

From the Alexandria Gazette
INTERESTING LETTER.

We have been favored with the original copy of the following interesting letter, never before published, written by George Mason of Virginia, one of the purest patriots and most sagacious men of his time. It is chiefly valuable as containing a brief, but well drawn sketch of the character of Patrick Henry, another of the great men of Virginia. From the date of the letter (1774) it will be seen even at that early period, before Mr. Henry had become so distinguished and popular, his abilities and eloquence had been noted by Mr. Mason, who did not hesitate to consider him "the first man upon the continent." The letter was written by Mr. Mason to a neighbor of his, Mr. Cockburn, and has been carefully preserved until this time:

WILLIAMSBURG, May, 26th, 1774.

Dear Sir:—I arrived here on Sunday morning last; but found every body's attention so entirely engrossed by the Boston Affair, that I have as yet done nothing respecting my Charter Rights, and I am afraid shall not this week.

A dissolution of the House of Burgesses is generally expected, but I think will not happen before the House has gone through the public business which will be late in June.

Whatever resolves or measures are intended for the preservation of our rights and liberties will be reserved for the conclusion of the session. Matters of that sort here are conducted and prepared with a good deal of privacy, and by very few members, of whom Patrick Henry is the principal. At the request of the gentlemen concerned, I have spent an evening with them upon the subject—when I had an opportunity of conversing with Mr. Henry and knowing his sentiments, as well as hearing him speak in the House since, on different occasions. He is by far the most powerful speaker I ever heard: every word he says not only engages, but commands attention; and your passions are no longer your own, when he addresses them. But his eloquence is the smallest part of his merit. He is in my opinion, the first man upon this continent, as well in abilities as public virtue: and had he lived at Rome about the time of the first Punic War, when the Roman people had arrived at their meridian glory, and their virtue not yet tarnished, Mr. Henry's talents must have placed him at the head of that glorious Commonwealth.

I enclosed you the Boston Trade Act and a resolve of our House of Burgesses.

You will observe it is confined to the members of their own House; but they would wish to see the example followed through the country—for which purpose the members are, at their own private expense, sending expresses with the resolve to their respective counties. Mr. Massey will receive a copy of the resolve from Col. Washington; and should a day of prayer and fasting be appointed in our country, please to tell my dear little family that I charge them to pay strict attention to it, and that I desire my three eldest sons and my two eldest daughters may attend the Church in mourning, if they have it as I believe they have.

I begin to grow heartily tired of this town and hope to be able to leave it some time next week; but of this I can't yet be certain.

I beg to be tenderly remembered to my children, and am, with my compliments to my cousins and yourself,

Dear Sir, your affectionate and ob'dt. serv't.
G. MASON.

Merchant's Bank of South Carolina.—This institution, lately incorporated by the Legislature of South Carolina, will go into operation in Cheraw, on the 1st of September. We have seen a copy of the five dollar bills proposed to be issued, and regard it as a beautiful specimen of superior engraving. It is ornamented with the heads of Sumpter and Green, placed alongside of the arms of South Carolina, and with a view of the De Kalb monument, and an urn, in memory of Marion. The whole design is neat and appropriate.

The solvency of this Bank is secured by a clause in the act of incorporation, which renders each stockholder liable in case of difficulty, for any sum not exceeding twice the amount of his shares.

There has been no banking institution in operation in Cheraw, for ten years past. The Bank of Cheraw, which is quoted among the broken banks, closed its business long since, after an existence of but a few months.—Saturday Ec. Post.

Disinterested Love.—A marriage took place a short time since in Irasburg jail, between Mr. James Highland, and Miss Martin M. Bailey, under the following circumstances: The bridegroom was under arrest for the subornation of perjury, and the bride the only witness upon which the government relied on to convict him. To checkmate the prosecution, the prisoner obtained the hand of the witness in marriage, before trial, which renders her an incompetent witness against her husband, and he will probably slip through the fingers of justice.
[N. Y. Courier and Enquirer.]

Fav. in his letters from Europe, published in the New York Mirror, says, that in walking through one of the splendid galleries of art in Genoa, "the artist pointed out a bust of Washington, informing me that he was a celebrated American poet. Long may his works last in their present binding."

