

ascala, via Fort Gaines. We understand Gen. Gaines has removed his headquarters to Fort Hawkins.—[Milledgeville Reflector.]

## POLITICAL.

NEW-YORK, JULY 23.

With much satisfaction we have read the intelligent and liberal article which we this evening present our readers with, from the *London Times* of May 22, as high-toned a national paper as is published in Great-Britain. It will be perused with pleasure by the American public.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—The well known candor of your paper will, it is believed, secure the insertion of the following observations, which have been put together in consequence of the articles contained in *The Times* of Thursday and Friday last, on the subject of the bill now in its progress through the American congress, regulating the intercourse between our West India colonies and the United States.

The conclusions which have been come to in the following statement, differ materially from those at which you have arrived. Full credit being given for the sincerity with which you entertain the opinions which are held by you, a similar claim on the part of the writer of these observations, it is hoped, will not be made in vain; and that he may be permitted to state, that his reasonings rest upon general principles alone; being neither a proprietor of West India estates, nor a mercantile man, on the one hand, nor being or having the slightest acquaintance with any American citizen, on the other. A sincere and ardent attachment to the glory and the fortunes of England, and an anxious wish that she would in all things judge of the conduct of others as she would be judged of by them, is the foundation upon which the following reasoning is laid; and it is trusted that interest and prejudice have had little to do in forming the result. The success which crowned our efforts, at the conclusion of the late contest, has led us to believe, and believing it, we have not hesitated to express, that all the virtue, talent, and understanding in the world belonged exclusively to ourselves; and that being in possession of these, we have considered that all other nations should regulate their measures and frame their laws in support of our honor, and in furtherance of our interests. It is by no means intended to quarrel with this national feeling, so necessary to our existence and pre-eminence; but it does appear, that our character would stand higher for every generous sentiment, if we were less forward in displaying it, and that our interest would be considerably promoted, if we could come back to those old sound principles of international law, which used to bless and render happy the nations of the world, and consider that our own prosperity and happiness walked hand in hand with that of every other nation, and that every increase of wealth to them is but an addition to our own; the most industrious gaining most from the general prosperity.

In the same way we are too apt to consider the acts of foreign states, which may in reality, or in our own conception, affect some branch of our industry, as enacted in the spirit of hostility to this country; forgetting and disregarding that they have the same right to legislate for and regulate their commercial pursuits as we ourselves have, and at the same time putting out of consideration, that perhaps they were induced to adopt the very measure complained of by some act of our own; probably both the one and the other being equally unwise and impolitic, and as hurtful to the country making the regulation as the one against whom it is aimed.

This is I fear, unfortunately for ourselves and the world, the general character and failing which prevails amongst us at the present moment; keeping alive a spirit of discontent and restlessness, promoting at home a desire for legislative interference and regulation, destructive of our dearest interests, and preserving those feelings of irritation which have so long split the world into factions, and sowing the early seeds of new dissensions and of future wars. In no instance, however, are these feelings so strong and so deeply felt as towards the United States of America; and when even *the Times* speak of her as an enemy, not so do they have been, as she may again be, her enemy in war; you must readily admit its unreasonableness, and that the sentiment, I regret to state it, accords well with the feelings of a large portion of the people of this country; furnishing another proof of the truth of an observation which is certainly not new, that communities are more generally led by their prejudices than their reason.

The proof of such position as that stated so broadly by you, certainly rests upon the person who brings it forth: and as truth is always benefited by discussion, we should be happy to see it attempted by one of your candor and information, begging you to keep in mind at the same time those enlightened and liberal views with which you opposed the silly complaints of the people of the Netherlands and of Germany, against the introduction of British manufactures and commerce.

