

from the East, but hitherto they have also received of their newspaper fights from the same quarter. It is a fact, no ways creditable to our section, that, two years ago, there was not a single newspaper west of Raleigh, while in the Northern States there is scarcely a township, six miles square, but has its newspaper. Here was presented the spectacle of the larger half of the fifth state in the Union, possessing two-thirds of the white population, without a single newspaper to diffuse information among the people, or to assert their rights. From Raleigh we received the laws, and from Raleigh came the newspapers. But a change is taking place; slow, yet certain. At this time there is a newspaper printed in the town of Milton, and another at Hillsborough, both in the Western section of the state.

The usefulness of a newspaper depends not only on the prudence and ability with which it is conducted, but also much upon the extent of its circulation. We refer our readers to what we have said upon this subject in a subsequent page.

From such of our friends as have talents and leisure to spare, we solicit the contribution of their pens. Well written essays, on any and every useful subject, will be gladly received: On morals and manners; on subjects connected with the natural history, and the internal improvement of our State; on agriculture and rural economy; and, in short, upon every subject connected either with the physical or moral condition of the community.

Such communications as may be made to us, and which, in our judgment, will not answer for publication, will be disposed of without the severity of criticism.

Our Relations with Spain,

FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS.

At the opening of the past session of Congress, all eyes were turned to that body, full of the expectation that some steps of decision would be taken, some measures of energy adopted, to bring to a termination our protracted differences with Spain. The members of Congress themselves expected nothing less than that the President would recommend the occupation of Florida, as an indemnity or security for the millions of dollars due our citizens for spoils committed upon our commerce by Spanish citizens. At length the message was communicated, and read with great interest. Full one-half of it was taken up in detailing the circumstances attending the non-ratification of the treaty of 22d February, 1819; and the whole was wound up with a recommendation, that the United States should carry the conditions of the treaty into effect in the same manner as if it had been ratified by Spain. We shall not stop here to comment upon the anomaly of the principle contained in this recommendation of the President. There was this much to be said for it, that it had a view to action. But, as if alarmed at the energy of his recommendation, the President, in the next paragraph of his message, further adds: "It is submitted, therefore, whether it will not be proper to make the proposed law for carrying the conditions of the treaty into effect, should it be adopted, contingent; to suspend its operations upon the responsibility of the executive, in such a manner as to afford an opportunity for such friendly explanations as may be desired, during the present session of Congress." Now, to what does this recommendation amount, taking it with all its qualifications? Plainly to nothing. First, it is recommended to pass a law to carry the treaty into effect; then it is advised to make the proposed law contingent, to give an opportunity for explanations during the present session of Congress.

If this contingent law was intended merely for during the session of Congress, then there was no necessity for it; for Congress was on the spot, ready at any day to exercise the powers vested in them by the constitution. If it was intended to continue in force after the rise of Congress, to authorize the President, on certain contingencies, to occupy Florida, then again there was no necessity for it, as there already exists a law to that effect, passed in the Year 1811. So that, from a view of the whole case, it is plain that the President's recommendation amounted to nothing; or if to any thing, it was that Congress should not act at all upon the subject. Probably it was owing to this impression made by the President's message upon the minds of members, as well as to the introduction of other important subjects before Congress, particularly the Missouri question, that the Florida business was quietly laid under the table, without being thought of for nearly three months. If there has been any error in our policy towards Spain, since the refusal on the part of that government to ratify the treaty of the 22d February, 1819, that error was the want of decision in the administration at the opening of Congress. Then was the time to act. The people of the country looked for it; the nations of Europe expected nothing else; and Spain herself apprehended it. The correspondence of our ministers and agents at the different courts in Europe, fully show this; and subsequent occurrences prove how fortunate measures of energy would have been to this government, about the meeting of the last session of Congress. But the error was then committed, and to that error may be attributed all the embarrassments and apparent inconsistency that have since marked our conduct towards Spain.

