as we would throw a dollar to a beggar in the street? If the first was the motive, the law was entirely inadequate to its object. If the second was the motive, it was in his opinion unworthy of the nation.

Equality, in the contributions for the public service, is one of the first principles of our government.

The public burdens are to fall equally upon all in proportion to their means. No individual, and no family are to furnish more than their just share, either of money or of personal service, without an equivalent.

And yet here are 1800 families who have contributed more than their proportion; some of them their all for the public service. You cannot, indeed, restore the husband to the widow, the parent to the child—but you can supply their places to a considerable degree, and, I think, that it is your duty to do it.

The principle for which I contend, said Mr. H. may be more easily elucidated by applying it to a small community. Let us suppose then that 180 families were settled upon an island in the Pacific ocean, at such a distance from every civilized state as to make it necessary to form one of themselves—their situation would make it purely republican. All possessing equal right, and all bound to defend their little community against every aggression. The savages of a neighboring island attempt to dispossess the little community in which our little community is victorious, with the loss of five of their number killed and five wounded. The situation in which they would find themselves, is one for which they had not provided. The wounded men would say to the others, as we have been rendered unequal to the maintenance of our families by wounds received for the benefit of all, it is just that we should receive assistance from you to cultivate our farms. The claim would be readily admitted. As would, in the first instance, the claims of the widows and orphans of those who had fallen—but, at the end of five years, before the children of the widows had reached that age when they could labor for themselves and their mothers, they are told that they can receive no further aid whilst the wounded men are provided for for life. If this principle is admitted in our government, our militia laws are most unjust and oppressive. They require the same personal service to be rendered by all the rich and the poor. But, the rich married man is allowed to furnish a substitute—the poor married man, unable to hire one, is obliged when called upon to serve in person. As the poor, then, fight all your battles, which is, perhaps, unavoidable, it is just and right the consequences of their service should fall as lightly as possible on their families. In the late war it was to their valor and patriotism that you were indebted for the preservation of Baltimore, Norfolk and Orleans, and your northern and western frontiers. It is possible that when the great emporiums of your commerce were attacked, some wealthy men might have been found in the ranks with their poor fellow-citizens. At Baltimore, for instance, there might have been a merchant, possessed of a fortune of a half million of dollars, placed by the side of a mechanic whose family depended for support on the daily labor of his hands. The former might say to the latter, "let us remember that we fight for our country, our families, and our property, let us rather die than suffer our city to be taken." The latter might have answered—as an American citizen I shall always be willing to defend my country with my life—and, I was just thinking, how cheerfully I would meet the enemy, if my situation were like yours. If you fall, you leave your family in affluence—if the lot should be mine, I leave a beloved wife and children to the charity of an unfeeling world. Our laws are unequal and unjust; they require the same personal service of us both, when one day's labor is of more importance to my family than twenty of yours would be to your family—that I would disregard if our laws had provided that in the event of my fall, the wealth which I have sacrificed myself to defend, should be taxed to support my orphan children.

Pass but this law, sir, said Mr. H. and you take from an American citizen, called on to serve his country in the field, every motive which would prevent him from doing his duty. An American army would be a band of heroes. The tenderest feelings of our nature are not inconsistent with the most heroic bravery. There are moments when the powerful influence of domestic attachment will find its way to the bosom of the warrior, but, unmingled with any distressing reflections as to the fortune of his family, it will only prove an incentive to the performance of his duty.

Permit me, sir, said Mr. H. to give another example to shew the injustice and inequality of the existing laws in relation to pensions. It is a case as nearly similar as possible to that which was stated a few days ago by my friend from Virginia, (Mr. Barbour) and if he will give me leave I will again introduce to the House one of the widows whose case he so eloquently supported. I will take the one who has received the five years pension, and contrast the situation of herself and family with that of a neighboring lady, whose husband had lost a leg in the late war. Both husbands had performed the same services, in the same corps, and with the same rank: one lost his life, and the other his leg. To the latter, you give a pension for life, to the former a pension for five years. Is there any equality or justice in this? Is it not setting a higher value upon the leg of one man than the life of another? It may be said that in the one case it is given to the individual who suffered, in the other to his family. Sir, said Mr. H. is not the wife and the children identified with the husband and parent? The misfortune of the one is the misfortune of the other, and there should be no difference in the relief you offer them.