In the mean time, however, it appears that it may be stated with advantage to the clear understanding of this very important question, that it is somewhat difficult to perceive how that nation should be our enemy in peace, which, in its habits, its laws, its institutions, and its language, most resembles our own, and which, owing to the influence of all these reasons, is our best and most extensive customer; and who, as she increases in wealth, must continue to deal more largely in the purchase of our goods; for many a year must rot over her before, in the natural course of things, if ever, America can supply herself, unless forced to it by measures emanating from ourselves. In no one circumstance, indeed, do the two nations or their interests interfere, if left fairly to themselves and to the natural circumstances in which they are placed.—The late war and its horrors placed us indeed in a situation hostile to each other; but I trust that the wisdom which each party learned from that contest will enable them to avoid the same result hereafter; and those causes being removed which led to it, no obstacle seems to stand in the way of a full reconciliation and participation of all just international rights, but the one which gave rise to your observation and to these remarks. Consider but for a moment the relative positions of the two countries, and observe the raw material she affords for us to work up, and recollect how the industry of our people is supported by her demand for manufactured articles of every description. Ask Staffordshire, and the county palatine of Lancaster; ask Birmingham; nay, ask London herself, what they experienced when that valuable market was interrupted—and is there not every reason for union, and none for quarrel?

But America, it is said, sends her ships into every sea; and in every port where the English Union is unfurled, there also are displayed the stars of the United States. And are we then to consider as our enemies every nation which is industrious, and wage war against it to prevent that progress which God and nature has equally granted unto all? Well would we then justify the worst part of the character which the late ruler of France at any

time in his hate ventured to insult us with. If we should harbor any such feeling, let us discard it at once, and recur to the maxims of our fathers which have made us what we are, and consider that what adds to the wealth of all must increase our own prosperity at the same time. But America adds to her navy in time of peace. And is England so silly as not to do the same? Far otherwise do I hope and believe the fact to be; but we are wise enough not to boast of that which it is the duty of all governments to perform—to use the days of peace in preparing against those contests which cannot be avoided. Besides, have the Americans no enemies to contend with but England? And let it not be forgotten, that it is the opinion of some of the best heads in this country, that she will no more increase her naval strength in the same ratio as she adds to the number of her ships, than we have ourselves done before her. A navy can be made effectual only to a certain point, being strictly limited by the extent of the mercantile marine of the country. The expense of her equipments also are likely to create another circumstance to control the entire efficiency of her naval exertions.

Wishing, however, rather to show in what manner the two countries may be kept together in the bonds of peace, than how little we are to dread her in the event of war, by showing how strongly their interests are united, and their objects the same, I shall add a few extracts from a paper written by a most unexceptionable judge in such a question, and whose talents for observation will be as little denied, as his desire not to exaggerate the portrait which he has drawn will readily be admitted.

M. de Talleyrand, in his excellent memoir upon the Commercial Relations of the United States and England, in 1797, to the national institute of France. (A paper which ought to be studied by the governments and people of the two countries) states, as a remarkable fact, the constantly increasing commercial intercourse between the United States and England, adding "that whoever has seen America thoroughly cannot for a moment hesitate in saying the greater part of her customs are still English, that her former commerce with England has increased greatly, in place of having diminished, since her independence; and that, consequently, that event, in lieu of having been prejudicial, has been attended with the happiest consequences to England." After complaining bitterly of the little influence that France had maintained over the councils, and how completely lost was every advantage which she expected to derive from the assistance she gave America, in enabling her to make herself independent of the mother country, he goes on to say, "The identity of language is the first circumstance whose influence it is impossible to over-rate. This identity confers upon the people of the two countries a common character, which always makes them take to each other; they will mutually consider themselves at home, when travelling in either country, they can discuss at freedom and without reserve that which concerns their mutual interests, whilst an insuperable barrier is raised up between those who speak different languages, who are unable to pronounce a word without betraying that they are not of the same country. In every part of America where I have been, I did not find a single Englishman who did not feel himself at home; nor a Frenchman who did not feel that he was a foreigner. But why should we be so astonished to find such a tendency to connect itself with England, in a country where the great lines of the federal constitution, as well as those of the particular states, are all derived from that of England, where her civil liberty rests upon the same foundation as the British Empire, and tried by jury? If you attend the sessions of Congress or the sittings of the state legislature, you will find their precedents and all her titles all borrowed from England, and the proceedings of her parliament. If you enter a court of justice, you will find the rules and judgments of the English courts quoted and followed. Surely, if men under the influence of such operating causes, should have no feeling or attachment to England, one must refuse assent to the influence of laws over mankind, and deny the existence of those impressions which they receive from the objects which surround them." Such is the recorded and deliberate statement of one of the most acute understandings and consummate statesmen of modern times—a statement fully borne out by the statement of another countryman of his own, M. de B. Anjour, who was French consul in America, in his sketch of the United States.

