

HALEIGH, (N. C.)

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Domestic.

A gentleman at New-Orleans, has enclosed the following extract from a letter which he received from his correspondent at Natchitoches, and observes, "I am acquainted with the parties, I am no doubt of the facts therein set forth. Burtell and Barker, mentioned in the extract, are well known in New-Orleans, and will enable your citizens to judge of the accuracy of the report." Here follows the extract:

—N. F. Ev. Post, Natchitoches, 3d Nov. 1819.
 "Nine o'clock this evening we received the news of the arrival of 2000 Spaniards on the Banks of the Sabine, all mounted, and within 50 miles of us. They have driven all before them on their march from St. Antonio, and burnt all the villages. They have driven the remainder of the Republicans in all directions, and have put several to death. Gen. Long has, with risk, got clear with his family; but the commander at this place has orders to send him, if caught, to Washington, by direction of the President. We do not know where this will end. We have but fifty soldiers at this post—They have got one daily from New-York, just settled there, by the name of Burtell. We buried Mr. Barker 25 days since."

—**DEAM DRINKING.**—There has been in all governments a great deal of absurd canting about the consumption of spirits. We believe the best plan is to let people drink what they like, and wear what they like; to make no sumptuary laws either for the belly or the back. In the first place, laws against rum and water are made by men who can change a wet coat for a dry one whenever they choose, and who do not often work up to their knees in mud and water; and, in the next place, if this stimulus did all the mischief it is thought to do by the wise men of claret, its cheapness and plenty would rather lessen than increase the avidity with which it is at present sought for. Again, human life is subject to such manifold wretchedness, that all nations have invented a soothing liquid or solid to produce a brief oblivion. Poppies, barley, grasses, sugar, pepper and a thousand other things have been squeezed, pressed, pounded, and purified to produce this temporary happiness. Noblemen and members of parliament, have large cellars full of sealed bottles, to enable them the better to endure the wretchedness of life. The poor man seeks the same end by spending three half pence in gin, but no moralist can endure the idea of gin.

[Edinburg Review.]

—**A new and cheap conductor of lightning and fluid.**—Mr. Capostolle, a French professor of chemistry, affirms that a rope of straw supplies the place of metal conductors. The experiments which he has made confirm, as he says, that the lightning enters a rope of straw placed in its way, and passes through it into the ground so gently, that the hand of a person holding the rope at the time does not perceive it.

Mr. Capostolle adduces the following in proof of his assertion:—"It is well known," says he, "that a severe shock is received by a person who immediately touches the Leyden vial. But if a person take a rope of straw, only seven or eight inches long in his hand, and touch, with the end of this rope, a Leyden vial, so strongly charged that an ox might be killed by it, he will neither see a spark, nor feel the slightest shock." In Mr. Capostolle's opinion, such a conductor made of straw, which would not cost above three francs, would be able to protect an extent of sixty acres of ground from hail; and were the houses and fields protected in this manner, neither hail nor lightning could damage them.

—**The Missouri Question.**—We take this method of announcing to correspondents, generally, that we decline to publish any more essays on the Missouri question, or in any manner connected with it, until the subject shall have been acted on by Congress. Further contention will only serve to exasperate into enmity what is now mere difference of opinion, in which some feeling mingles. Our columns have been widely opened already to all parties on the subject, and we have temperately expressed our own opinion relative to it.

Whilst referring to our expressed opinion, we will add, to what we have already said, that we have no decided objection

to the prohibition of the migration of Slaves from the present states into the territories over which Congress have exclusive jurisdiction. With regard to the District, in which we ourselves reside, we should cheerfully acquiesce in such a measure, though there is not in it, that we know of, a slave who was not born in the United States, and we are quite sure there never was a slave-ship fitted out from it. We wish some of the districts most intent on imposing restrictions on Missouri could say as much.—*Nat. Int.*

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

NEW-YORK, DEC. 22.