The principle for which I contend (said Mr. H.) is not a new one? It is sanctioned by the practice of one (at least) of the great republics of antiquity and by the opinions of some of the wisest and best men that ever lived. In the elegant work of the Abbe Barthelemy, entitled the travels of Anacharsis (an authentic history with a fictitious title, as every one knows) the author brings his supposed traveller to Athens at the period of one of the great national festivals. The ceremonies were concluded by the advance of a herald followed by a number of young men completely armed; these, said he (addressing the assembled Athenians and pointing to the youths) these are the sons of those patriots who have fallen in the service of their country; they have been educated at the public expense until they have reached the age of manhood, and are now to be dismissed to their families, clothed and armed at the expence of the state. Such was the law of Athens, promulgated by Solon, and continued without interruption for upwards of 150 years, until she was first corrupted by the gold of Philip and her liberties finally overturned in the fatal battle of Cheronea. It is mentioned by Pericles in his oration over the Athenians who fell in the first campaign of the Peloponnesian war. Referring to this law, he concludes his speech in these remarkable words—"For when virtue is best rewarded, then will patriotism most prevail." Nor is this great statesman (said Mr. H.) the only evidence I can adduce to shew the good effects produced by this law to the Athenians. [Here Mr. H. read an extract from Stanley's life of Solon, shewing the approbation given to this law by Aristides, Plato and the ancient historian Laertius, and then continued.] I consider these authorities (said he) as decisive of the good effects produced by this law in the republic of Athens—a government more nearly assimilated to our own, as it regards the principles upon which it was founded, than any other ancient or modern. After the experience of a century, the ablest statesmen and most virtuous men declared it to be one of the most powerful causes which produced that ardent patriotism and heroic valor which distinguished the period that has been emphatically denominated their age of glory.

The eulogium of Aristides upon the Athenians proves to my satisfaction at least, that the passage of the bill before the House will not produce those ruinous consequences to the treasury, which some gentlemen seem to apprehend. Himself, the incorruptible statesman who presided over the finances of his nation; the honest man who suffered exile rather than flatter the follies of his countrymen, affords the best evidence that it produced no pecuniary embarrassment to a state whose whole territory can scarcely be discovered upon a general map of Europe. Amidst all the calamities which war often brings upon a nation, the Athenians adhered to this law as the sheet anchor of their hopes. During the time it was in force their city was three times taken and twice razed to the ground. At the time that Pericles was speaking, the whole of their continental territory was in possession of their enemies, and ravaged with fire and sword. A pestilence also prevailed within the city with a malignity to which there is no parallel in record—an event which gave to a member of this House (Mr. Hopkinson) an opportunity for an historical allusion, in one of the most splendid specimens of forensic eloquence, which this country has ever witnessed.

Sir, said Mr. H. I consider that a great part of the money which may be taken from the treasury by the passage of this bill, will be as usefully employed for the benefit of the nation, as it could well be. The pious and patriotic mothers to whom it will be given, will employ it in the education of their sons, and they will never cease to remind them of the obligations they owe to their country. "Emulate the patriotism of your father," will be the reiterated lesson from childhood to manhood. To have such lessons taught to every youth in the country, I, said Mr. H. should be willing to give the yearly balances which may remain in the treasury for fifty years to come. There is something in the female character admirably calculated to gain an ascendancy over the minds of those violent, but generous youths, who are formed by nature to act a splendid part upon the theatre of the world: and who, when a proper direction is given to their passions, become the friends and benefactors of mankind. They listen with more attention to the mild admonitions of the mother, than the rougher mandates of an imperious father. It is very remarkable, that the great votaries of liberty, both ancient and modern, have received the impulse from this source. The Gracchi, Brutus and Cassius of Rome, Agis and Cleomenes of Sparta, our own Washington, and perhaps Kosciusko, are a few out of the many instances that could be adduced.

I consider, said Mr. H. the law of 1816 not only inconsistent with other laws, but with itself. It directs, that when the widow shall be married, and the children arrive at 16 years of age, the pension shall cease; but it does not make a continued provision for those who have not arrived at the age of 16; and many of the widows and children are left in a worse situation than it found them. What, for instance, can a woman with four or five young children, have been able to save, out of 48 dollars per annum? It has enabled her to procure a few comforts only, of which she will more painfully feel the want, when the means of procuring them are withdrawn, than if she had never enjoyed them. It is not my intention, nor would it be my wish, said Mr. H. to make the allowance perpetual; but to limit it, to those who had sons, to the period of their reaching the age of 16.