With such high and unprejudiced authority, is it wise in us to disgust a people whose interest it is, as it is their inclination, to remain on good terms with us who at the same time are our best customers and likely to continue so, in order that we may indulge a little peevish feeling which we ought to be above? We are ready to acknowledge that they have not been behind us, in America, in vulgarity of abuse and intemperance of language; but it is a fact that can be clearly demonstrated, that such conduct was as displeasing to the government of America as a similar conduct in America, but from those who, unfortunately for both countries, obtained, from circumstances which have ceased to exist, a temporary command over the press of that country.

My own individual feeling towards America has always been of a different sort. It has been that of a noble and generous pride—considering the production of so mighty a nation, in so short a time, as the first paucity upon the excellence of the English constitution, the fitness of her laws to promote the prosperity and happiness of mankind, and the manliness and vigor of the character of her people who could rear such a state, who even in their ambition, infirmities, vanity and contempt of other nations, strongly betray the origin whence they are derived. I look forward with delight to the extension of our laws and our language over so large a portion of the globe, and the influence which the name and character of England will in consequence, if not marred by mean and selfish motives, exercise over the future fate and fortunes of nations.

As to the question which has been the occasion of troubling you with these remarks, it appears clear that both nations have an undoubted right to act as they have done. At the same time, it does appear that both had better have refrained from doing that which they have done. It interrupts the course and freedom of commerce between them; it creates heart-burnings which had better be avoided; it makes the West India planters buy their lumber dearer, which, of course, makes the people of England pay more for their sugar, as it does the people of the United States, for her rum and molasses; and all for the sake, and that problematical too, of a colony whose trade, either present or future, when compared with the American or West India trade, is nothing, and which the Americans certainly will take from us the first we should unfortunately be engaged in with them, and, which this very measure, the only subject of contention between the two countries, will possibly precipitate.

The conquest of Canada was treated as the brightest circumstance in Pitt's celebrated administration; as saving the colonies of England from all future attack. How short-sighted is the wisdom of man! That same minister lived to see that very event led to the separation of the colonies from the mother country, and it has ever since proved the foundation of all misunderstanding between this country and America. Would it were again surrendered to France for a proper equivalent, and the union of the United States with England and her hostility to France would be perpetual; but an end must be put to these discussions, which lead to considerations of no common interest.

## OCCUPATION OF FLORIDA.

The following interesting remarks on the probable occupation of the Floridas by the United States, are from Bells's London Messenger, of May 3.

Several foreign journals have arrived up to a very late date, and it appears from their concurrent testimony, that something of an important nature is expected to be impending from America. The talents of Mr. Monroe as well as his discreet moderation, are well known; but he is not only one of the men of the Franklin school, who pursue important objects with the coolness, deliberation, and patient expectancy of men of business, instead of the ardor and ambition of kings and generals. Europe has been so much accustomed to the military spirit, as to have become rather inexperienced in a spirit of a more effectual kind, the political spirit—the slow but sure system of political management to obtain a secret end.