From the Raleigh Register.
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

This subject so intimately blended as it is with the best interest of our State, cannot be too much thought of, or too frequently made the subject of investigation. With it, our State (with her fertile lands and diversified products) may be made every thing. Without it, we can comparatively do nothing. How long, fellow-citizens, shall we shut our eyes to our best interest? How long shall we continue to sleep, while all around us are awake to the importance of this subject? Is there any in our atmosphere, that forbids exertion? Is our case so hopeless, that no relief can be found? We think not. Rely upon it, the fault is ours and ours only.—Nature and Nature's God has done (I had like to have said too) much for us. Situated as we are, between the extremes of frigid regions of the North, and the evervating climate of the torrid Zone, with sounds, bays, and rivers, running through every part of our State, and all bounded by extensive tracts of the most fertile lands, with a variety of Agricultural productions not equalled by any State in the Union, with Mines producing thus far, larger supplies of the precious metals than any other State, why are we thus? The answer, we think is plain. WE ARE A DIVIDED PEOPLE.

We are taught by History, that 'reverend chronicles' of by gone days, that so long as the Grecian League lasted, those petty States were an overmatch for the untold soldiery of Persia; and yet so soon as discord found its way into their counsels, they became an easy prey to foreign conquest. Let us profit by their experience and avoid the like errors.

The various local interests of our State, warring against plans of general Improvements, is justly to be compared to the members of the body warring against themselves. If we can be induced to act in concert, we may accomplish almost any thing; but we can do nothing without it.

Our extensive sea-board, which, at first sight, might seem to be a great advantage to us, is one cause of the unfortunate divisions among us. The alleged errors in our Constitution is another. It is our intention at present, to speak of the first. For the purpose of better explaining ourselves, we may regard the sea-coast as divided into the Northern, Middle and Southern sections. The Northern section, consisting of those portions of our State, lying on the waters of Albemarle Sound, looks to the damming up of Croatan Sound, and the opening of our Inlet at Nag's Head, as the *ne plus ultra* of public Improvement. Do this for them, and they will do every thing you may ask for other points of the State.

The Middle section, consisting of the interests on Pamlico and Core Sounds, consider the improvement of Ocracoke Navigation or the establishment of a mart at the town of Beaufort, as all in all to them; and the Southern section look to Wilmington, and to the extension of its commerce, as the consummation of their hopes.

The spirit of compromise, both political and pecuniary; which actuated our fathers in the Revolutionary struggle, we hope, has not entirely left us. If not, we do trust that these jarring interests of the East, and the so much needed improvement of the West, may be made to harmonize; and in a future number, we propose to shew in what way. For the present we would remark, that the proceedings of the Internal Improvement Convention, which met in Raleigh last winter, assured us of one fact, that was—that the Western Members were disposed to aid in any judicious work of Public improvement, regardless of its terminating point on the sea-board. This liberality on our part of the West, calls for a like spirit on our part.

We have, it is to be feared, fellow-citizens, too long regarded our interests as separate from and hostile to those of the Western portion of our State; and so long as this feeling and those views prevail, it is greatly to be feared, that nothing will be done. It has been thought that this section of the State having the advantages of the Virginia improvements at our doors, was hostile to any works not designed to unite with those of that State. It is not so; for while we admire the enterprise of Virginia, we are desirous of imitating her, and have no wish to aggrandize her, at the expense of 'our own native State.'

We much fear however, if something be not speedily done, we shall at least lose the benefit of the suggestion made in this State, of connecting the Atlantic with the waters of the Mississippi, by a Rail Road across the Mountains through Tennessee, and in connection with that State; for we have recently seen, that the Mississippi and Atlantic Rail Road Company have availed themselves of the hint and have had an Engineer despatched by the Secretary at War, to survey the route through South Carolina, or in connection with that State; for we have recently seen, that the Mississippi and Atlantic Rail Road Company have availed themselves of the hint and have had an Engineer despatched by the Secretary at War, to survey the route through South Carolina, or in connection with that State; for we have recently seen, that the Mississippi and Atlantic Rail Road Company have availed themselves of the hint and have had an Engineer despatched by the Secretary at War, to survey the route through South Carolina, or in connection with that State;

Knowing that short stories are best, and short pieces most apt to be read, we dismiss the subject at present, and as leisure may offer, we propose again to let you hear from BALIFAX.

A man lately attempted to shoot himself, and was so intent upon the undertaking that, standing before the glass, he mistook the reflection for himself—took deliberate aim and fired; and for some time considered himself a dead man.

Foreign Intelligence.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.
NEW YORK, AUG. 28.