From the length, said Mr. H. to which some gentlemen are desirous of carrying their system of economy, I apprehend that an ideas entertained, that the wealth of the treasury is the strength of the nation. But, however true the principle may be when applied to monarchies, I deny its correctness when applied to a republic. The strength of a republic consists in the correct principles of its citizens. Money is therefore never misapplied, when it is used to disseminate correct principles among the people. Guard your treasury, says the gentleman from South Carolina. Guard it, say I, also—against every unjust claim, and every expenditure inconsistent with the nature of our government. But open it, wide as the gates of your temples, to every just claim, and for every expenditure which has for its object the interest or honor of the nation.

The gentleman from South Carolina has said that this is a popular measure: It is so, sir, said Mr. H. The money of the people could not be expended more to their satisfaction, than by the passage of this bill. Go to the American ploughman, and speak to him of Montgomery and Mercer, of Pike and of Covington, and you will touch a chord that vibrates to his soul. Ask him if he is willing that their families should be supported from the treasury, and he will answer, that, although poor, he is just and honest; although not a lettered man he knows the source of the happiness he enjoys; of the immense distance, as to rights, which separates him from the plowman of Europe—a distance as great as the wide ocean which rolls between them.

Mr. Speaker, said Mr. H. the persons who are to be benefited by the passage of this bill, do not come before you upon equal ground with the horde of claimants upon whose cases you daily decide. They are allowed to solicit for themselves—they visit the members at their lodgings, and urge their pretensions even in the streets. The veteran of the revolution, when soliciting your justice, is permitted to exhibit, upon this floor, his war-worn countenance, and his locks, bleached under the helmet: and even the maimed soldier or seaman hobbles upon his crutches to the door of your hall, to excite your pity—to ask your benevolence. But the persons whose feeble advocate I am upon this occasion, are obliged, from the delicacy of their sex, or the tenderness of their age, to confine their sorrows or their sufferings within the walls of their own cottages. But, suppose it were otherwise; suppose the many hundred widows and orphans, the relicts of the late war, were to be brought before us; with what different feelings should we vote upon this occasion. The thing cannot be; but I beg gentlemen to give some scope to their imaginations, and persuade themselves that they really see it. Here a venerable matron, followed by a large family of children; there, another, in the full bloom of beauty, a widow through choice, and under a sacred vow that the hero who had once filled her arms should never be supplied by another; the lovely boy she holds by the hand, as an orphan before it saw the light; and more & more unfortunate than Astyanax, had never been pressed in his father's arms, and dedicated to his country. What man, said Mr. H. could resist this appeal, accompanied by the reflection that their misfortune had secured his own happiness, and the safety of the nation?

It has been urged, Mr. Speaker (said Mr. H.) as a reason against the passage of this bill, that the government had done all that could be expected, having complied with all the engagements they had made, and that those who fell had done no more than their duty. I regretted extremely, (said Mr. H.) to hear an argument of this kind, and was sorry to find that the events of the late war were so illy understood, or so badly remembered. Is it intended, sir, (said Mr. H.) to assert that the government can owe no obligation to its citizens, but what is contained in a written law? This is a dangerous doctrine to promulgate: your citizens may imbibe it—and wretched, indeed, must that republic be, where the obligation from the citizen to the country, and from the country to the citizen, is to be determined by a written law. But I trust, (said Mr. H.) that there is a sentiment of duty towards his country, in every American bosom, which no legislature can impose, which no law can define. It was, sir, (said Mr. H.) under the influence of this sentiment that thousands of your fellow-citizens acted in the late war. What but this drew the veteran Shelby from the comforts to which his age and services entitled him; from the dignified station of Governor of a most respectable state, to encounter the hardships of a northern campaign, and that too under the command of an officer greatly his inferior in military talents & experience? The whole western population acted upon this principle, as they did, I am persuaded, in other parts of the Union. By this principle you not only got men to the field, but, when in the field, they did more than any law, written or unwritten, obliged them to perform. The custom of war, which is the military law, authorises an officer badly wounded to retire. Had the gallant Spencer measured his duty by this law, he might still have lived a blessing to his numerous family. He was badly wounded in the head and the thigh, but he refused to leave his post, until a third ball pierced his heart. Where was the law which obliged the gallant captain Ritchie to vow never to leave his artillery alive? He remained by the side of his piece, bleeding to death, when, by retiring, he might have lived.

When your citizens thus, sir, disregard the obligations of law, in fighting your battles, will you tell their widows and orphans, who appeal to you for relief, that you have nothing to give, having complied with all the engagements you made?