This end, as regards America, is the possession of the country between her present frontier and the shore of the Gulf of Mexico; or, in other words, the Floridas. But a possessive obligation of public law opposes these pretensions, and would render any direct violence an outrage against the civilized world. Here, therefore, is the difficulty. Upon the one part, Mr. Monroe desires the object; upon the other, he is unwilling to incur the reproach of the attempt. In order to conciliate these opposite principles, America has been long in negotiation with the Spanish government, in order to procure the direct cession. "You owe us so much money," say the American negotiators, "for injuries upon our trade, that we feel it incumbent upon our national honor to demand satisfaction.—Either pay us the money, or cede the Floridas as an equivalent." To these proposals Spain replies in the language of a government which, conscious of its own weakness, seeks its end in cunning rather than its direct power; it neither consents nor refuses. It employs every effort to keep the negotiation in suspense, that it may thus control the American government from assisting its revolted subjects. But that this management should have any effect, it is necessary that it should be secret—that it should not be known by the party against whom it is directed. But so far is this from being the circumstance, that in the recent annual *expose* of the American government, the president, with a bold candor and admirable dexterity, has both declared this political intrigue of Spain, and defended the American executive for the patient endurance of it.—"We sufficiently understand," says Mr. Monroe, "the policy of Spain in protracting the negotiations respecting the Floridas; but as her object in this policy does not contradict ours, we suffer her to continue this system. Another state of things may demand another policy."

This season, indeed, now seems to have arrived; as by the last Charleston papers, it appears that the American government have issued an order for a detachment to march and to take possession of the Floridas. This is the first step, which, in the usual language of such proceedings, will be modestly termed, "a provisional occupation," for the purpose of preventing any mischief to American property from the proximity of the parties engaged in civil war; and the Floridas once thus provisionally occupied, will soon be permanently alienated. Such occupation, indeed, is equivalent to an actual seizure, and always terminates in it.

It remains to be seen, how Ferdinand the Seventh will endure this proceeding. His wisest course will certainly be that of patience. Our own opinion is, that the loss of Spanish America would be the reintegration of Old Spain. In speaking and thinking of this kingdom, we always separate the people from their sovereign. A more noble people does not exist in the civilized world. And where, let us ask, can the civilized world produce two sovereigns which can match the two branches of the Spanish family—that of Naples and that of Madrid?

It appears that the South American congress are exercising all the functions of a legislative assembly, and are conducting themselves with more moderation than could have been expected from the irritation of the popular mind under civil war. Perhaps America will come into the field in due time to complete the revolution into a regular independent government. It is a matter of astonishment to us, indeed, how Mr. Monroe with all his acknowledged ability, has been able to restrain the popular mind in America, and to induce the people to await the slow progress of their executive. But the policy of Mr. Monroe, is perhaps, better known in America than even here; and as the people understand that his wishes and their own are concurrent, and that he is only waiting the suitable occasion, they are wise enough to leave to him the judgment upon this occasion.

## DOMESTIC.

BALTIMORE, JULY 25, 1818.

It will be seen by our paper of to-day that there are two Spanish cruizers on the ocean performing feats of heroism and chivalric valor, worthy of the tottering monarchy of the adorable Ferdinand. Some time since their redoubtable commanders fell in with the night an English brig of war and poured into her a broadside—on being called to an account they magnanimously evaded chastisement by alleging they took her for an American! We are now enabled to deck their brows with another laurel wreath of renown, for an action, surpassing in brilliancy of achievement, the celebrated battles of Trafalgar and the Nile, and which will ultimately reflect about an equal share of honor on the Spanish government. Here follows the circumstance alluded to, and which in all probability will operate as a *quies* to the sympathies and over-strained sensibilities of the *little wits* and *mushroom politicians* of the day who have latterly so liberally lavished their venom on gen. Jackson—which if ever it should reach

him he will regard in no other light than he would a fly passing his nose:

Extract from the log book of the brig *Lady Mary Pelham* arrived at New-York from Bordeaux:

"June 14th, 1818, lat. 43 12 N. and long. 14 20 W. at 3 30 P. M. the wind from the N. and standing to the westward, close haul'd upon a wind, saw two sail ahead, about 4 P. M. made them out to be ships carrying a press of sail and shortly after shortened sail and exchanged signals; they were both armed, the largest mounted 24 guns figure head, yellow sides and heavy quarter galleries, painted white chiefly. The smallest ship had a woman figure, head white and one white streak around; both had royal yards rigged aloft. When they closed with the smallest ship passed to windward within grape distance, and hoisted English colors, they fired three shot well aimed from the waist, chiefly at the L. M. Pelham, although our courses were hauled up, main yard aback and our colors flying, and the female passengers on deck which they could see plainly;—the other ship hove to at the same time upon our lee bow, and hoisted a king's Spanish ensign and pendant: the first shot from the Spaniard went over us, between the fore and main mast, the second with round and grape, close under the bow, and the third went close over the fore-castle, near the foremast and struck a few yards to leeward; after which the small ship hove up and ran close under stern, and ordered us to send our boat on board immediately; and when within short pistol shot, under our lee, and we in the act of lowering the boat down, the female and all the gentlemen passengers upon deck having got a little over their fright after such a rough salute, the cowardly rascals, thinking the opportunity too good to let it pass, in a deliberate manner fired a volley of musketry into us, which fortunately neither killed nor wounded any one, but several went through the main, and others over the quarter deck. I naturally concluded there was a war declared between the United States and Spain, not knowing otherwise how to account for such villainous treatment to an unarmed merchantman. I ordered the colors hauled down; and after shoving off from alongside the Pelham, being then within half pistol shot of us, still he had a gang abaft with their muskets pointed at us in the boat, that I expected every moment they would shoot all of us. In the interim whilst I went on board the small ship with my papers, the P. was boarded by an armed boat and an officer from the large ship—and by the passengers am informed that when the officer came on board he made many enquiries that displayed the most consummate ignorance, and corresponding with his appearance—among the rest wanted to persuade one of the passengers that he was the captain of the Pelham, and not believe she was from Bordeaux; and was asked upon coming on deck whether war was declared, said no, but expected it hourly and wished it sincerely, bragged about how the Spaniards would give the Americans cigars to smoke if there came a war, was very lavish of his abuse, and said positively that they were recommended by the captain general of the Havana, not to respect any American flag, and said that it was his opinion the Americans were a set of pirates and puppies. It is the opinion that they were bound to Corunna, &c."

In all probability should a Venezuelan privateer or two fall in with those gentlemen, they may find more interesting employment than "giving the Americans cigars to smoke." Those Venezuelians are perverse fellows—but a short time has elapsed since one of their privateers was off the Moro watching for the Spanish *Frigate Iphigenia*, said to be laden with specie.

However, in the event of a war with the whiskered gentry, we feel confident that the American character for liberality will be fully sustained, and in return for their CIGARS, an ample remuneration be made them in PORTER and PERRY.

## PASSING COUNTERFEIT NOTES.

There are some persons who argue, that if they receive counterfeit Bank Notes, and are themselves imposed on, they have the right to practice the same imposition upon others, by passing notes which they know to be spurious. Occurrences of this description doubtless take place every day in the year. An old proverb says, "The receiver of stolen goods is as bad as the thief"—and it is a maxim which ought to be impressed upon the mind of every thoughtful person, that he who passes a counterfeit note, knowing it to be such, no matter how it came into his possession; is as culpable in the eye of the law, as the original author of the imposition upon society. The following is published as a caution:—

"At Ontario, N. Y. Phineas Eggleston was sentenced to the state prison for four years, for passing a counterfeit bank note. His case should be a general warning; too many people, it is feared, have been willing to pass off bank notes of whose genuineness they had reason to doubt, and which they would not be willing to receive back again. Eggleston, it seems, was in possession of a note of the Bank of Niagara, which had been altered from one ten; that while in his possession, he had exhibited it, and was informed that it had been so altered; that with this advice that the note was not genuine, he passed it as a genuine ten dollar note. And although it appeared in evidence, that at the time he informed the person to whom he passed it its genuineness had been disputed, and that if it should prove to be bad he would take it back; the chief justice charged the jury, that if they were of opinion that B. had sufficient intimation that the note was counterfeit to put him upon his guard against passing it as genuine, and that he did pass it as genuine having good reason to believe it was false, they were warranted in presuming a felonious intent. The jury, upon this testimony, under the charge of the court, after about 20 minutes absence returned a verdict of Guilty."