—**Unfortunate occurrence.**—Yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, as Mr. Stoughton, attorney at law, was walking down Broadway, near the corner of Maiden-lane, he met with Mr. Robert Goodwin, of Baltimore; and, after some words and blows, Mr. Stoughton received a wound from a cane sword, of which he died in a few minutes. Mr. Goodwin walked off, and at this moment, we believe, has not been taken. A circumstance of this nature could not have failed to excite much public feeling, and various rumors and reports have arisen on the subject. We have endeavored to ascertain the causes which led to this disastrous affair. Mr. Stoughton, it appears, had acted as counsel in some suits brought against Mr. Goodwin, in relation to Spanish affairs, in which Mr. Goodwin took umbrage at some transactions, and had challenged Mr. Stoughton, which he declined accepting. We are told that in walking past Mr. Stoughton, Mr. Goodwin used some harsh terms, which was resented by Mr. Stoughton, who returned and struck Mr. Goodwin; a scuffle ensuing, Mr. Stoughton received the wound which terminated his existence. Mr. Goodwin walked leisurely off. Such is the account given to us by persons who saw the affair. We deeply regret that an event of such a nature should have occurred in our city, but forbear enlarging upon it at present.

—*Nat. Adv.*

BUFFALO, NIAGARA, DEC. 7.

—**Execution.**—On Friday last, John Godfrey, a soldier of the United States artillery, was executed in this village, in pursuance of his sentence, for the murder of Thomas Branaghan, also a soldier, in an affray which happened at Fort Niagara, on the 25th of Aug. 1818. He had for a long time previous to the day of execution manifested great insensibility and hardihood. His indifference was doubtless increased by the expectation of a reprieve, which we understand he entertained almost to his last hour. He was born in New Hartford, Connecticut, and was about 25 years old.

Congressional Proceedings.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. DEC. 20.

Mr. Sergeant, from select committee appointed on the memorial of the surviving Officers of the Revolutionary Army, make a report thereon, favorable to the prayer of the petitioners, accompanied by a bill for their relief, which will be twice read and committed.

The following Message was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of Mr. J. J. Monroe, his Secretary.

To the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States.

Some doubt being entertained respecting the true intent and meaning of the act of the last session, entitled "An act in addition to the acts prohibiting the slave trade," as to the duties of the agents to be appointed, on the Coast of Africa, I think it proper to state the interpretation which has been given of the act, and the measures adopted to carry it into effect, that Congress may, should it be deemed advisable, amend the same before further proceeding is had under it.

The obligation to instruct the commanders of all our armed vessels to seize and bring into port all ships or vessels of the U. States, wheresoever found, having on board any negro, mulatto, or person of color, in violation of former acts for the suppression of the slave trade being imperative, was executed without delay.—No seizures have yet been made, but as they were contemplated by the law, and might be presumed, it seemed proper to make the necessary regulations applicable to such seizures, for carrying the several provisions of the act into effect.

It is enjoined on the Executive to cause all negroes, mulattoes, or persons of color, who may be taken under the act, to be removed to Africa. It is the obvious import of the law, that none of the persons thus taken should remain within the U. States and no place other than the coast of Africa being designated, their removal or delivery, whether carried from the U. States or landed immediately from the vessels in which they were taken, was supposed to be confined to that coast. No settlement or station being specified, the whole coast was thought to be left open for the selection of a proper place, at which the persons thus taken should be delivered. The Executive is authorised to appoint one or more agents, residing there to receive such persons, and one hundred thousand

dollars are appropriated for the general purposes of the law.

