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Devoted to Politics, News, Agriculture, Internal Improvements, Commerce, the Arts and Sciences, Morality, and the Family Circle.

J. J. BRUNER,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS

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DENTAL NOTICE.

DR. BESSENT,

HAS REMOVED to the DENTAL ROOMS on the corner formerly occupied by Dr. Bason, where he is prepared to attend all operations connected with his profession.
Jan. 1, 1859. 1f28

Drs. M. WHITEHEAD & J. A. CALDWELL.

HAVE associated themselves in the practice of Medicine and offer their Professional services to the public. Those who wish it, can have the services of both in any case, without extra charge.
☞ Office—the same occupied by Dr. Whitehead.

DR. F. N. LUCKEY,

BEING now permanently located at his own residence, recently owned by J. R. McNeely, on the Caldwell and Murphy road, 2½ miles South of Tryal's Church, continues to offer, at the same location, his professional services to the public.
Calls in the country, should be left with the manager, Mr. Sherrill, at his store, in Tryal's church, will receive prompt attention.
March 10th, 1859. 1f25

LAW PARTNERSHIP.

A. H. & R. A. CALDWELL.

OFFICE the one formerly occupied by Dr. Nesbit, on Water Street,

SALISBURY, N. C.

March 1, 1859. 1f10

BUSINESS CARDS.

N. M. MARTIN, BRO. & CO.,
GROCERS AND COMMISSION
MERCHANTS,
No. 129, Sycamore Street,
PETERSBURG, VA.

N. M. MARTIN, SON & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
RICHMOND, VA.

N. M. MARTIN, Sr. | JOS. TANNEHILL,
R. A. MARTIN, | N. M. MARTIN,
W. K. MARTIN, | R. S. MARTIN.

☞ Direct personal attention given to the sale of produce. Orders for guano promptly filled.
References—D. A. Davis, C. F. Fisher, Esq.
June 14, 1859. 1y3

H. W. RUPP,

Watchmaker & Jeweller,
CONCORD, N. C.

HAVING REMOVED to a New and Large Store, opposite Harris' Hotel, I am better prepared to offer to the trade of my former customers and the public generally, my stock of JEWELRY with unusual facilities with any City Stock.
☞ My personal attention given to the repairing of Watches, Clocks and Jewelry. All work warranted.
H. W. RUPP.
Sept. 8, 1859. 1y13

DE ROSSET, BROWN & CO.,
WILMINGTON, N. C.
BROWN, DE ROSSET & CO.,
NEW YORK.
Commission Merchants.

☞ Sole Agents at Wilmington for Rivers's Manipulated Guano, and W. Whitelock & Co's Superphosphate of Lime.
☞ Importers of pure Peruvian and other Guanos, Land Plaster, &c.
☞ Particular attention given to the sale of Naval Stores, Cotton and other Produce.
April 19, 1859. 3mpd47

JAMES HORAH
WATCH-MAKER AND JEWELER,
SALISBURY, N. C.,
One door below R. & A. Murphy's Store,

KEEPS constantly on hand a large assortment of WATCHES and JEWELRY of all kinds.
Clocks, Watches and Jewelry of every description repaired in the best manner and on the most reasonable terms.
February 19, 1859. 1y30

MICHAEL BROWN,
COMMISSION MERCHANT,
SALISBURY, N. C.

PROMPT PERSONAL ATTENTION GIVEN to the purchase of all kinds of PRODUCE. And to all business entrusted to him while in this market or shipped to other Ports.
February 1, 1859. 1f3

C. E. ROBINSON,
BANKER & DEALER IN EXCHANGE,
Salisbury, N. C.

By permission I refer to Hon. D. F. Caldwell, J. H. Jenkins, Esq., Messrs. Brown, Collin & Meeh.
Aug. 9, 1859. 1f31

LEATHER.

A very superior lot of Upper Leather and Calf Skins for sale by BEARD & BROTHER.
Salisbury, N. C. 1f50

Carpeting

4000 Yards Carpeting from 25 cts. to $1.50 per yard, for sale by McNEELY & YOUNG.

Blanks of all kinds for sale at this office

MISCELLANEOUS.

NEW GROCERY
AND
DRY GOODS STORE!

Notice to Close Cash Buyers.