Mr. Speaker, said Mr. H. let the gentleman who votes against this bill, return, after having done so, to the bosom of his own family, and when he finds himself surrounded by every earthly blessing; when he sees happiness beaming from the eyes of a beloved consort, produced by his presence and his safety, let him think, if he can, upon those wives who have no husbands to return to them; upon those children who have no parents to bless them—and when, sir, he performs the pleasing task of instructing his children, particularly the darling boy whom, in imagination, he may destine to replace him here; when he would teach them a lesson of patriotism, drawn from the events of the late war, and describes the heroism of Pike, and the devotion of Covington, When he has made the impression he wished, and sees their little bosoms heave with emotion, their eyes kindle with the patriotic fire, let him change the subject, and teach them a lesson of republican economy, and tell them, that, notwithstanding their strong claim upon his gratitude, and the gratitude of the country, he had yet courage, under the influence of a mere treasury calculation, to consign the orphans of these men to poverty and wretchedness. Let gentlemen do this if they can: I cannot, I will not, I dare not.

ACCIDENTS, CRIMES, &c.

A singular incident occurred at New-Milford, Connecticut, on Monday, the 30th ult. As a gentleman and lady were passing the bridge at the great falls, in a one horse wagon, and when on the centre of the bridge, the horse took fright, leaped clear over the railing, broke from the wagon and fell on the rocks below, a height of more than thirty feet, while the passengers remained seated in their carriage more affrighted than hurt.

During the gale on Saturday night week, the sloop Eliza, Glass, of Bellville, New Jersey, bound to New-York, was driven on Oyster Island, and immediately went to pieces.—The master and crew were drowned. The body of Captain G. was found entangled in the shrouds, and brought to New York for interment.

On Tuesday, the 17th inst. while Mr. John Campbell, residing at Buckshootum, in New-Jersey, was engaged in burning brush and grass on a small piece of ground situated about 40 or 50 rods from his dwelling, two of his children, one a girl of about 5 years of age, the other a boy of 2 years, attempted to go to their father; in the act of which, the clothes of the little girl caught fire and were nearly all consumed, before any assistance could be given. The child attempted to run to the house, when she was met by one of the family, who by throwing her down, and pressing upon her clothes, extinguished the fire; but the assistance came too late; she only survived about eight hours. The youngest escaped unhurt.

On the 14th inst. in Shenandoah county, Virginia, Mr. John Miller, of that county, fell from the saddle-horse of the team he was driving, and falling forwards, he was (it is supposed) pressed to death by the weight of the horses pulling, the wagon being at the time very heavy loaded.

Some villain on Sunday evening week, broke open the cabin of the ship Hesperus, lying at Gouverneur's wharf, New-York.—Fortunately the mate of the vessel slept on board that night, and on hearing some person forcing the door, prepared himself with a cutlass to receive him. He having descended fairly into the cabin, the mate sprang to the gangway to defend the pass—a scuffle ensued in which the villain gained the deck, but was prevented, sword in hand, from passing to the next vessel to reach the wharf—Finding all other attempts in vain, he leaped into the dock, hoping to escape to the other side of the slip before the alarm could be raised; but the mate feeling no disposition to be out-done in his own element, leaped in upon him and held him in watery "*durance vile*" until assistance came from the adjoining vessels and the thief was taken into custody.

A party of citizens went out a few days ago, in search of the outlawed negro ANDRY, and his companions, who have for some time been committing depredations in the neighborhood of Raleigh, N. C. when one of the company, (Mr. Robt. Tapley) who had lagged behind, taking his company for the negroes of whom they were in search, fired upon them. They believing themselves fired upon by the negroes, immediately ran to the place from whence the fire proceeded, and observing a man run off from them, whom they supposed to be one of the negro party, shot him dead.

On Monday last, Mr. Valentine Steckman of Bloody Run, in Bedford county, Pa. was thrown from a young horse which he was breaking, and instantaneously killed.

At Cincinnatus, N. Y. Mr. Arnold Thomas and his wife, were drowned, while crossing a small river in the night.—They had been to an evening meeting, and in company with three other persons, were crossing the river on some floating logs, on which boards had been laid, when all fell into the water, and the above persons were drowned.

