

Descending the ladder (now easy step) and approaching to the foot of this ladder fall, we are driven away blinded, breathless, and smarting, the wind being high and blowing right against us. A young gentleman, who incautiously ventured a few steps farther, was thrown upon his back, and I had some apprehension, from the nature of the ground upon which he fell, was seriously hurt; he escaped, however, from the blast, upon hands and knees, with a few slight bruises. Turning the corner of the rock (where descending less precipitously, it is wooded to the bottom) to recover our breath, and wring the water from our hair and clothes, we saw on lifting our eyes, a corner of the summit of this graceful division of the cataract hanging above the projecting mass of trees, as it were in mid air, like the snowy top of a mountain. Above, the dazzling white of the shivered water was thrown into contrast with the deep blue of the unspotted heavens; below, with the living green of the summer foliage, fresh and sparkling in the eternal shower of the rising and falling spray. The wind, which, for the space of an hour, blew with some fury, rushing down with the river, flung showers of spray from the crest of the fall. The sun's rays glancing on these big drops, and sometimes on feathery streams thrown fastidiously from the main body of the water, transformed them into silvery stars, or beams of light; while the graceful rainbow, now arching over our heads, and now circling in the vapour at our feet, still flew before us as we moved. The greater division of the cataract was here concealed from our sight by the dense volumes of vapor which the wind, drove with fury across the immense basin directly towards us; sometimes, indeed, a veering gust parted for a moment the thick clouds, and partially revealed the thick columns, that seemed more like fixed pillars of moving emerald than living sheets of water. Here seating ourselves at the brink of this troubled ocean, beneath the gaze of the sun, we had a full advantage of a vapour bath; the fervid rays drying our garments one moment, and a blast from the basin drenched them next. The wind at length having somewhat abated, and the ferryman being willing to attempt the passage, we here crossed in a little boat to the Canada side. The nervous arm of a single rower stemmed this heavy current, just below the basin of the falls, and yet in the whirl occasioned by them; the stormy northwest chafing the waters yet more. Blinded as we were by the columns of vapor which were driven upon us, we lost the panoramic view of the cataract, which, in calmer hours, or with other winds, may be seen in this passage. The angry waters, and the angry winds together, drove us farther down the channel than was quite agreeable, seeing that a few rods more, and our shallop must have been whirled into breakers, from which ten such arms as those of its skilful conductor could not have redeemed it.

Being landed two-thirds of a mile below the cataract, a scramble, at first very intricate, through, and over, and under huge masses of rock which occasionally seemed to deny all passage, and among which our guide often disappeared from our wandering eyes, placed us at the foot of the ladder by which the traveller descends on the Canada side. From hence a rough walk along a shelving ledge of loose stones brought us to the cavern formed by the projection of the ledge over which the water rolls, and which is known by the name of the Table Rock.

The gloom of this vast cavern, the whirlwind that ever plays in it, the deafening roar, the vast abyss of convulsed waters beneath you, the falling columns that hang over your head, all strike, not upon the ears and eyes only, but upon the heart. For the first few moments, the sublime is wrought to the terrible. This position indisputably the finest, is no longer one of safety. A part of the Table Rock fell last year, and in that still remaining, the eye traces an alarming fissure, from the very summit of the projecting ledge over which the water rolls; so that the ceiling of this dark cavern seems rent from the precipice, and whatever be its hold, it is evidently fast yielding to the water. You cannot look up to the crevice, and down upon the enormous masses which lately fell, with a shock mistaken by the neighboring inhabitants for that of an earthquake, without shuddering at the dreadful possibility which might crush you beneath ru-

ins; yet more enormous than those which lie at your feet.

The cavern formed by the projection of this rock, extends some feet behind the water, and, could you breathe, to stand behind the edge of the sheet were perfectly easy. I have seen those who have told me they have done so: for myself when I descended within a few paces of this dark recess, I was obliged to hurry back some yards to draw breath. Mine to be sure are not the best of lungs, but theirs must be little short of miraculous, that can play in the wind and foam that gush from the hidden depths of this watery cave. It is probable, however, that the late fracture of the rock has considerably narrowed this recess; and thus increased the force of the blast that meets the intruder.

From this spot, (beneath the Table Rock,) you feel more than from any other, the height of the cataract, and the weight of its waters. It seems a tumbling ocean; and you yourself what a helpless atom amid these vast and eternal workings of gigantic nature!—The wind was now abated, and what was better, we were now under the lee, and could admire its sport with the vapor, instead of being blinded by it.—From the enormous basin into which the waters precipitate themselves in a clear leap of 140 feet, the clouds of smoke rose in white volumes, like the round-headed clouds you have sometimes seen in the evening horizon of a summer sky, and then shot up in pointed pinnacles, like the mountain glaciers. Caught by the wind, it was now borne down the channel, then, recollecting its strength, the tremulous vapor again sought the upper air, till broken and dispersed in the blue serene, it spread against it the only silvery veil which spotted the pure azure.