When the long and jarring discussion upon the Missouri question was terminated, Congress began again to think of Spanish affairs. They evinced great anxiety to bring the subject before them. Repeated bills were made upon the committee on foreign relations for information of their project. The committee not affording satisfactory answers, a call was made directly upon the President for such information as he might have received, and which it was not improper to communicate. In the course of two weeks, thereafter, the President communicated a bundle of letters from Mr. Forsyth, and others, conveying no information not known before, excepting the fact, that Don Vives, the new minister from Spain, was on his way to this government, and might be looked for before the adjournment of Congress. In the state of affairs, when the new minister was daily expected, as it was understood, with ample powers to settle all points, the committee of foreign relations, to the surprise of Congress, made a short report, and laid upon the table a bill authorizing the occupation of Florida. The movement of the committee placed Congress and the Executive in an embarrassing predicament. If it was improper at the commencement of Congress to take possession of Florida, it certainly was unwise and impolitic to take that step when the government was in daily expectation of the arrival of the new minister; who, it was believed, brought with him the treaty ratified, and with powers to surrender Florida into our hands. Whether this step, taken by the committee of foreign relations, was by the advice of the executive, (forming our opinions from the newspapers alone, and at this distance,) we pretend not to say; but the measure evidently tended rather to perplex than to make clear; and we have heard it said, that it was problematical whether Congress would have sustained the committee in their attitude. Be that as it may, in a short time after the committee reported, we see that the President came out with another message on Spanish affairs, which was his third upon that subject, and recommended

was communicated to Congress various extracts and parts of letters from the different courts in Europe, all, however, going to the same point; that is, counselling our government to moderation and forbearance towards Spain. The Emperor Alexander felt particular solicitude upon the subject; perhaps as head of the holy alliance. No sooner was this communication made, than the committee of foreign relations yielded their acquiescence, and laid their project quietly to rest on the table.

In this situation things continued a few weeks longer; when, to the joy of all, the arrival of Don Vives at New-York was announced, and in a few days afterwards he made his appearance at the seat of government. After taking a day or two to compose his muscles, and collect his ideas, the Don was duly introduced to the President, and no time was lost in opening the correspondence. In his first note to Mr. Adams, our Secretary of State, he says, "that his august sovereign, after a mature and deliberate examination of the treaty of the 22d February, saw, with great regret, that it was far from embracing all the measures indispensably requisite to that degree of stability which he was anxious to see established in the settlement of the existing differences between the two nations." And in the following page, he says, "that the king, his master, judged it necessary and indispensable in the exercise of his duties as a sovereign, to request certain explanations of your government. These explanations were nothing more nor less than three very unreasonable demands; the last of which was in the following words: 'And finally, that they (the United States) will form no relations with the pretended governments of the revolted provinces of Spain, situated beyond sea, and will conform to the course of proceeding adopted in this respect by other powers in amity with Spain.'" We should do injustice to the letters of Secretary Adams, were we here to present extracts from his reply to these strange demands of the Spanish government; and to give the whole would take up too much space. Suffice it then to say, that they were in a style and spirit becoming the dignity and intelligence of the American government. Upon the subject of the third request of the Spanish government, as contained in the words above quoted, the President, in his message to Congress of the 9th May, says: "In regard to the stipulation proposed as the condition of the ratification of the treaty, that the United States shall abandon the right to recognize the revolutionary colonies in South America, or to form other relations with them, when, in their judgment, it may be just and expedient so to do, it is manifestly so repugnant to the honor, and even the independence of the United States, that it has been impossible to discuss it." All discussion, therefore, upon this insulting proposition was indignantly refused by our government. And whether by accident, or on purpose, we pretend not to say, but about the same time the house of representatives took up Mr. Clay's resolution respecting the independence of South America, and passed it. This resolution, in effect, declared the sentiment that the independence of the South American governments ought to be recognized by our government. Whether the proposition of the Spanish minister had any effect upon the minds of members in producing this result, is altogether conjectural; but the passage of that resolution was certainly an adverse commentary on part of the Don's epistle. In short, it was soon found, contrary to expectation, that the new minister brought with him neither the old treaty ratified, nor full powers to form a new one. It was useless, then, to continue the correspondence, or to open a new negotiation. What, then, was to be done? The whole purpose of Spain evidently was procrastination. After eighteen years of negotiation between the two governments, they appeared as far from an adjustment as when they commenced. "Under this view of the subject," (says the President in his message,) "the course to be pursued would appear direct and obvious, if the affairs of Spain had remained in the state in which they were when this minister sailed. But it is known that an important change has since taken place in the government of that country, which cannot fail to be sensibly felt in its intercourse with other nations." This change was produced by the late revolution in that country, by which the Inquisition is again abolished, and the Constitution of the Cortes of 1812 adopted by the nation, and sworn to by the king. Then, since there is so great a change in the government of Spain, in the power and councils of the king, it is certainly wise in this nation, before it takes measures for the redress of its complaints, to give to the new order of things at Madrid an opportunity of adjusting our differences in an amicable manner.