THE subscriber has just opened, in the Building on Main Street, formerly occupied by W. J. Mills & Co., with an entire NEW and EXTENSIVE STOCK of
GROCERIES,
HARDWARE,
DRY GOODS,
BOOTS, SHOES,
TRUNKS,
WOOD WARE, NOTIONS, &c., &c., to which he invites the attention of the public generally. His Stock consists of every article usually kept in a

GENERAL STORE.

Having purchased largely, he is determined to sell at PRICES which will command attention in the

CHEAPEST MARKETS.

His business will be conducted strictly on the CASH or SHORT PAY system, by which he had rather sell more and gain, therefore, afford to sell lower than the slow.
A Call is earnestly solicited before purchasing elsewhere.
S. FRANKFORD'S.
Nov. 1st, 1859.
All kinds of Country Produce bought or taken in Exchange for Goods at CASH PRICES.
Salisbury, June 21st, 1859. 1f4

We have on hand a large and superior lot of
SUGAR, COFFEE,
MOLASSES,
SYRUP, TEA,
RICE, BACON,
LARD, PEPPER,
PICKLES, GINGER, SPICE,
CRACKERS,
RAISINS,
MUSTARD,
SARDINES
Vinegar, Soda, No. 1 Mackerel, Pickled Salmon, Soap, Starch, Candles, Blacking, Indigo, Powder, Shot, Lead, Caps, Snuff, Tobacco, Cigars, Matches, &c., &c. Cash and Short Pay.
Cash or Groceries for Country Produce
Fresh Butter and Eggs, Cure Bacon and Lard, good Flour and Meal, Potatoes, Peas, Beans, Onions, Dried Fruit, &c., &c., wanted in return. Bring them to us.
BEARD & BROTHER.
Salisbury, April 6, 1859. 1f45

RANAWAY--$75 Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber at Lexington, a Negro man named ALEX. or ALEXANDER. Said negro is of a dark copper color, 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, and will weigh from 155 to 165 lbs.; a very lively fellow, has his rather a downcast look—aged 22 years. The subscribers think it probable that Alex is lurking about either in the neighborhood of Salisbury, Mr. Lowrie's or H. S. M. Keerler's plantations. They will give the above reward for his apprehension and delivery to them at Lexington, N. C. Also, they will pay $25 reward for proof sufficient to convict any one of harboring said boy.
S. W. McCRARY & CO.
Oct. 3d, 1859. 1f19

W. R. WILSON

HAS just returned from the Northern cities, with his full stock of
WATCHES, JEWELRY,
SILVER WARE,
FINE TABLE CUTLERY, &c.,
To which he respectfully invites the attention of his customers and the public. Please call and examine his Stock next door to McNeely & Young's, Main street.
Repairing of Watches, Clocks and jobbing strictly attended to by the very best watch-makers. All work warranted 12 months.
Salisbury, Oct. 4th, 1859. 1f19

THE LARGEST LOT OF
COOKING,
PARLOR,
AND
Church Stoves
Ever offered in this Market, and will be sold lower than any be had in Western North Carolina, for Cash. Also, all kinds of PLAIN and JAPANED TIN-WARE and STILLS kept on hand. All kinds of Copper and Sheet iron work done at the shortest notice.
J. D. BROWN & CO.
Oct. 18, 1859. 1f21

Molasses!

5 Hhds. prime Cardenas and Muscovado, now in Store and for sale as low as the lowest.
R. & A. MURPHY.
Sep. 13, 1859. 1f16

NAILS AND HORSE SHOES.

50 Kegs now in Store for sale low.
R. & A. MURPHY.
Salisbury, Sep. 13, 1859. 1f16

CIGARS! CIGARS!! CIGARS!!!

60,000 CIGARS at Wholesale or Retail at the Post Office.
M. A. SMITH.
May 17. 1f51

50,000 Brick For Sale

THOSE wanting to buy Fifty of Sixty Thousand good Brick, can get a bargain by calling at this Office. 1f47

White Lead.

5 Tons Pure White Lead and Zinc, at
McNEELY & YOUNG'S.

BROOM'S.

The best double-ruled Water Proof Brooms at the lowest price. Call at McNEELY & YOUNG'S

Tanner's Oil.

25 barrels Tanner's Oil, at
McNEELY & YOUNG'S

LEATHER!

2,000 lbs. Hemlock sole Leather.
50 doz. French and city make Calf Skins.
15 doz. binding and lining skins, at
McNEELY & YOUNG'S.

BLANK DEEDS
FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

MISCELLANEOUS.