In the centre of the fall, where the water is the heaviest, it takes the leap in an unbroken mass of the deepest green, and in many places reaches the bottom in crystal columns of the same hue, till they meet the snow white foam that heaves and rolls convulsedly in the enormous basin. But for the deafening roar, the darkness and the stormy whirlwind in which we stood, I could have fancied these massy volumes the wall of some fairy place—living emeralds chased in silver. Never surely did nature throw together so fantastically so much beauty with such terrific grandeur. Nor let me pass without notice the lovely rainbow that at this moment hung over the opposing division of the cataract as parted by the island, embracing the whole breadth in its span. Midway of this silvery screen of shivered water, stretched a broad belt of blazing gold and crimson, into which the rainbow dropped its hues, and seemed to have based its arch. Different from all other scenes of nature that has come under my observation, the cataract of Niagara is seen to most advantage under a powerful and opposing sun; the hues assumed by the vapor are then by far the most varied and brilliant; and of the beauty of these hues I can give you no idea. The gloom of the cavern (for I speak always as if under the Table Rock) needs no assistance from the shade of evening; and the terrible grandeur of the whole is not felt the less for being distinctly seen. We now ascended the precipice on the Canada side, and having taken a long gaze from the Table Rock, sought dry clothes and refreshment at a neighboring inn.

We have again visited this wonder of nature in our return from lake Erie; and have now gazed upon it in all lights, and at all hours,—under the rising, meridian, and setting sun, and under the pale moon, when

"Riding in her highest noon"
The edge of the Table Rock is not approached without terror at the latter hour. The fairy hues are now all gone; excepting, indeed, the rainbow, which, the ghost of what it was, now spans a dark impervious abyss. The rays of the sweet planet but feebly pierce the chill dense vapor that clogs the atmosphere; they only kiss, and coldly kiss, the waters at the brink, and faintly show the upper half of the columns, now black as ebony, plunging into a storm-tossed sea of murky clouds, whose depth and boundaries are alike unseen. It is the storm of the elements in chaos. The shivering mortal stands on the brink, like the startled fiend.

"On the bare outside of this world,
"Uncertain which, in ocean or in air."
"La bufa compagna
"Tremo si forte, che dello spavento
"Ja mente di sudore ancor mi bagna,"

INTELLIGENCE.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

BOSTON, MARCH 31.—Arrived at this port yesterday, brig *Jew*, Capt. Doane, from Gibraltar, whence he sailed on the 22d February. Capt. D. states verbally, that his merchant informed him previous to sailing, that the last mail brought intelligence that war had actually taken place between France and Spain.

By the above arrival, Gibraltar papers to 19th February have been received, from which we make the following summary extracts:

The Cortes have voted to raise 30,000 additional men, increasing the army to 124,579 men, with strict instructions to the Provisional Deputations to see them raised and fitted for service within a month's time. Government is also authorized to enlist natives as well as foreigners, and to introduce into the country every species of warlike stores, arms &c.; and, also, to build, purchase, or embargo, as much craft as may be required to fit out 150 gun vessels, for the protection of the Spanish coasts, to be manned by 3300 sailors.

General Mina is confirmed in the command of the army in Catalonia. General Ballesteros is appointed to the armies of Arragon and Navarre.

An army of reserve is to be assembled near Madrid, to be commanded by Count Abisbal, who, with the before named, is to be Commandants General in each district.

Six persons imprisoned at Grenada as conspirators against the constitutional system, had been massacred by a mob in their prison.

Thanks were voted to Gen. Mina and his army, by the Cortes, for having obtained command of the forts of Urgel, which were surrendered on the 3d Feb.

NEW YORK, APRIL 3.—Early this morning it was announced that there was a Ship below, from London, and the utmost anxiety was manifested during the whole morning, by business men and others, to learn the news. The Ship was getting up in season, we have delayed our publication until after 4 o'clock, and have now the satisfaction of announcing the arrival of the London Packet Ship *Hudson*, Capt. Champlin, in 30 days from the Isle of Wight, bringing the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser copious files of the London and provincial papers, down to the 27th February, inclusive.

In the sitting of the Spanish Cortes of the 15th, it was resolved that the King should repair to Corunna, and on the 16th, his Majesty, with the royal family, was to set out for that place.

The Portuguese Minister has received orders to quit Paris, on the French entering Spain. If so, the Portuguese will make common cause.

Capt. Parry's Expedition.—The following paragraph, if true, is more important than any other item that has met our view: "Information has reached the Admiralty from Russia, stating that our navigators had accomplished the object of their voyage, the ships having been spoken off *Icy Cape*, by several vessels belonging to Kamtschatka. If this be correct, the great geographical problem is solved, and probably our bold navigators are now on their way home, by way of the Pacific ocean." This we copy from the Southampton Chronicle of the 27th, the latest paper received.