Mr. George Leonard, Jun. at Sussex Vale, N. Jersey, left his residence on Wednesday morning, for the purpose of shooting game; on his return with his game and fowling-piece, in attempting to cross a creek in the neighborhood, over a log, he fell in, but, from the rapidity of the current, was unable to extricate himself, and he was unfortunately drowned. His body was found on Friday, and conveyed to his father's house.

On the evening of December 7, about 9 o'clock, the citizens of New-York were alarmed by the cry of fire, and, with very little intermission, the alarm was kept up throughout the night. The first proceeded from the store of 92, Pearl street; having taken fire by ashes being carelessly and blameably placed in the third story, in a barrel. The next that took fire was a house in Chatham street, near Chatham Garden. Both fires were but just extinguished, and the firemen returned to their homes, when about 2 o'clock in the morning, they were called again to the store in Pearl street, where the flames imperfectly extinguished had burst out a second time. As soon as they had got these under, and once more returned home, they were called a second time to the building in Chatham street. The two first stories of the store in Pearl street were destroyed, and goods therein much damaged. The house in Chatham street received but little injury.

At Albany, N. Y. a few weeks ago, a child of Mr. John Graves, in Van Tromp street, aged about 7 years, was so severely burnt by having her clothes accidentally take fire, that she survived but a few hours.

It has seldom fallen to our lot to record a more afflictive event than occurred a few weeks ago, in the town of Smithfield, R. I. The family residing in the immediate neighborhood of Scott's Pond, were alarmed about sunset by the cries of distress. On proceeding to the pond, it was discovered that Mrs. Jenckes, the wife of Mr. Russel Jenckes, and her four children, were in a drowning state, and all efforts to rescue them proved unavailing. Mrs. Jenckes a short time before, accompanied by her children, had left her father's house for her own in a one horse wagon; and circumstances induce the belief, that, in a fit of insanity, she drove the horse into the pond, with a view to terminate the lives of herself and offspring. The bodies were found, and interred in one grave. This affecting spectacle was witnessed, it is supposed, by between 2 and 3000 people.

An extensive block of brick buildings were recently destroyed by fire, at Windsor, Vt. together with two wooden stores, one at each extremity. This calamity has left a dreary blank in the midst of a beautiful village, and it cannot be otherwise, as many are said to have lost their all.

On the 22d ult. near Bloomfield, Ohio, the only child of Mr. Cyrus Day, aged 4 months, fell from a rocking chair into the fire, and was burned to death. The parents had been absent about 15 minutes.

OLD RYE WHISKEY.

THE subscriber has just received, 10 barrels of Zeigler's old Rye Whiskey.

Also, a general assortment of Groceries; which will be sold on moderate terms.

dec 23—3t WARREN HOBEIT.

NOTICE.

TO correct a misapprehension, which appears to have taken place with a few, from a late insolvent notice of another individual, the subscriber informs his friends and the public, that he has not taken the benefit of the insolvent act; never entertained such an idea; and hopes never to be under the necessity of adopting that resort.

dec 23—3t THOMAS CROWN

FOR SALE OR HIRE,

A Likely Negro Boy, between 15 and 16 years old, well grown; he can do all kinds of work. Application to be made to A. CHESHIRE,

dec 23—3t east end of the Washington Bridge.

A TRUNK LOST.

A TRUNK, containing the laws of the United States, the collection of State Papers published by Wait, two volumes of Journals of Congress, some other books, the documents, &c of the last session of Congress, and some articles of clothing, was shipped at New York in November last, on board the sloop Mechanic, James S. Smith master, bound for this city, to be delivered me here. It is said capt. Smith delivered it here, about twelve days since, to a drayman, who engaged to deliver it to me—but I have not received it, nor can I learn where it is. Whoever will give me information that shall lead to the recovery of said trunk and its contents, shall receive a reward of fifteen dollars. NATHANIEL TERRY,

Capitol Hill, Washington.

N. B. My name is written in all or in most of the books.

dec 23—3t

Office of Discount and Deposit,
Washington, Dec. 22, 1818.

FRIDAY next, the 25th inst. being Christmas day, this office will not be open.

Bills and notes falling due on that day, must be paid on the day preceding. RD. SMITH, Cashier.

dec 23—

PEWS FOR SALE.

THE Pews in the new Protestant Episcopal Church in Georgetown, will be offered for sale on Thursday the 31st inst. at 11 o'clock. The sale will take place at the church. WM MORTON, Secretary.

Georgetown, dec 23—

5,000 Dollars for Twenty-Seven.