E. S. ZEVELY,
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND,

STAMPS. STAMPS. STAMPS.
SEALS. SEALS. SEALS. SEALS.
STENCILS. STENCILS. STENCILS.
WOOD-CUTS. WOOD-CUTS. WOOD-CUTS
ENGRAVING. ENGRAVING. ENGRAVING
PRESSES. PRESSES. PRESSES.
Printing Presses, Copying Presses, Proof Presses.

STAMPS for marking banks.
Stamps for marking clothes.
Stamps for business cards.
Stamps for earth pipe.
Stamps for for name signature.
Stamps for post offices.
Stamps for merchants.
Stamps for lawyers.
Stamps for mechanics.
Stamps for rail-roads.
Stamps for farmers.
Stamps for books.
Stamps for everybody.

☞ All sorts of stamps for all sorts of stamping. ☜
☞ In this business since 1850, or for nine years.

NINE YEARS. NINE YEARS. NINE YEARS.

SEALS for private persons.
Seals for society purposes.
Seals for counties, towns.
Seals for societies.
Seals for corporations.
Seals of all sorts for all sorts of people.

STENCILS for marking books, papers, clothing, boxes, barrels, bales, packages, &c.
Wood-cuts, or wood engravings, for all sorts of things and all sorts of uses.

CHEAP FOR CASH. CHEAP FOR CASH.
SENT BY MAIL.
SENT BY MAIL.
TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD.
TO ANY PART OF THE WORLD

PRINTING PRESSES,
PROOF PRESSES,
SEAL PRESSES,
COPYING PRESSES,
STAMPING PRESSES

Presses for printers, presses for merchants, presses for bankers, presses for every body,—with and without self-inkers attached.
All sizes, styles, of neat, durable, efficient, and as all presses satisfactory for from $5 to $50, and sent to any part of the Union as would be curious.
Address E. S. ZEVELY,
Cumberland, Maryland.
For further particulars see the "Bulletin" published by E. S. Zevely, at Cumberland, Maryland.
Persons who will remit the above sale in the same style for the January 1, 1860, and take pay in anything in my line, will please do so, and they will have prompt attention.
E. S. ZEVELY.

AMERCIAN WATCHES.

W. R. WILSON

HAS just opened a new lot of GOLD and SILVER DOUBLED CASED AMERICAN
PATENT LEVER WATCHES,
which he invites all lovers of a good, handsome and reliable time keeper to come and examine.
These watches are manufactured and guaranteed by him to be made of the best material, on the most approved principle, and possess every requisite for a reliable time keeper.
For any defect in material workmanship or performance under fair usage, he at all times holds himself responsible. Certificates given with each watch sold. He also has a large assortment of Gold and Silver Double Cased English Patent and Detached Lever, Gold Double Cased Levers, 18 jewels from 30 to 40 dollars each; and Silver, Doubled Cased, from 10 to 40 dollars each.
DON'T FORGET TO CALL at the Store next door to McNeely & Young's Store, Main Street.
Salisbury, October 4th, 1859. 1f19

FAMILY GROCERIES.

J. F. MOOSE,

Is now receiving and opening at Jenkins' Corner, a large and well selected Stock of
FAMILY GROCERIES,
CONSISTING OF
Coffees, Sugars, Rice,
Molasses, Teas, Cheese,
Pepper, Spice, Mustard,
Starch, Pickles, Catsups,
Raisins, Figs, Almonds,
Candy, Vinegar, Powder,
Shot, lead, Golden Syrup,
&c., &c. Also Tobacco,
Barbers, Brooms, Cheese, Measures, Bed Cord, Rope, &c., all of which have bought exclusively for cash, and will be sold at short profits for Cash or Produce.
Salisbury, Mar. 29, 1859. 4f44

FOR SALE.

I AM now offering my valuable Plantation lying on the waters of the South Yadkin, containing about 350 Acres, about 100 acres under cultivation. The land is well adapted to the growth of Tobacco. Also, some as good Bottom Land as can be found in Rowan county. There is a good plantation, a number one Saw Mill, on a fine tobacco country. Persons wishing to purchase, would do well to call on Mr. Cicero Lee, Davie county, or on Arthur Neely, one mile from Rowan's ford, who will take great pleasure in showing the land. A reasonable credit will be given.
D. M. CRENSHAW.
August 25, 1859. 1f14

To Printers.

