

The second class of English readers consisting of Richard Stanly, Edward Stanly and James Green, did well. The order in which they are named points out their respective merits.

The third class of English readers consisted of Hamilton Ward, Frank Stanly, Wm. Cobb & Charles Crawford. These gave satisfaction, and are also named in the order of their respective merits.

Several females are also under the charge of Mr. Tisdale. In consequence, however, of the severity of the weather during the examination of his department, none of these appeared except Mary W. Henderson. She underwent an examination in reading, English grammar and geography, in all of which she acquitted herself admirably and to the perfect satisfaction of the Trustees.

The Trustees next directed their attention to the pupils under the immediate charge of Mr. Edmund B. Freeman.

Ashley Sanders was examined on English grammar, parsing and geography, in all of which he merited entire approbation. Oliver Dewey, Wm. Hawks, Edward Chapman, John Webb, and Godfrey Stephens, passed a good examination on Willet's geography as far as the questions on the map of North America, S. America, the United States & Europe inclusive. Of these, Oliver Dewey is thought to be the best and Wm. Hawks the next.

A class more advanced, consisting of Wm. Jones, Fredk. Shepards, James Bryan, William Carrington, George Bettner, Thomas Wadsworth, Jas. Taylor, Saml. Hawks, Richard Torrens, Fredk. Blount, and Frederick Jones, were examined on Adams' geography, as far as the definitions and questions upon the maps of N. and South America inclusive. They all appeared to great advantage, but the order in which they are named is believed to point out their relative merit.

A class composed of Edward Stanly, Oliver Dewey, Hamilton Graham, Richard Torrens, Alfred Stanly, & John Oliver, were examined on Latin grammar as far as the verb *amare*. They are all approved, & are distinguished according to the order in which they are named.

A class composed of Richard Croom, Edward Chapman, Spyers Smith, Thos. Wadsworth, John Gatin, Wm. Jones, Wm. Hawks, James Taylor, Godfrey Stephens, Frederick Blount and Frederick Jones, bore a very good examination on Latin grammar. The six first named are distinguished in the order in which they are mentioned. They were also examined on 12 chapters of *Historia Sacrae*. In this study the first mentioned six are also distinguished and are arranged as to comparative merit in the following order: Richard Croom, Edward Chapman, Spyers Smith, Thomas Wadsworth, William Jones, John Gatin.

Richard Torrens, Hamilton Graham, & Oliver Dewey were examined on the six first chapters of *Historia Sacrae*. They stood a good examination and are equal to each other.

James Bryan & George Bettner, were examined on thirty chapters of the first book of *Caesar* and some of the *Eclogues*. The first is the better scholar, but it is due to George Bettner to observe that he commenced long after his associate and acquitted himself very well.

A class consisting of George Howard and James Howard were examined on the *Eclogues* of Virgil. No distinction is awarded in this class.

George Bettner, James Bryan, George Howard, and James Howard were examined on *Mairs Introduction* as far as the 5th rule inclusive. They all showed that they had been attentive to this important branch of classical studies. They are named in the order of their respective merits.

Samuel Hawks passed an excellent examination on the *Eclogues* and part of the 1st Book of the *Aeneid* of Virgil.

Frederick Shepard and William Carrington gave entire satisfaction in their examination on the 1st Book of the *Aeneid* of Virgil and the 1st Chapter of St. John's Gospel in the Greek Testament. No discrimination can be made between them.

Frederick Shepard, William Carrington & Samuel Hawks were then examined on the 14 first rules of *Mairs Introduction* and acquitted themselves very well. They are named however in the order of their relative merits.

The Trustees at the last examination urged upon the English Readers, a recommendation to read more slowly and distinctly. They are happy that this recommendation has received its due attention, and now notice with much pleasure a marked and general improvement in reading English. There is room for improvement in reading Latin and Greek. No one can claim to be a classical scholar, who knows not how to give to each syllable its appropriate long or short sound and to all the letters a distinct enunciation.