GRAND NATIONAL LOTTERY,

For building two Lancastrian School Houses, a Penitentiary, and a City Hall, in the city of Washington.

Now Drawing in this City.

Third day's drawing on the first of January, when the first drawn No. will be entitled to

5,000 DOLLARS.

The wheel still contains the capitals of $30,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, and many others.

Whole tickets	$27 00	Fifths	5 40
Halves	13 50	Eighths	3 37½
Quarters	6 75		

Tickets and shares, warranted undrawn, sold by

DAVIS & FORCE,

one door west of Davis's hotel, Pennsylvania avenue, Washington city.

Where a correct check book of the drawing is kept, and all tickets examined gratis.

Prize tickets, and approved notes, payable after the drawing is completed, received for tickets.

dec 23—6t

LAND OFFICE & GENERAL AGENCY,

BY NICHOLAS B. VAN ZANDT,

Opposite the General Post Office, Washington City.

AT this office is transacted all business relating to the buying and selling of military and other lands, the receiving and transmitting monies due by the government to individuals; the obtaining and transmitting patents for military bounty lands; the receiving and transmitting for record, at the proper office, all deeds for the military bounty lands; and the payment of taxes due on lots in this city.

N. B. V. is familiar with accounts, and the rules and regulations of the several public offices. Claimants of every class may, therefore, calculate upon his best services in arranging the evidences of their claims, so as that, when presented to the proper Department, no time will be lost in their adjustment and final settlement, by the informality or insufficiency of the papers.

N. B. V's very valuable and elegantly engraved map of the Illinois Bounty lands, and description of the state of Illinois and territory of Missouri, will be sent to any of the states or territories, free of postage, for nine dollars.

Persons preferring their military locations to be made north of the Missouri river, by sending their papers, (discharges, warrants or notifications) with orders for location written thus: "To be located in Missouri north, and the patent delivered to N. B. Van Zandt, (or sent to the post office at ——) A. B."

Witness, C. D

Together with five dollars enclosed, will receive their patents, and a plat of the Military district, free of any other expence.

This office, and no other place or person, possesses a register of the names and places of residence of the present owners of about 12,000 quarter sections of the Illinois bounty lands, and which will be continued so as to shew the transfers made from time to time of all these lands. Persons who may desire to connect a number of the lots into one body, or to purchase any particular lot, will find a reference to this register a cheap and convenient mode of accomplishing their wishes.

Postage of letters must be paid at the office where sent.

dec 23—2aw

A Rich Prize, to be drawn on New Year's Day.

The first drawn number in the

GRAND NATIONAL LOTTERY,

Now drawing in this city, will, on New Year's Day, be entitled to the handsome prize of

5,000 DOLLARS.

The splendid prizes of $10,000 and $5,000 are floating, and may also be drawn in the next drawing. The wheel still contains the following grand prizes, all of which will be drawn in ten drawings:

30,000 Dollars.	20,000 Dollars.
10,000 Dollars.	10,000 Dollars.
5,000 Dollars.	5,000 Dollars.
3,000 Dollars.	8 of 1,000 Dollars.

And a large number of $500, $100, $50, &c. Not two blanks to a prize.

Whole tickets	$27 00	Halves	$13 50
Quarters	6 75	Eighths	3 37½

To be had (warranted undrawn) in a variety of numbers, at

ALLENS',

Lottery and Exchange Office,

Three doors west of Davis's hotel, Pennsylvania avenue, Washington city.

Prize tickets and foreign bank notes received in payment. Orders by mail promptly attended to.

dec 23—3t

EXCELLENT HOUSE TO RENT.

THE subscriber offers his unexpired term of six months in the house which he occupies on Capitol Hill, next door to Mrs. Digges's, being one of the best family residences in the city. It has nine good rooms, besides kitchen, laundry, &c. in and garret; it is a very moderate rent, and is conveniently situated for a member of Congress living his family here during the session.

dec 17—tf F. FAIRFAX.

NOTICE.

WAS Committed to the goal of Frederick county, as a runaway, on the 5th inst. a negro man, who calls himself Osborn Butler; 5 feet 11 inches high, yellowish complexion, about 44 years of age, blind of the right eye, and the left leg sore; has a variety of clothing, amongst which are, a blue cloth coat, a drab coat and pantaloons, a white vest, and wool hat. The owner of the above negro is requested to come forward and pay his prison fees, otherwise he will be released agreeably to law.

WILLIAM M. BEALL, jr. Sheriff of Frederick county.

dec 21—3aw