I AM NOW PREPARED TO RECEIVE ORDERS for my new and improved Self-Inking Hand Printing Presses, of most simple construction—less laborious to work and quicker than the ordinary Hand Press, at from $5 upward, and will engage to furnish a Press large enough to print an ordinary sized newspaper at the low price of $100.
Terms cash. E. S. ZEVELY,
Cumberland, Maryland.
Dec. 6. 1f48

Western N. Carolina Rail R. Freight.

MERCHANTS and others are hereby notified, that a Freight destined for the West, will be sent forward immediately on its arrival at Salisbury, and all goods shipped to North Carolina points will be sealed up and forwarded to their destination without breaking bulk at the terminus of each Road.
JAMES C. TURNER, Eng. & Supt.
February 22, 1859. 3f41

Coffee.

100 Bags Rio Coffee,
25 bags old Government Java,
40 bags Laguira, just received at
McNEELY & YOUNG'S.

Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods.

Fine French Yoke Shirts; Silk and Merino Shirts and Drawers; Cravats, Scarfs and Collars; Handkerchiefs, gloves, Shirts and Traveling Blankets, in endless variety, at McNEELY & YOUNG'S.

President's Message.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Our deep and heart-felt gratitude is due to that Almighty Power which has bestowed upon us such varied and numerous blessings throughout the past year. The general health of the country has been excellent; our harvests have been unusually plentiful, and prosperity smiles throughout the land. Indeed, notwithstanding our demerits, we have much reason to believe, from the past events in our history, that we have enjoyed the protection of Divine Providence ever since our origin as a nation. We have been exposed to many threatening and alarming difficulties in our progress; but just when our safety seemed to require it, some one of them has passed away. Even the impending cloud has been dissipated at the moment it appeared ready to burst upon our head, and the danger to our institutions has passed away. May we ever be under the divine guidance and protection!

Whilst it is the duty of the President "from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union," I shall not refer in detail to the recent sad and bloody occurrences at Harper's Ferry. Still, it is proper to observe that these events, however bad and cruel in themselves, derive their chief importance from the apprehension that they are but symptoms of and incurable disease in the public mind, which may break out in still more dangerous outrages and terminate at last in an open war by the North to abolish slavery in the South. While, for myself, I entertain no such apprehension, they ought to afford a solemn warning to us all to beware of the approach of danger. Our Union is a stake of such inestimable value as to demand our constant and watchful vigilance for its preservation. In this view, let me implore my countrymen, North and South, to cultivate the ancient feelings of mutual forbearance and good-will towards each other, and strive to allay the demon spirit of sectional hatred and strife now alive in the land. This advice proceeds from the heart of an old public functionary whose service commenced in the last generation, among the wise and conservative statesmen of that day, now nearly all passed away, and whose first and dearest earthly wish is to leave his country tranquil, prosperous, united, and peaceful.

We ought to reflect that in this age, and especially in this country, there is an incessant flux and reflux of public opinion. Questions which in their day assumed a most threatening aspect, have now nearly gone from the memory of men. They are "volcanoes burnt out, and on the lava and ashes and spent scoria of old eruptions grow the peaceful vine, the cheering vine, and the sustaining corn." Such, in my opinion, will prove to be the fate of the present sectional excitement, should those who wisely seek to apply the remedy, continue always to confine their efforts within the pale of the Constitution. If this course be pursued, the existing agitation on the subject of domestic slavery, like everything human, will have its day and give place to other and less threatening controversies. Public opinion in this country is all-powerful, and when it reaches a dangerous excess upon any question, the good sense of the people will furnish the corrective and bring it back within safe limits. Still, to hasten this auspicious result, at the present crisis, we ought to remember that every rational creature must be presumed to intend the natural consequences of his own teachings. Those who announce abstract doctrines subversive of the Constitution and the Union, must not be surprised should their heated partisans advance one step further, and attempt by violence to carry these doctrines into practical effect. In this view of the subject it ought never to be forgotten that, however great may have been the political advantage resulting from the Union to every portion of our common country, these would all prove to be as nothing should the time ever arrive when they cannot be enjoyed without serious danger to the personal safety of the people of fifteen members of the confederacy. If the peace of the domestic fireside throughout these States should ever be invaded—if the mothers of families within this extensive region should not be able to retire to rest at night without suffering dreadful apprehensions of what may be their own fate and that of their children before the morning—it would be vain to recount to such a people the political benefits which result to them from the Union. Self-preservation is the first instinct of nature; and therefore any state of society in which the sword is all the time suspended over the heads of the people, must at last become intolerable. But I indulge in no such gloomy forebodings. On the contrary, I firmly believe that the events at Harper's Ferry, by causing the people to pause and reflect upon the possible peril to their cherished institutions, will be the means, under Providence, of allaying the existing excitement and preventing future outbreaks of a similar character. They will resolve that the Constitution and the Union shall not be endangered by rash counsels, knowing that, should "the silver cord be loosed or the golden bowl be broken * * * at the fountain," human power could never reunite the scattered and hostile fragments.