By the ship Victoria, Capt. Merrill, we have received London and Liverpool papers to July 26th, (Saturday,) both inclusive. Also a Liverpool letter of Saturday evening.

Down to July 26th, there had been no engagement between the armies of Don Carlos and Gen. Rodil. The former had his head quarters at Santa Cruz de Campezo, and the latter at Lorin. Reinforcements of 9,000 men had left Pampeluna to join him. Only 300 recruits, it is said, had joined Don Carlos. A Decisive engagement was expected in the course of a few days at furthest.

The Morning Herald of the 26th mentions a report of the death of the poet Coleridge on the previous morning.

THE BUDGET.—On Friday evening, the Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in his "financial statement." He began by stating that the receipts for the year ending the 5th of July were £46,914,586. The expenditure was 44,737,559.

Leaving a surplus of income over expenditure to the amount of £2,177,030.

LONDON, July 26th.—Exportation of the Precious Metals.—The official returns, made up to Thursday morning, July 24th, show, that the exportation of the precious metals is on the increase. The following are the returns of the actual exports, in the week ending on Thursday last: Gold Coin—To Hamburg, 2,540 oz.; to Oporto, 1,110 oz.; to Lisbon, 5,000 oz.; to the Mauritius, 500 oz. Total, 9,140 oz. Silver Coin—The Mauritius 20,814 oz.; to Calais, 430,000 oz.; to Cadiz, 6,500 oz.; to New York, 42,198 oz.; and to Lisbon, silver in bars, 24,000 oz. Total, 523,502 oz.

Horrid Outrage.—On Sunday evening, about 9 o'clock, some unknown ruffian stabbed, with a dagger, three females, who were walking in the Regent's Park. The police are making active search after the monster. The sufferers, two ladies and a female servant, have all been dreadfully wounded in the groin, and are lying in a dangerous state.

We learn from Hanover that the first Chamber of the States General has rejected the article passed by the second Chamber for making use of the guillotine instead of the axe in executions.

The number of persons who have sailed from the port of Liverpool, as emigrants to the United States and the British colonies, during the quarter ended the 30th of June last, is 11,625.

Letters brought from the Levant by the Bellona frigate, stated positively that the few French ships of war in those waters had received orders to join the British squadron. The project of a marriage between the Neapolitan Prince Leopold and the Princess Maria of Orleans had been relinquished.

BAYONNE, July 18.—It is reported that Don Carlos has appointed M. Castillo, the late Consul General of Spain in London, his ambassador in Russia; Count Alcedia, in Vienna; the Chevalier de Los Rios, in Berlin; M. Alvarez de Toledo, in Naples; M. de Navio, in Turin; the Marquis de Labrador, in Rome.

I have learned, from unquestionable authority, that 25,000 or 30,000 muskets have been purchased in France and England, by Don Carlos. Emigrants from that Prince arrived here, who have made offers, in his name, for several pieces of Artillery. All the fire arms that could be procured in our town have been bought up for the insurgents.

It appears that Don Carlos intends to convoke the Cortes *per Estamentos*. The decree will it is said, appear in a few days. He has moreover published an amnesty for all past offences; and another special decree, fixing the civil list during his reign at 30 millions of reals—considering, says the decree, the circumstances of the country and the penury of the Treasury.

PARIS, July 23.—The following telegraphic despatch, dated Monday (21st) was received yesterday:

"Don Carlos appears to be still in the environs of Salvatierra; his troops have made but few recruits. Rodil has sent 3,000 men from Pampeluna towards the valley of Bustan. El Paotor, on his side, has marched to Salvatierra. The insurgents are suffering from privations, in consequence of Rodil's energetic measures to cut off their provisions. They have introduced from France about 100 horses, and do not appear to have much money. Hitherto no action has taken place."

The intelligence from Madrid received by Government, published in the *Monitor*, was dated the 15th instant, at which period tranquilly prevailed in the Spanish capital. The cholera continued to be singularly mild in its character.

EGYPT.
Loyr.—The Odessa Journal gives from Alexandria the following: "Mehemet Ali has vast projects for the benefit of Egypt. He is improving the roads, particularly that from Alexandria to Kahira, and at Badschak, between Delts and Kahira, an enormous bridge is to be built, which is to be 400 toises long, and cost eight millions of piastres (40 million of France.) 100,000 men at least will be employed in building it. This extraordinary number of men will be required, for on account of the flowing of the Nile, scarcely four months will be

left to work during the year. Many are afraid that the inundations will destroy what had been previously done; however, the necessary preparations are taking place, and materials are collecting on both sides of the river. Every where buildings are erecting, and the rage for building has extended to every one who has the means. Menousquare, in Alexandria, is now surrounded by splendid houses, built under the direction of talented architects.