On due consideration of the several sections of the act, and of its humane policy, it was supposed to be the intention of Congress, that all the persons above described, who might be taken under it and landed in Africa, should be aided in their return to their former homes, or in their establishment at or near the place where landed. Some shelter and food would be necessary for them there, as soon as landed, let their subsequent disposition be what it might. Should they be landed without such provisions having been previously made, they must perish. It was supposed, be the authority given to the Executive to appoint agents residing on that coast, that they should provide such shelter and food, and perform the other beneficent and charitable offices, contemplated by the act. The coast of Africa having been explored, and no persons residing there, who possessed the requisite qualifications to enable them, to the trust, being known to the Executive, to none such could it be committed. It was believed that citizens only, who would go hence, well instructed in the views of their Government, and zealous to give them effect, would be competent to those duties, and that it was not the intention of the law to preclude their appointment. It was obvious that the longer these persons should be detained in the United States, in the hands of the marshals, the greater would be the expense, and that for the same term would the main purpose of the law be suspended. It seemed, therefore, to be incumbent on me to make the necessary arrangements for carrying this act into effect in Africa, in the time to meet the delivery of any persons who might be taken by our public vessels, and landed there under it.

On this view of the policy and sanctions of the law, it has been decided to send a public ship to the coast of Africa, with two such agents, who will take with them tools and other implements necessary for the purposes above mentioned. To each of these agents a small salary has been allowed.—1500 dollars to the principal, and 1200 to the other. All our public agents on the coast of Africa, received salaries for their services, and it was understood that none of our citizens, possessing the requisite qualifications, would accept these trusts, by which they would be confined to parts the least frequented and civilized, without a reasonable compensation. Such allowance, therefore, seemed to be indispensable to the execution of the act.

It is intended also to subject a portion of the sum appropriated, to the order of the principal agent, for the special objects above stated, amounting in the whole, including the salary of the agents for one year, to rather less than one third of the appropriation. Special instructions will be given to these agents, defining, in precise terms, their duties in regard to the persons thus delivered to them; the disbursement of the money by the principal agent—and his accountability for the same. They will also have power to select the most suitable place on the coast of Africa, at which all persons who may be taken under this act, shall be delivered to them, with an express injunction to exercise no power founded on the principle of colonization, or other power than that of performing the benevolent offices above recited, by the permission and sanction of the existing government, under which they may establish themselves. Orders will be given to the commander of the public ship, in which they will sail, to cruise along the coast, to give the more complete effect to the principal object of the act.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington Dec 17th, 1819.

DOCUMENTS

Transmitted to both Houses of Congress, with the message of the President, of 7th Dec. 1819.

NO. I.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Erving, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, in Spain, to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid, 10th Feb. 1818.

"The king has lately made large grants of land in East Florida, to several of his favorites; and I am credibly informed that within these few days he has, by a sweeping grant, given all the remainder to the Duke of Alagon, captain of his guards, and the Count of Puno Rostro, one of his chamberlains. This is, perhaps, his mode of preparing for a cheap cession of the territory to the United States."

From the same to Mr. Adams, Secretary of State, dated Madrid, 20th Feb. 1818.—Extract.
 "The King has lately made large grants of land in the Floridas to several of his favorite servants. The enclosed papers, A. and B. have been furnished to me, as extracts from the deeds to the principal grantees—the Duke of Alagon, captain of the body guards, and the Count of Puno Rostro, one of the chamberlains. Mr. Vargas, treasurer of the household, has another grant. In fine, I am led to believe that His Majesty has given away the whole of the lands in that

quarter, which had not been previously granted."

A. [TRANSLATION.] Original omitted. To the Duke of Alagon.

All the uncultivated land not ceded in East Florida, which lies between the banks of the river Saint Lucia and that of Saint John, as far as the mouths by which they empty themselves into the sea, and the coast of the Gulf of Florida, and the adjacent islands, with the mouth of the river Hijuclos, in 26th degree of latitude, following the left bank up to its source, drawing a line from Lake Macap, and then descending along the road from the river St John to the Lake Vider; crossing another line from the extreme both of said Lake to the source of the river Amurama; following its right bank as far as its mouth, in the 28th and 29th degrees of latitude, and running along the sea coast, with all the adjacent islands, up to the mouth of the river Hijuclos.

B [TRANSLATION.] Original omitted. To the Count of Puno Rostro.

All the uncultivated land not ceded in Florida, is comprehended between the river Perdido, to the west of the Gulf of Mexico, and the river Amurama and St. John, from Popa, until they empty themselves into the sea on the eastern side; by the north, the line of demarcation with the United States, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico, including the desert islands on the coast.