The Trustees examined the several specimens of writing exhibited by the scholars. Among the females, Phoebe Hawks was thought to excel in this accomplishment, and next to her, Hannah Shepard and Nancy Webber. In the male department, Ashley Saunder was the best, and next to him in this respect, and in the order in which they are named, are distinguished, Henry Harvey, Chas. Crawford, Joseph W. Tisdale and Hamilton Ward.

In the Lapcastrian department, consisting of 80 pupils, but 35 attended the examination. The absence of the rest was satisfactorily accounted for by the causes set forth in the introduction to the Report, and which operated much more powerfully on this, than any other department of the Academy. Among those who attended, the following pupils were selected as deserving of peculiar notice.

In the class of Monitors, Betsey Wilkins is distinguished as the best scholar, and Julia Jerkins, Betsey Stephens and Samuel Ellis are the next best, and equal to each other.

In the 8th class, Cicero Hawks is best, and John Clark the next.

In the 7th class, a distinction could not justly be made.

In the 6th class, Susan Oliver is selected as the best, and Samuel Barron Stephens as the next best scholar.

In the inferior classes distinctions were not awarded.

Upon the special report of the Teacher, the Trustees take pleasure in distinguishing Julia Slocumb, Mary Handcock, Jane Melvin and Samuel Ellis, for their uniform good conduct and exemplary attention to the rules of the school.

#### FOR THE CAROLINA CENTINEL.

### AURORA BOREALIS.

The following beautiful description of the Aurora Borealis is taken from the travels of Mons. Maupertius, who, in 1736, was commissioned by the French King to measure a degree of latitude at the Arctic Circle. The phenomena which our learned author describes, were witnessed at Tornea, a little town situated at the northern extremity of the Gulf of Bothnia.

"The short days are no sooner closed, than fires of a thousand colours and figures light up the sky, as if designed to compensate for the absence of the sun in this season. These fires have here, as in the more southerly climates, any constant situation. Though a luminous arch is often seen fixed towards the north, they seem more frequently to possess the whole extent of the hemisphere. It would be endless to mention all the different figures these meteors assume, and the various motions with which they are agitated. Their motion is most commonly like that of a stand of colours when waved in the air, and the different tints of their light give them the appearance of so many vast streamers of changeable gaudes. On the 10th of December I saw a phenomenon of this kind, that in the midst of all the wonders to which I was now every day accustomed, raised my admiration. To the south a great space of the sky appeared tinged with so lively a red, that the whole constellation of Orion looked as if it had been dipped in blood. This light, which was at first fixed, soon moved, and changing into other colours, (violet and blue,) settled into a dome, whose top stood a little to the south-west of the zenith. The moon shone bright, but did not in the least face it. In this country, where there are lights of so many different colours, I never saw but two that were red; and such are looked upon as presages of some great misfortune. After all, when people gaze at these phenomena with an unphilosophic eye, it is not surprising if they discover in them armies engaged, fiery chariots, and a thousand other prodigies."

People who have never been spectators of these phenomena, or are ignorant of their causes, might, perhaps doubt the truth of Mons. Maupertius' statement; but it is nevertheless a well established fact. Even in the U. S. appearances equally incredible have been sometimes witnessed, which can be attested by many respectable persons. I will, however, instance only the following—leaving the confirmation of its truth to hundreds of both sexes, who with myself were eyewitnesses of the scene attempted to be described.