LIVERPOOL, July 29.—The packet of July 1st from N. York has arrived, and her letters will be delivered this evening. The transactions in our cotton market until within the last two days have been extensive; the total sales of the week ending yesterday, amounted to 45,600 bales, of which 9000 were taken on speculation and 1700 for export. On the lower qualities of American Cotton an advance has been obtained of 1/3d. and the prices of the better descriptions have been fully supported. The import has been 11,500 bags and our present stock exhibits a deficiency as compared with the same period last year of 5,000 bales. The sales to-day have been 1,500 bags.

STILL LATER FROM EUROPE.
The packet ship Columbia, Capt. Britton, arrived from Liverpool on Saturday evening.

We lament that it falls to our lot to announce the death, at Madrid, of Mrs. VAN NISS, the lady of the American Minister, the Hon. C. P. VAN NISS. She died on the 11th of July, of Cholera.

GREAT BRITAIN.
The Irish Disturbances Bill was read a third time in the Commons, on the 26th July, passed, and sent up to the Lords for concurrence.

FRANCE.
It has been rumored that, on the accession of Marshal Gerard to the Presidency of the Council, the King would no longer assist at its meetings, but the French papers of Saturday state, that the practice still exists. General Drouet d'Erlon had been appointed Governor of the Colony of Algiers. Some troops had been marched from Perpignan to the extreme frontier bordering on Spain. A Paris letter, dated July 26, states that on the preceding day the French Government has sent orders to the authorities of Havre to seize a vessel then in that port, laden with four thousand muskets and ammunition for Don Carlos, and which were intended to be landed on the coast of Biscay.

SPAIN.
The account from Spain are still vague and unsatisfactory. The *Journal de Paris*, of the 25th, says: "Don Carlos continues retired to the mountains, studiously avoiding a descent into the plain, where Gen. Rodil wishes to draw him. Notices of an engagement has yet been received. Letters received to-day from Rodil announce that he has taken all necessary measures, and expresses a confident hope of success."

Reports prevailed in Paris on the 24th, of important defections from the Queen's army in Navarre, and of the occupation of Vittoria by the troops of Don Carlos. Neither of these reports were credited on the 25th, although they had the effect of depressing the funds on the preceding day. It is stated in the Paris papers that some preparatory private meetings of the members of the new Cortes had already taken place in Madrid, at which were betrayed symptoms of ultra-liberalism.

It was stated from Bayonne, that Gen. Rodil had laid a contribution of 25,000 dollars on the Chapter of Pampeluna, arrested the Bishop of that town, and carried him away with him. His troops still occupied Puento de la Reyna, Estella, and the neighborhood.

On the 26th July, telegraphic despatches had reached the French Government from Bayonne up to the 25th inst. They represent the relative positions of Gen. Rodil and Don Carlos, in terms calculated to prepare one for the route of the Pretender. Rodil had caused Ouate, Salvatierra, and Alagna to be occupied, in consequence Zamblorreguy had fallen back on Alzazua. Don Carlos had retired to Elisondo, or Valcarlos evidently with a design to secure his retreat into France. An Aide de Camp of Rodil who had left him (Rodil) at Estella on the 20th, had arrived at Bayonne with despatches for Gen. Harispe. The French papers contain a decree of Don Carlos, and other matters connected with his proceedings in Spain; but his probable expulsion from thence deprive them of interest.

DISTURBANCES IN MADRID.
Frightful excesses have been committed by the populace at Madrid on the bursting forth of the Cholera. As in Paris and elsewhere, the first ravages made by the disorder were believed to be the effect of poison, and it having been suggested that the monks had poisoned the wells, the mob broke into three convents, pillaged them, and massacred several of the monks. The Government had, however, directed vigorous measures against the offenders, and tranquilly had been restored and still reigns in Madrid at the date of the last accounts (9th inst.) A great number of families had, however, fled from Madrid, and a panic prevailed throughout the entire of Castile.