The Merchants of Bordeaux have petitioned the government in favor of the continuance of peace; and, according to private letters from Havre, the dissatisfaction at Marseilles nearly amounts to a revolt.

ISLE OF WIGHT, FEB. 27.—The French papers of Thursday and Friday, with some private letters of the same dates, have arrived. In the latter it is stated that the French army will enter Spain on or before the 15th of March—30,000 men by Bayonne, and 25,000 by way of Figueras. One or two columns of light troops, supported by "The Faithful," will advance on Urgel, or on Mugnienza. It was believed that the Spanish regular troops would all retreat behind the Ebro, with the exception of those in garrison at Barcelona, Lerida and Pampeluna.

The papers contain further accounts of skirmishes between the contending factions in Spain, but they are not worth mentioning in detail. Indeed, if the half that has been told, were true, there would be no more Spaniards to trouble the French, or each other.

LONDON, FEB. 20.—We have now lying before us letters and journals to the 7th instant, inclusive, from Madrid, received by express. Their contents are most important. The speech of the King of France reached the Spanish Ministry on the 5th inst. They immediately came down to the Cortes, then sitting, with a proposition for placing the army on the full war establishment, and the nation in a state of defence by land and sea. They consider the speech, as every other independent nation would, if applied to them, a declaration of war! The debate in the Cortes on the 6th, which followed this proposition, was animated by the same enthusiasm which marked the celebrated discussion on the 11th January, on the notes of the Allied Powers. We shall give one specimen of

the spirit that pervaded that assembly. It is from the speech of Canga Arguelles, and is an answer to that passage in the King's speech, of France, which contains the memorable invocation to the God of St. Louis.

"Let us," said the orator, "reply to the proud power that threatens us with an army protected by the God of Saint Louis. We will invoke the aid of that God who protected the Spaniards in Roncesvalles; to their appeal to the God of St. Louis, will we answer by calling on the God which gave us victory in the battle of St. Quintin; and if the beloved son of the King of France comes hither at the head of the French troops, we will show him the tower in which Francis the First was detained a prisoner. Finally, we will say, not to the French nation, but to its government, under the influence of the bigoted faction, that Spaniards, who will not be slaves, shall invoke the God of justice, and trust in him for the victory." The other speeches manifest the greatest confidence in the national resources, and the utmost enthusiasm to support the national honor. May this spectacle of a united nation have its effect on the French councils, or a war is about to commence, of which it has been well observed, that we may hear the first cannon, but the child unborn will not hear the last.

Englishman.
The following exhibits a significant expression of the English feeling with regard to the war between France and Spain.

The Duke of San Lorenzo, Spanish Ambassador to Paris, arrived at Dover in the steam packet *Dasher*, on the 16th February. On his landings, he was greeted with thrice three cheers. On his approaching the capital, his horses were taken from his carriage, and he was drawn to the house of the Spanish Embassy in Portland Place.

French Chamber of Deputies, Feb. 24.

The order of the day, beginning the bill for raising the sum of 100,000,000, for the extraordinary expense of 1823, was called up. M. Royer Collard, opposed the law, and spoke boldly against making war upon Spain. He insisted that the war was not conceived by the king or people of France, and that the principles upon which it was undertaken, menaced France as well as Spain. A motion to have this speech printed, was negatived.

Mr. Delessert described the war as unjust, impolitic, dangerous and interminable. He asserted that the Riego and Quiroga, and all the factious, who have attacked the government of the King of Spain, have a right to govern Spain according to their fancy. For his own part, he would rather make war upon the Rhine against 30,000 Austrians, Russians, and Prussians, than march to make war upon 30,000 Descamisados.

Gen. Foy attributed the war to a concealed Power who would commence, though Spain, a war against our institutions. The power drags France where she does not wish to go, and so tires out the Minister that they will render war inevitable.

M. de Villele, the Minister of Finance, defended the necessity of the subsidies—that such was the situation of Spain, that France could not without disgrace avoid going to war—he spoke of misrepresentations—and of opposition even in the French Tribune. He said, "the question confines itself to this—can you, in the state of fermentation in which Spain is, withdraw the army you have upon the Pyrenees, for it is on this condition you will have peace. In fine, tell us, if there be any other part that can be adopted for the safety of France, and the honor of the Crown, than that which the king has adopted?"