From Mr. Erving to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid, 5th April, 1818.—Extract.

"In my dispatch No. 50, [of February 26.] I mentioned the grants of lands in Florida lately made by the king of Spain to several of his courtiers, and enclosed extracts from those in favor of the Duke of Alag, and the Count of Puno Rostro. I have just now obtained a copy of that in favor of Don Pedro de Vargas, treasurer of the household, and it is herewith transmitted. I hope soon to be able to obtain full copies of the grants to Alagon and Puno Rostro."

The original, of which the following is a translation is omitted.

THE KING: My Governor and Captain General of the island of Cuba and its district, under date of the 25th of January last, Don Pedro de Vargas, manifested to me as follows:—Sire: Don Pedro de Vargas, knight of the royal military order of Alcantara, treasurer general of the royal house and patrimony of your majesty, with the most profound respect, at your royal feet, exposes—that there is a quantity of vacant and uncultivated land in the territory of the Floridas, and desiring that if your majesty shall deign to reward his vassals services, and the proofs which he has given of his loyalty, it may be without the least burthen on the public treasury, or in prejudice of any third person, as may be done at present by some lands of that country, he beseeches your majesty that, by an effect of your sovereign goodness, you would deign to graat to him the property of the land which lies comprised within the following limits: that is to say from the mouth of the river "Perdido," and its bay in the Gulf of Mexico, following the sea coast, and ascending by the [rivers] of "Buen Suero" and of "Mobile," continuing along the "Mobile" till it touches the northern line of the United States, and descending by that in a right line to the source of the river "Perdido," and following the river "Mobile," in its lower part, and the bay of that name, returns by the sea coast towards the west, comprehending all the creeks, entrees, and islands, adjacent, which actually belong to Spain, till it reaches the west line of the U. States, then, returning by their northern line, comprehending all the waste lands which belong to Spain, and are in dispute or reclamation with the U. States, according to the tenor of the treaties, and also all the waste-land not ceded to any other individual, which is between the river "Hijuclos," in East Florida; and the river "San Lucia," drawing a line from the source of one river to the source of the other, and following, by the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, from the mouth of the "Hijuclos" to the point of "Tancha," and doubling this, by the coast of the Gulf of Florida, to the mouth of the river "Santa Lucia," with the islands, &c. adjacent.

Considering the contents of this exposition, and attending to the merit of the individual, and his accredited zeal for my royal service, as also to the advantages to result to the state from peopling the said countries, I have thought proper to accede to the favor which he solicits, in as far as it be not opposed to the laws of these my dominions, and communicated it to my Council of Indies for its fulfilment, in a royal order of 2d February last. Consequently, I command and charge you, by this, my royal "cedula," (scroll) that, conforming to the laws which regulate in these affairs, and without prejudice to third persons, that you efficaciously aid the execution of the said grant, or favor taking all the measures which may conduce to its due effect, as also to the augmentation of the population, agriculture, and commerce of the aforesaid possessions, giving account, from time to time, of the progress made; for this is my will, and that due notice may be taken of this "cedula," in the Accountant General's Department of the Indies. Dated in Palace, 19th March, 1818. I, the King. It is rubricated, by order of the King, our Lord, Estavanzo I wrote a confidential note to Mr. Varea.—It is rubricated— *fees 250 reales Pizarro, pointing out the evil to result*

of plate. [Here follow four signatures.] Addressed

To the Governor and Capt General of the Island of Cuba and its district, (that he may do what is suitable, to the end that the favor granted to Don Pedro de Vargas, of various lands, situated in the Floridas, and other things therein mentioned, may have effect. Corr'da. [Here follows a signature.] Takes notice of this, in the Accountant General's of the Indies' Department. Madrid 18th March, 1811. Josef de Tekada. It is rubricated fees gratis. [Here is another signature.]

From Mr. Erving to Mr. Adams, dated Madrid, 26th April, 1818. Extract.