I cordially congratulate you upon the final settlement by the Supreme Court of the United States of the question of slavery in the Territories, which had presented an aspect so truly formidable at the commencement of my administration. The right has been established of every citizen to take his property of any kind, including slaves, into the common Territories belonging equally to all the States of the Confederacy, and to have it protected there under the Federal Constitution. Neither Congress nor a territorial legislature nor any human power has any authority to annul or impair this vested right. The supreme judicial tribunal of the country, which is a co-ordinate branch of the Government, has sanctioned and affirmed these principles of constitutional law, so manifestly just in themselves, and so well calculated to promote peace and harmony among the States. It is a striking proof of the sense of justice which is inherent in our people, that the property in slaves has never been disturbed, to my knowledge, in any of the Territories. Even through out the late troubles in Kansas there has not been any attempt, as I am credibly informed, to interfere, in a single instance, with the right of the master. Had any such attempt been made, the judiciary would doubtless have afforded an adequate remedy. Should they fail to do this hereafter, it will then be time enough to strengthen their hands by further legislation. Had it been decided that either Congress or the territorial legislature possess the power to annul or impair the right to property in slaves, the evil would be intolerable. In the latter event, there would be a struggle for a majority of the members of the legislature at each successive election, and the vested rights of property held under the Federal Constitution would depend for the time being on the result. The agitation would thus be rendered incessant within the territorial confines, and its baneful influence would keep alive a dangerous excitement among the people of the several States.

Thus has the status of a Territory, during the intermediate period from its first settlement until it shall become a State, been irrevocably fixed by the final decision of the Supreme Court. Fortunate has this been for the prosperity of the Territories, as well as the tranquility of the States. Now, emigrants from the North and the South, the East and the West, will meet in the Territories on a common platform, having brought with them that species of property held sacred by the laws of their native States, and which the Federal Constitution guarantees to their owners. From natural causes the slavery question will in each case soon virtually settle itself; and before the Territory is prepared for admission as a State into the Union this decision, one way or the other, will have been a foregone conclusion. Meanwhile the settlement of the new Territory will proceed without serious interruption, and its progress and prosperity will not be endangered by violent political struggles.

When in the progress of events the inhabitants of any Territory shall have reached the number required to form a State, they will then proceed, in a regular manner, and in the exercise of the rights of popular sovereignty, to form a constitution preparatory to admission into the Union. After this has been done, to employ the language of the Kansas and Nebraska act, they "shall be received into the Union with or without slavery, as their constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission." This sound principle has happily been recognized, in some form or other, by an almost unanimous vote of both houses of the last Congress.

All lawful means at my command have been employed, and shall continue to be employed, to execute the laws against the African slave trade. After a most careful and rigorous examination of our coasts and a thorough investigation of the subject, we have not been able to discover that any slaves have been imported into the United States except the cargo by the Wanderer, numbering between 3 and 4 hundred. Those engaged in this unlawful enterprise have been rigorously prosecuted; but not with as much success as their crimes have deserved. A number of them are still under prosecution.

Our history proves that the Fathers of the Republic, in advance of all other nations, condemned the African slave trade. It was notwithstanding deemed expedient by the framers of the Constitution to deprive Congress of the power to prohibit "the migration or importation of such persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit" "prior to the year 1808."

It will be seen that this restriction on the power of Congress was confined to such States only as might think proper to admit the importation of slaves. It did not extend to other States or to the trade carried on abroad. Accordingly, we find that so early as the 22nd March, 1774, Congress passed an act imposing severe penalties and punishments upon citizens and residents of the United States who should engage in this trade between foreign nations. The provisions of this act were extended and enforced by the act of 10th May, 1800.