Don Miguel.—This personage, it appears by a letter from Turin, has not yet resolved where he shall fix his abode. He

seems, indeed, to wish to go to Vienna; but it is a question whether the Imperial Cabinet will like him to be there. If he does not receive a satisfactory answer to the application which he made, he will go first to Pisa and afterwards to Rome.

TURKEY.
The Constantinople Correspondent of the Morning Herald, states that the British fleet, had left Smyrna, shortly before the 25th June, from Vouria, where it had been joined by two more ships of the line. It was rumored that it had since proceeded to Napoli di Romania. The plague was on the increase at Smyrna, which was probably the cause of the sudden departure of our fleet. We know, however, from other quarters, that the fleet had returned to Malta. Ametgi Effendi, lately appointed Ambassador to Paris, was also to visit London, charged with a most important mission.

The American Navy.—The number of vessels now in the American Navy is as follows:

Twelve 74s, guns	888	Captains of the Navy	57
Fourteen 44s,	618	Master's Command'	41
Three 36s,	108	Lieutenants,	252
Two 24s,	48	Surgeons,	43
Thirteen 18s,	234	Assistant do,	48
Seven 12s,	84	Purser,	43
One 3,	3	Chaplains,	8
		Passed Midshipmen	134
Total ships 52, guns	2071	Midshipmen,	314
Lt. Col. of Marines,	1	Sailing Masters,	29
Captains,	9	Boatswains,	18
1st Lieutenants,	23	Gunners,	17
2d Lieutenants,	16	Carpenters,	11
		Sail Makers,	14
Total,	49	Total Officers,	192

Threatened Assassination.—An infamous handbill was found circulated on Friday morning, in the streets of Charlestown, threatening to assassinate any person who should either prosecute or give testimony tending to convict any of the persons concerned in the late incendiary conflagration at the Ursuline Convent. Such a violation upon the general sense of the community is well calculated to rouse every individual in the city and country, to hunt out and bring to condign punishment both the incendiaries who applied the torch to the Convent, and the no less guilty authors of such a handbill. Let it be known that the sentiments of the handbill are participated in by any combination of individuals, and the outraged feelings of the whole State, from the Atlantic to the Western frontiers, would arm every honest citizen in support of the laws and against midnight assassins.

We also learn, that the handbill intimates that certain persons were bound by the same oath to assassinate as above stated, as they had been to burn the Convent.

Boston Sentinel.

The neglect of the application of Michigan, to be admitted into the Union, as a State, at the last session of Congress, has dissatisfied the people there.—They seem earnestly fixed on becoming a state at the earliest day. For this object, they have taken measures for ascertaining how far they are entitled to claim the benefit of the ordinance, and set up for themselves. A proclamation has been issued by the acting governor, for an extra session of the Legislative Council, to be held on the 1st of September. The principal purpose is, as their papers inform us, to cause a census of the population to be taken, and if it exceeds 60,000, to exercise their right under the U. S. constitution of framing a constitution for themselves, electing Senators and Representatives, and demanding admission as a right. If refused admission, according to the doctrines maintained on the Missouri question, they will be a sovereign State, though not in the Union.

Another purpose for which the session is convoked is to take measures for extending jurisdiction over Dubuque mines, a part of the country west of the Mississippi, whose irregular political condition has been frequently noticed.—[Balt. Amer.]

NEW TEMPERANCE MEASURE.

The Poughkeepsie Telegraph relates that a few evenings since a person who is fond of a dram, stepped up to the bar of a public house, and called for a glass of brandy and water. There were two or three persons in the room at the time, one of whom Mr. Sutton, a ventriloquist of high reputation, was engaged in reading newspapers at the table. The man took up the glass with an evident mark of satisfaction, and was in the act of putting it to his lips, when "how wow wow" appeared to come from a whiff of air as if in the act of biting at his leg. The man kicked and cried "get out most lustily in the same moment in doing which he set down his glass and looked round for the dog. But no dog was to be seen, and this excited his surprise in an especial manner. However, he shortly concluded to go ahead and take his dram; but in the act of a second time tipping it to his lips, "how wow wow" barked the dog louder than before; and snarled as if in earnest. The man jumped aside, kicked again and hallooed "get out," evidently alarmed. He then looked about for the dog, but as none was to be seen, he sat down his glass, declaring he would not drink under such circumstances, and walked out.

It is said that Dr. Hannah, of Washington, has invented an apparatus for removing the stone from the bladder, without cutting, or scarcely paining the patient.