Influenced by this view of the subject, the President concludes his message of the 9th of May to Congress, by observing: "With these remarks, I submit it to the wisdom of Congress whether it will not still be advisable to postpone any decision on this subject until the next session." A few days after this communication, Congress adjourned; not, however, until they had received still another message from the President, (which was his fifth on that subject,) transmitting several additional letters from Don Vives, which contained the information, that the king his august master, had sworn to the Constitution, as sanctioned by the extraordinary Cortes of 1812. Such, then, at present, are our relations with Spain: precisely at the close of the session what they were at the opening of it; and the same that they were 18 years ago. It is hoped and believed, however, when the voice of the people is felt in the councils of Spain, that an adjustment of our differences will speedily take place. The Cortes is to convene in the course of the summer, and it is probable, by the meeting of our Congress, the long protracted negotiation will end in a treaty; if not, the presumption is, that Congress will, among its first acts, direct the capture of Florida, and the occupation of Texas.

Foreign News.

By late arrivals from Europe, very interesting accounts have been received, which evidently show that a great moral revolution is taking place in that interesting quarter of the globe. The people begin to think; the human mind is arising from the slumber of ages, rousing to action its dormant faculties, and displaying a force and energy, which open a most cheering prospect to the friends of liberty and the rights of man. We live in an interesting period of the world. Great events follow one another so rapidly, and each contributing something towards rescuing man from the moral degradation which has so long enslaved him, that we can hardly anticipate their effects, before our anticipations become realities. Liberty is forcing its way over crowns and sceptres, and continually receiving accessions of moral and physical strength. The moral face of nature, we trust, will soon be renovated. The period, however, by the intervention of propitious circumstances, may be distant; but it must, at last, arrive. Light has gone forth; and the enemies of freedom might as well attempt to arrest the sun in his course, as to stop its progress. A brief sketch of the most important European news will be found below.

ENGLAND appears to be in an alarming situation. One tenth of its population are actually paupers; and the great body of the people are not much better. The demand for reform in Parliament, for retrenchment of public expenditures, the abolition of sinecures, and the system of bribery and corruption, the reduction of the army, &c. is almost universal. And such measures have been resorted to by the friends of reform, and so determined a spirit manifested, that it seems one of these two results must follow, either the people of England will obtain a form in the government, or their present

and their claims more firmly riveted than ever. Various conspiracies, either real or pretended, have been detected, their authors and abettors arrested and imprisoned; and these discoveries have been used as a pretext for strengthening the arm of the government, and giving to it a power at once dangerous to the remaining liberties of the people, and disgraceful to the high-minded spirit of Englishmen. The liberty of the press, the boast of England, has been materially restrained during the late session of Parliament; and the private mansion of an Englishman is not now shielded from the intrusion of any petty officer who may see fit to enter it, on whatever flimsy pretext he may judge best to adopt. Amidst all this confusion and distress, great preparations were making for the coronation of George the IV. whose robes, only, for that occasion, it is said, will cost nearly two hundred thousand dollars! His queen is wandering on the continent, and preparing to return to England, to mar his pleasure on that great occasion.

IRELAND, very serious disturbances existed, but are now partially suppressed. Great excesses were committed by the ribbons, and their numbers excited considerable alarm; but so undisciplined and ill organized a rabble could make but little resistance to the disciplined and well armed soldiery sent against them; they were soon dispersed, many of their leaders apprehended and committed for trial at the assizes—their execution will follow of course. The English government has never shown much mercy to the oppressed Irish; and they, in their turn, have used the *lex talionis* with great severity. But they carry their enmity too far, and defeat their own purposes. They infuse a general terror, and unite those against them who would otherwise be their friends. Had they some master spirit to ride on the whirlwind of Irish impetuosity, and direct the storm, they might assume an attitude which would compel England, in her present situation, to grant them their rights.