Again: The States themselves had a clear right to waive the constitutional privilege intended for their benefit, and to prohibit, by their own laws, this trade at any time they thought proper previous to 1808. Several of them exercised this right before that period, and among them some containing the greatest number of slaves. This gave to Congress the immediate power to act in regard to all such States, because they themselves had removed the constitutional barrier. Congress accordingly passed an act on 28th February, 1803, "to prevent the importation of certain persons into certain States where, by the laws thereof, their admission is prohibited." In this manner the importation of Africans slaves into the United States was, to a great extent, prohibited some years in advance of 1808.

As the year 1808 approached, Congress determined not to suffer this trade to exist even for a single day after they had the power to abolish it. On the 2d of March, 1807, they passed an act to the effect "from and after the 1st day of January, 1808," prohibiting the importation of African slaves into the United States. This was followed by subsequent acts of a similar character, to which I need not specially refer. Such were the principles and such the practice of our ancestors more than fifty years ago in regard to the African slave trade.

It did not occur to the revered patriots who had been delegates to the convention, and afterwards became members of Congress, that in passing these laws they had violated the Constitution which they had framed with so much care and deliberation. They supposed that to prohibit Congress, in express terms, from exercising a specified power before an appointed day, necessarily involved the right to exercise this power after that day had arrived.

If this were not the case, the framers of the Constitution had expended much labor in vain. Had they imagined that Congress would possess no power to prohibit the trade either before or after 1808, they would not have taken so much care to protect the States against the exercise of this power before that period. Nay, more, they would not have attached such vast importance to this provision as to leave excluded it from the probability of future repeal or amendment, to which other portions of the Constitution were exposed. It would, then, have been wholly unnecessary to engraft on the fifth article of the Constitution, prescribing the mode of its own future amendment, the provision, "that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, shall in any manner affect" the provision in the Constitution securing to the States the right to admit the importation of African slaves previous to that period.

According to the adverse construction, the clause itself, on which so much care and discussion had been employed by the members of the convention, was an absolute nullity from the beginning, and all that has since been done under it a mere usurpation.

It was well and wise to confer this power on Congress, because, had it been left to the States, its efficient exercise would have been impossible. In that event any one State could have effectually continued the trade not only for itself but for all the other slave States, though never so much against their will. And why? Because African slaves, when once brought within the limits of any one State, in accordance with its laws, cannot practically be excluded from any other State where slavery exists. And even if all the States had separately passed laws prohibiting the importation of slaves, these laws would have failed of effect for want of a naval force to capture the slavers and to guard the coasts. Such a force no State can employ in time of peace without the consent of Congress.

These acts of Congress, it is believed, have, with very rare and insignificant exceptions, accomplished their purpose. For a period of more than half a century there has been no perceptible addition to the number of our domestic slaves. During this period their advancement in civilization has far surpassed that of any other portion of the African race. The light and the blessings of Christianity have been extended to them, and both their moral and physical condition has been greatly improved.

Re-open the trade, and it would be difficult to determine whether the effect would be more deleterious on the interests of the master or on those of the native-born slave. Of the evils on the master, the one most to be dreaded would be the introduction of wild, heathen, and ignorant barbarians among the sober, orderly, and quiet slaves, whose ancestors have been on the soil for several generations. This might tend to barbarize, demoralize, and exasperate the whole mass, and produce most deplorable consequences.

The effect upon the existing slave would, if possible, be still more deplorable. At present he is treated with kindness and humanity. He is well fed, well clothed, and not overworked. His condition is incomparably better than that of the coolies which modern nations of high civilization have employed as a substitute for African slaves. Both the philanthropy and the self interest of the master have combined to produce this humane result. But let this trade be reopened, and what will be the effect? The same, to a considerable extent, as on a neighboring island—the only spot now on earth where the African slave trade is openly tolerated: and this in defiance of solemn treaties with a power abundantly able at any moment to enforce their execution. There the master, intent upon present gain, extorts from the slave as much labor as his physical powers are capable of enduring—knowing that, when death comes to his relief, his place can be supplied at a price reduced to the lowest point by the competition of rival African slave traders. Should this ever be the case in our country—which I do not deem possible—the present useful character of the domestic institution, wherein those too old and too young to work are provided for with care and humanity, and those capable of labor are not overtasked, would undergo an unfortunate change. The feeling of reciprocal dependence and attachment which now exists between master and slave would be converted into mutual distrust and hostility.

But we are obliged, as a Christian and moral nation, to consider what would be the effect upon unhappy Africa itself. We should reopen the slave trade. This would give the trade an impulse and extension which it has never had even in its palmiest days. The numerous victims required to supply it would convert the whole slave coast into a perfect Pandemonium, for which this country would be held responsible in the eyes both of God and man. Its petty tribes would then be constantly engaged in predatory wars against each other for the purpose of seizing slaves to supply the American market. All hopes of African civilization would thus be ended.