"I perceive that Mr. Pizarro would be very glad to terminate it (the negotiation) here. In the mean time, I shall continue to work with him, to the end that his communications to Mr. Onis may be made as favorable as possible to prompt adjustment of it at Washington. In this view, I asked him yesterday what had been said respecting Florida. He answered vaguely; but I perceived that there was some question of passing it to the United States, in compensation for the claims. I therefore begged him to prepare, in his instructions to Mr. Onis, for a difficulty which must certainly arise, if any "transaction" of that kind should be proposed, that the claims in question would probably be liquidated by the United States, in such form, by commission or otherwise, as might be most convenient to themselves; but that, finally, they must be paid out of the sale of the lands; Now, the King had lately given all those lands away, as I had duly informed my government;) to complete the "transaction," it would, therefore, be absolutely necessary that the whole of those grants should be cancelled. Mr. Pizarro held me a long discourse, about sovereignty, territorial property, &c. &c. I told him that we had no difference of opinion about those distinctions, and the other matter connected with them, but that his error was in supposing that we meant to pay for the sovereignty only. We did not estimate that so highly as he imagined; I enlarged very much upon whatever relates to these points, and brought him to consent that these grants might be cancelled, and inemity given to the grantees in New Spain, or elsewhere: I say "brought him to consent"—I mean that he said enough to convince me that there will be no difficulty on this head. I am not so certain that I have induced him to send, by his courier, such instructions on it to Mr. Onis, as may render another reference to his government unnecessary; but I propose to see him again to-morrow, and to re-urge the matter."

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, May 14, 1818. Extract.

In my late private letter (which was dated April 26) I related to you what passed between Mr. Pizarro and myself, upon the subject of the grants of lands in Florida, lately made by the King, and I mentioned, that I should see him the day following, & endeavored to press my opinion on that point, in such way, as it possible, to obtain that he might in advance instruct Mr. Onis in conformity to it. I saw him on the 27th, as I proposed, before the departure of his courier; whether I produced the desired effect, or not, I cannot positively say, but, immediately after, he wrote to the council of the Indies, in consequence of which, the council sent orders to the Duke of Alagon, and the Count de Puno Rostro, directing them not to make sales of the lands granted to them: this fact, which I had received through a private channel, I ascertained yesterday in conversation with Mr. Pizarro. I cannot find that the council has written to the other grantee, Vargas; but Mr. Pizarro said, that it should be done so—be that as it may, all sales made by the grantees are, ab initio, void, by the laws of Indies; there are obligations, also, of a very onerous kind, imposed by those laws, on all grantees, calculated to produce the objects which such grants have in view, viz. the population and cultivation of the territory. Obligations, which grantees of large tracts (under a prohibition to make sale) cannot possibly fulfil; less of all, such grantees as these, who, besides not having a cent, are overwhelmed with debt.

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, 12th June, 1818.—Extract.

He, Mr. Pizarro, then entered into the principal matters in question, and, firstly, spoke of the limits on the side of Florida. He concluded this subject by saying, that, though the king, with a desire to accommodate himself to the views of the United States, had concluded to make the cession, and to make it as valuable as possible to the United States; as I had seen in the promptitude with which he had on my suggestion, and given orders to the council of Indies, relative to the late grants, (as particularly communicated to you in my private letter of May 14.) yet his majesty was fully aware, that the value of the public land in the territory to be ceded would be infinitely beyond what the United States could demand under the head of indemnities; hence, it was reasonable to expect, that the difference should be made up to him by concessions on the other side."

From the same to the same, dated Madrid, 22d July, 1818.—Extract.

"The convention had scarcely been ratified, when I was alarmed by information which I received from a good source, that the king had rescinded the prohibition placed to the late grantees of land in the Indies. Dated in Palace, 19th March, 1818. I, the King. It is rubricated, by private letter of May 14. On this occasion, Estavanzo I wrote a confidential note to Mr. Varea.—It is rubricated— *fees 250 reales Pizarro, pointing out the evil to result*