SCOTLAND.—The cool, calculating, loyal Scotch are at length aroused, and have displayed a spirit at once astonishing and unexpected. Something radically wrong must exist in the British government—the loyal, philosophic Scotchmen must have drunk the cup of misery to the very dregs, or they would never have risen in opposition to their king. In Glasgow and Paisley, the former the second city in Scotland, and the latter one of the first manufacturing towns, and in the neighboring country for some miles round, all the workmen turned out, to the number of sixty thousand. A secret provisional government has been formed, which has issued proclamations, breathing a spirit truly alarming, not to the friends of liberty, but to the advocates of oppression. One of them, styled an "Address to the people of England, Ireland, and Scotland," called upon the people to come forward, and "to effect, by force, if resisted, a revolution in the government;" and concluded in the following emphatic words: "Britons—God—Justice. The wishes of all good men are with us. Join together, and make it one cause; and the nations of the earth will hail the day when the standard of Liberty shall be raised on its native soil." The military were pouring in from all quarters; several skirmishes had taken place between parties of the soldiery and the reformers; in some of which the former were compelled to retreat, and in others the latter. What will be the result of these insurrectionary movements in various parts of the United Kingdom, it is impossible to say. We are fearful, however, that they will terminate, for the present, unfavorably to the liberties of the people. The reformers are destitute of plan, and competent leaders; and are almost entirely without arms and ammunition. They have a large military force, and a powerful landed and monied interest, to contend with; and without a general concert, and well digested plans, they cannot have the remotest prospect of success. Their movements hitherto have been detached and irregular, affording opportunity to the government to beat them in detail; and have produced not only a useless effusion of blood, and the needless destruction of many lives, but have served to strengthen the arm of their oppressor, and to give to it a force subversive of their constitution.

IN SPAIN, we behold the novel spectacle of a nation born in a day. The combined efforts of despotism and priestcraft had completely succeeded in enslaving, not only the bodies, but the minds of the Spaniards. They had sunk to the lowest degree of moral and political debasement; and we should almost as soon have expected to see the "Leopard change his spots, or the Ethiopian his skin," as to behold the whole Spanish nation, by a simultaneous movement, bursting their chains and fetters, on which the rust of centuries had accumulated, and demanding from their king a constitution and form of government superior to any in Europe. The revolution has completely succeeded, and with very little bloodshed; and Ferdinand the VII. is now the most limited monarch in Europe. The dungeons have been thrown open, and the victims of tyranny have proceeded from the gloom of their prisons to guide the destinies of their country. The Inquisition, that bloody instrument of despotism and priestcraft, has been abolished; its captives restored to the state of heaven, and the thousands of freedom; its horrible dungeons and instruments of torture been exposed to the view of the world; and the fires of its last *auto da fe* have been kindled for its own destruction. Spain will once more take her rank among the nations of the earth: She has, by one glorious act, wiped off from her national character the disgrace of ages; she will, henceforth, be free and happy at home, and respected abroad.

FRANCE is yet in an unsettled state; and the measures of the government seem to indicate, that the throne of the Bourbons is not erected on that sure foundation, the affections of the people, which the advocates of legitimacy would fain make us believe. The *Ultras* appear now to have the direction of affairs; and their measures are such as might have been expected. A law, (proposed by the ministers,) creating a censorship for the PRESS, has passed both houses of the French Legislature, by small majorities; and thus this powerful advocate of freedom, so dreaded by tyrants, is nearly silenced. In the debates on the passage of the above law, the *Liberals* evinced considerable warmth, and delivered their sentiments with the greatest freedom; frequent and pointed allusions were made to the recent revolution in Spain, and ministers were advised to beware how they encroached on the liberties and rights of Frenchmen. Another law, similar to the *lettres de cachet*, under the old regime, also passed at the same session of the legislature; and a subscription was immediately formed by the friends of liberty, at the head of which we are glad to see the name of the venerable La Fayette, for the purpose of relieving those who, by this law, may be snatched from their families, and immured in a dungeon, at the pleasure of the minister.

IN PRUSSIA, and throughout almost all GERMANY, and in ITALY, a redeeming spirit seems to have gone forth. The Prussians demand of the king the fulfillment of his promise, made in 1813, to give them a representative government, which he refused to perform, after the danger which threatened him had been dissipated by the downfall of Bonaparte. Other states of Germany demand the performance of similar promises, made to them by their princes, and which, likewise, have been shamefully violated. We shall only remark, in the words of the Edinburgh Review, "that the spirit with which that mighty nation seems now to be animated, is not to be subdued, we trust, by such considerations as seem to be forming against it; and that it will prove, in the language of Lord Bacon, 'a spark of fire, that fires in the faces of those who seek to tread it out.'"

HENRY CLAY, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has declared a re-election to the next Congress.

OUR COAST.

We are glad to trace that Congress have appropriated a sum not exceeding *fourteen thousand dollars*, for the erection of a Light-House on Shell Castle Island, in this state; or, if preferred, a light vessel to be moored in a proper place near the Island.