On the other hand, when a market for African slaves shall no longer be furnished in Cuba, and thus all the world be closed against this trade, we may then indulge a reasonable hope for the gradual improvement of Africa. The chief motive of war among the tribes will cease when there is no longer any demand for slaves. The resources of that fertile but miserable country might then be developed by the hand of industry and afford subjects for legitimate foreign and domestic commerce. In this manner Christianity and civilization may gradually penetrate the existing gloom.

The wisdom of the course pursued by this Government towards China has been vindicated by the event. Whilst we sustained a neutral position in the war waged by Great Britain and France against the Chinese empire, our late minister, in obedience to his instructions, judiciously co-operated with the ministers of those Powers in all peaceful measures to secure by treaty the just concessions demanded by the interests of foreign commerce. The result is that satisfactory treaties have been concluded with China by the respective ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France and Russia. Our "treaty, or general convention of peace, amity and commerce," with that empire, was concluded at Tientsin on the 18th of June, 1858, and was ratified by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, on the 21st of December following.

On the 15th December, 1858, John E. Ward, a distinguished citizen of Georgia, was duly commissioned as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China. He left the United States for the place of his destination on the 5th of February, 1859, bearing with him the ratified copy of the treaty, and arrived at Shanghai on the 28th May. From thence he proceeded to Peking on the 16th June, but did not arrive in that city until the 27th July. According to the terms of the treaty the ratifications were to be exchanged on or before the 18th June, 1859. This was rendered impossible by reasons and events beyond his control, not necessary to detail; but still it is due to the Chinese authorities at Shanghai to state that they always assured him no advantage should be taken of the delay, and this pledge has been faithfully redeemed.

On the arrival of Mr. Ward at Peking he requested an audience of the Emperor, to present his letters of credence. This he did not obtain, in consequence of his very proper refusal to submit to the humiliating ceremonies required by the etiquette of this strange people in approaching their sovereign. Nevertheless the interviews on this question were conducted in the most friendly spirit, and with all due regard to his personal feelings and the honor of his country. When a presentation to his Majesty was found to be impossible, the letter of credence from the President was received with peculiar honors by Kweilang, "the Emperor's prime minister, and the second man in the empire to the Emperor himself." The ratifications of the treaty were afterwards, on the 16th of August, exchanged in proper form at Pei-tsang. As the exchange did not take place until after the day prescribed by the treaty, it is deemed proper, before its publication, again to submit it to the Senate.

It is but simple justice to the Chinese authorities to observe, that, throughout the whole transaction, they appear to have acted in good faith and in a friendly spirit towards the United States. It is true this has been done after their own fashion, but we ought to regard what is honest by the ancient customs of an empire dating back for thousands of years, so far as this may be consistent with our own national honor. The conduct of our minister on the occasion has received my entire approbation.

In order to carry out the spirit of this treaty, and to give it full effect, it became necessary to conclude two supplemental conventions—the one for the adjustment and satisfaction of the claims of our citizens, and the other to fix the tariff on imports and exports, and to regulate the transit duties and trade of our merchants with China. This duty was satisfactorily performed by our late minister. These conventions bear date at Shanghai on the 8th November 1858. Having been considered in the light of binding agreements extraneous to the principal treaty, and to be carried into execution without delay, they do not provide for any formal ratification or exchange of ratifications by the contracting parties. This was not deemed necessary by the Chinese, who are already proceeding in good faith to satisfy the claims of our citizens, and, it is hoped, to carry out the other provisions of the conventions. Still I thought it was proper to submit them to the Senate, by which they were ratified on the 3d March, 1859.

The ratified copies, however, did not reach Shanghai until after the departure of our Minister to Peking, and these conventions could not therefore be exchanged at the same time with the principal treaty. No doubt is entertained that they will be ratified and exchanged by the Chinese Government, should this be thought advisable; but, under the circumstances presented, I shall consider these binding engagements from their date on both parties, and cause them to be published as such for the information and guidance of our merchants trading with the Chinese empire.