It is said a letter has reached town which states, that one of Bonaparte's distinguished Generals, (*Lalmand*) was at Barcelona, occupied in raising a corps of 10,000 men, composed of Frenchmen disaffected to the present Government, who were to be called *Les Chevaliers de la Liberte*; and in case of War breaking out between Spain and France, were to march into the latter country under the tri-colored banner, with the object of exciting an insurrection, driving out the Bourbons, and seating the young Napoleon on the throne of his father.—*N. Y. Mer. Adv.*

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Editor of the Baltimore Weekly Register has letters from his friend Col. Todd, dated Bagota, 18th January.—The Congress had not yet formed a quorum, chiefly because the members from Caracas and Quito had not arrived. Favorable accounts had, however, been received of the general state of the republic, and it was understood that the people of Chili were about to supersede their military government by a constitutional one—that the Congress of Peru was expected to give the people a republican form of government.—The accounts of the coronation of Iturbide had not been well received at Bagota.

This city contains 30,000 inhabitants, with the climate of [our] October and the verdure of July; the temperature varying not more than 5 degrees throughout the year. The site is beautiful—at the foot of the mountains. Within six leagues, there is a cascade six hundred and fifty

feet high. Salt is taken out of the mountains, 8 leagues distant—fine and beautiful for table use—realizing Mr. Jefferson's idea of salt mountains, which was so much ridiculed a few years ago.

Col. Todd adds—"In the vicinity of the salt works is a lake, where, from the first conquest, it has been a religious custom to deposit articles of gold and silver. There is a company now engaged in examining it. Among other articles, there was found a large piece of gold, modelled into the shape of a monkey, which the owner proposes to present to the President of the United States. There is also in the vicinity, a natural bridge, exceeding in grandeur the celebrated bridge near Lexington, Virginia; and, while we are in the climate and productions of our October, there is a valley just below us which gives us daily all the fruits of the tropics."

From the Philadelphia Gazette.

MEXICO.

Capt. Hawley of the schooner *Fame*, arrived at this port, states that according to the last reports received at Alvarado from the interior province, Puebla, Ozuavia and Vera Cruz have all declared in favour of the liberal system of government, and that the captain General Echeverea was at the city of Puebla, at the head of 3000 men, and would march immediately for the city of Mexico. The emperor was then in the city of Mexico, and was said to be fortifying it; reports say that he also had 3000 men.

Philadelphia, March 26.

We learn, by advices from Mexico, that the arrangement which has taken place between Iturbide and the Congress, is not as favorable to the cause of the mushroom emperor, as was anticipated. He retains the name and the insignia of royalty; but every thing real and substantial, respecting the government, is transferred, as it should be, to the Congress. We have conversed with a gentleman lately from Mexico, who has had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the feelings of people, and he is of opinion, that this apparent calm is but the forerunner of a tempest, which will sweep the ephemeral Emperor to oblivion.

FROM HAVANA.

The brig *Alonzo*, Captain Gold, arrived at Baltimore on Sunday, 6th inst. in ten days from Havana. Five days prior to her sailing, the brig *Alert*, late *Blunt*, arrived from New-Orleans. The night previous to her arrival off the *Moro*, she was boarded by the piratical boats; the captain and cook were killed, and one man mortally wounded. No American vessel of war being in port at the time, medical assistance was immediately rendered by the British frigate *Hyperion*, Lilliecrop, Esq. commander.

Vessels were daily arriving at the Havana which had been plundered off the coast by the Pirates, some of which had been entirely unloaded, and their cargoes publicly offered for sale in Matanzas.—The pirates continue to infest the coast more numerous than ever.

The *Atlantic Merchant* of the 25th of March contains an account of the proceedings of a meeting held at Havana, at which the Captain-general presided. Addresses to the King and Cortes of Spain were adopted, in which the meeting cordially approve of the stand taken by the Spanish government against the contemplated interference of the Allied Powers in the internal concerns of Spain.

NEW SOUTHERN STATE.

From the New-York American, March 27, 1823.

We received this morning by the steam boat Connecticut the Providence Patriot of yesterday, by which we find that the province of St. Salvador, composing most of the old kingdom of Guatemala, having been disappointed in an offer made to the Mexican empire of becoming incorporated with it on certain conditions, has decided to make the offer of an union with the United States on the principles of our constitution, on condition of being admitted on an equal footing with the other states, and the Congress of the province in their last session declare that they will defend it in the name of our government, to which they consider themselves an appendage. We have no time to speculate on this proceeding or its consequences. The Patriot says:

"The province of St. Salvador de Guatemala extends from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific ocean, and is situated between Mexico proper and the Republic of Colombia. It contains about 170,000 inhabitants, including one or two considerable cities; and produces in great abundance, Indian corn, cattle, cocoa, cochineal, cotton, and the best indigo in the world."

Philadelphia, March 27.

The report that Baptist Irvine, and the others who were engaged in the Porto Rico expedition, had been sentenced to thirty years imprisonment, proves to be unfounded. When Captain Sears of the *Morgiana*, arrived at this port, left Curacao, their trial had not concluded. It was supposed that no very severe punishment would be inflicted on them.

Gazette.