They have also appropriated *five thousand dollars* for carrying into effect a resolution directing a survey of certain parts of the coast of North Carolina, which resolution was passed during the last session of the 14th Congress. Our readers will recollect that this important survey has now been in progress for some weeks, and, in all probability, will be completed before the end of July.

Colonel HENRY ATKINSON, of the 6th Infantry, has been appointed a Brigadier General in the army of the United States.

Colonel Atkinson is a citizen of this state, and esteemed one of the best officers in service. Maj. Gen. Brown, during the past session of Congress, in conversation with one of our members, spoke of Colonel Atkinson in the most honorable terms. He said that there was not his superior, of the same grade, in the whole establishment. An opinion may be formed of the degree of estimation in which Colonel Atkinson is held by the administration, from their election of him to conduct the troops up the Missouri River; a very important and arduous expedition. When, before the adjournment of Congress, it was known that there was a vacancy of a Brigadier General's post, by the resignation of General Ripley, the members from this state unanimously joined in a recommendation in favor of their fellow-citizen, Colonel Atkinson. We are glad to see that the President, by complying with their wishes, has conferred a mark of just distinction upon one of the most serviceable officers in the army.

United States' Bank.—Counterfeit notes of the denomination of *Five Hundred Dollars*, of the present bank, were lately detected by the principal Teller in the U. States' Bank, in the exchange of notes with city banks. Since then counterfeit notes of the denomination of Fifty Dollars, also of the present bank, have appeared in circulation.

TO OUR PATRONS.

We seize the first opportunity of returning our unfeigned acknowledgments to such of our friends as have interested themselves in obtaining subscribers to our paper. We feel the full force of the obligation they have imposed on us; and at the same time that we offer them our thanks for what has been done, we farther indulge the hope, that all of our friends who feel an interest in the success and usefulness of this paper, will continue their exertions to add to the number of our subscribers.

☞ We request such persons as have subscription papers on hand, to which there may be names, immediately to transmit them to us, in order that we may forward to such subscribers the first numbers of our paper.

SALISBURY THEATRE.

On THURSDAY EVENING, the 16th inst. will be performed, for the benefit of the ACADEMIES, *The much admired Comedy,*

A Cure for the Heart Ache.

AFTERPIECE.

FORTUNE'S FROLIC.

For CHARACTERS, and further particulars, see the Hand-Bills.

SALISBURY ACADEMIES.

THE Examination of the pupils of these Institutions commences this day, and will close on Friday evening, the 17th instant. June 15, 1820.

In Rowan Court of Equity.

Alexander Long, }
Lewis Beard, }
Jonathan Merrick, }
Moses A. Locke. }

THE depositions of Thomas Todd, Thomas Hartley, George Willis, sen. Samuel Sillman, John Clements, Nicholas Simpson, John Travis, and others, will be taken on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh days of June next, at John Howard's tavern, in Salisbury; and if not all taken on that day, the depositions of the same witnesses, or of them not taken, and others, will be taken at John Howard's tavern, in Salisbury, on the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth days of August next; and if not all then taken, the depositions of the same witnesses, or of them not taken, and others, will be taken at John Howard's tavern, in Salisbury, on the twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh days of September next; and if not all then taken, the depositions of the same witnesses, or of them not taken, and others, will be taken at John Howard's tavern, in Salisbury, on the sixth and seventh days of October next. Which depositions are intended to be read as evidence on the trial of this suit; and when and where you may attend, and cross-examine, if you think proper. ALEX'R LONG, Sen.

May the 30th, 1820.—Dw I
Inserted by request of MOSES A. LOCKE.

Fifty Dollars Reward.

STOLEN from the subscriber, living in Salisbury, N. C. on Friday the 26th instant, a

DARK BROWN HORSE.

The horse is seven years old, fifteen hands and a half high, nicked, has a small star in his forehead, with a small white spot at the root of his tail, and is short made. The man who stole him calls himself *John Garnet*, between 25 and 30 years of age, about 5 feet 9 or 10 inches high, red hair, with a scar under the right side of his chin, pale complexion, has a bad cough, and is apparently in a consumption. His clothes cannot be described, as he has two suits with him; but he generally wore a blue surtout. Whoever will apprehend said thief, and secure him in any goal in the United States, and give information, shall receive *twenty-five dollars*; and *twenty dollars* for information of the horse, so that I may obtain him again.

Salisbury, May 29, 1820. IFFY KRIDER.