It affords me much satisfaction to inform you that all our difficulties with the republic of Paraguay have been satisfactorily adjusted. It happily did not become necessary to employ the force for this purpose which Congress had placed at my command, under their joint resolution of 2d June, 1858. On the contrary, the President of that republic, in a friendly spirit, acceded promptly to the just and reasonable demands of the Government of the United States. Our commissioner arrived at Assumption, the capital of the republic, on the 25th of January, 1859, and left it on the 17th of February, having in three weeks ably and successfully accomplished all the objects of his mission. The treaties which he has concluded will be immediately submitted to the Senate.

In the view that the employment of other than peaceful means might become necessary to obtain "just satisfaction" from Paraguay, a strong naval force was concentrated in the waters of the La Plata to await contingencies, whilst our commissioner ascended the rivers to Assumption. The Navy Department is entitled to great credit for the promptness, efficiency, and economy with which this expedition was fitted out and conducted. It consisted of nineteen armed vessels, great and small, carrying 200 guns and 2000 men, all under the command of the veteran and gallant Shubrick. The entire expenses of the expedition have been defrayed out of the ordinary appropriations for the naval service, except the sum of $289,000, applied to the purchase of seven of the steamers, constituting a part of it, under the authority of the naval appropriation act of the 3d March last. It is believed that these steamers are worth more than their cost, and they are all now usefully and actively employed in the naval service.

The appearance of so large a force, fitted out in such a prompt manner, in the distant waters of the La Plata, and the amicable conduct of the officers and men employed in it, have had a happy effect in favor of our country throughout all that remote portion of the world.

Our relations with the great empires of France and Russia, as well as with all other governments on the continent of Europe, unless we may except that of Spain, happily continue to be of the most friendly character.

In my last annual message I presented a statement of the unsatisfactory condition of our relations with Spain; and I regret to say that this has not materially improved. Without special reference to other claims, even the "Cuban claims," the payment of which has been ably urged by our ministers, and in which more than a hundred of our citizens are directly interested, remain unsatisfied, notwithstanding both their justice and their amount ($128,635 54) had been recognized and ascertained by the Spanish government itself.

I again recommend that an appropriation be made to be paid to the Spanish government for the purpose of distribution among the claimants in the Amistad case." In common with two of my predecessors, I entertain no doubt that this is required by our treaty with Spain of the 27th October, 1795. The failure to discharge this obligation has been employed by the cabinet of Madrid as a reason against the settlement of our claims.

I need not repeat the arguments which I urged in my last annual message in favor of the acquisition of Cuba by fair purchase. My opinions on that measure remain unchanged. I, therefore, again invite the serious attention of Congress to this important subject. Without a recognition of this policy on their part, it will be almost impossible to institute negotiations with any reasonable prospect of success.

Until a recent period there was good reason to believe that I should be able to announce to you on the present occasion that our difficulties with Great Britain, arising out of the Clayton and Bulwer treaty, had been finally adjusted in a manner alike honorable and satisfactory to both parties. From causes, however, which the British government had not anticipated, they have not yet completed treaty arrangements with the republics of Honduras and Nicaragua, in pursuance of the understanding between the two governments. It is, nevertheless, confidently expected that this good work will ere long be accomplished.

Whilst indulging the hope that no other subject remained which could disturb the good understanding between the two countries, the question arising out of the adverse claims of the parties to the Island of San Juan, under the Oregon treaty of the 15th of June, 1846, suddenly assumed a threatening prominence. In order to prevent unfortunate collision on that remote frontier, the late Secretary of State, on the 17th July, 1859, addressed a note to Mr. Crampton, then British minister at Washington, communicating to him a copy of the instructions which he [Mr. Marcy] had given, on the 14th July, to Gov. Stevens, of Washington Territory, having a special reference to an "apprehended conflict between our citizens and the British subjects on the Island of San Juan." To prevent this, the governor was instructed "that the officers of the Territory should abstain from all acts on the disputed grounds which are calculated to provoke any conflicts, so far as it can be done without implying the concession to the authorities of Great Britain of an exclusive right over the premises. The title ought to be settled before either party should attempt to exclude the other by force, or exercise complete and exclusive sovereign rights within the fairly disputed limits."

In acknowledging the receipt on the next day of Mr. Marcy's note, the Brit[illegible] expressed his entire concurrence [illegible] of the course recommended [illegible] governor of Washington Territory by [illegible] Marcy's instructions to that officer," and [illegible] he had "lost no time in transmitting a copy of this document to the governor-general of British North America," and had earnestly recommended to his Excellency to take such measures as to him may appear best calculated to secure, on the part of the British local authorities and the inhabitants