In the month of February, 1809, accompanied by Mr. Dyer, a merchant of Providence, (R. I.) I made a pedestrian excursion to a little village about three or four miles from that place. Its situation was in a valley so completely surrounded by high hills, as to resemble a perfect basin of about a mile in diameter. The surface of the earth was buried in a deep snow, and as the sun retired, the moon shone forth in all the splendor of her borrowed beams; silence reigned in the streets—but the glimmering of numerous lights from the windows of the cotton manufactories and artizans shops, bore the amplest testimony to the industry of the peaceable villagers. The harmony of this scene was soon destroyed. At about

7 o'clock in the evening, while at supper, my ears were assailed by the most dreadful outcries and lamentations. Eager to ascertain their cause, I ran into the street—but what was my astonishment to behold, rising to a great height from the summits of the surrounding hills, vast pillars of light so closely connected with each other as to form a completely circular wall round the village, and displaying at the same time all the various colours of the rainbow, though infinitely more brilliant; in some places ending in points, while in others they appeared abrupt or broken, resembling the battlements of antiquated towers; on the whole, presenting to the view a vast amphitheatre of light, which neither description can reach nor imagination conceive. A sight, at once so beautifully grand and awfully majestic, could not but inspire both admiration and terror in every beholder. All around me was the most dreadful confusion. Many were on their knees with hands uplifted, begging for mercy—some were running about as if distracted—while others stood in silent astonishment, as though their feet were rivetted to the earth, insensible to every thing but the marvelous magic of the scene before them. In the height of this confusion & distress, an express arrived from a farmhouse about a mile and a quarter distant, with information that a barn adjacent to it was on fire, and earnestly solicited the terrified villagers to repair to the assistance of the suffering farmer. The cause of this wonderful phenomenon was now apparent; and the consternation of the villagers of course subsiding, the men & boys repaired to the aid of their country neighbor, leaving the women and children to gaze on the MIRACULOUS LIGHT, which, however, vanished with the blaze of the farmer's barn, in little more than an hour after its commencement—and, strange as it may appear, those who so earnestly invoked Heaven for mercy while under the influence of terror, were, on the very next day, as jolly and unconcerned as though nothing extraordinary had happened.

### OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

WASHINGTON-CITY, MARCH 16.

On Saturday the President communicated to the House of Representatives, a complete view of the state of our Relations with Spain, up to this date.

The Message and the Report of the Secretary of State are as follows.

TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 16th of December, and of the House of Representatives of the 24th of February last, I lay before Congress a Report of the Secretary of State, and the papers referred to in it, respecting the negotiation with the government of Spain. To explain fully the nature of the differences between the United States and Spain, and the conduct of the parties, it has been found necessary to go back to an early epoch. The recent correspondence, with the documents accompanying it, will give a full view of the whole subject, and place the conduct of the United States in every stage, & under every circumstance, for justice, moderation, and a firm adherence to their rights, on the high and honorable ground which it has invariably sustained.

JAMES MONROE.

Washington, March 14th, 1818.

Department of State, }  
14th March, 1818. }

The Secretary of State, to whom have been referred the resolutions of the Senate of 16th December, and of the House of Representatives of 24th February last, has the honor of submitting to the President the correspondence between the Department and the Spanish Minister residing here, since he received the last instructions from his government to renew the negotiation which, at the time of the last communication to Congress, was suspended by the insufficiency of his powers. These Documents will show the present state of the relations between the two governments.

As in the remonstrance of Mr. de Onis of the 6th December, against the occupation by the United States of Amelia Island, he refers to a previous communication from him, denouncing the expedition of Sir Gregor McGregor against that place, his note of 9th July, being the paper thus referred to, is added to the papers now transmitted. Its date, when compared with that of the occupation of Amelia by McGregor, will shew that it was written ten days after that event; and

the contents of his note of 6th December that measures had been taken by the competent authorities of the United States to arrest McGregor as soon as the unlawfulness of his proceedings within our jurisdiction had been made known to them by legal evidence, although he was beyond the reach of the process before it could be served upon his person. The tardiness of Mr. Onis's remonstrance is of itself a decisive indication of the magistrature of the United States against any imputation of neglect to enforce the laws; for, if the Spanish Minister himself had no evidence of the project of McGregor, sufficient to warrant him in addressing a note upon the subject to this department, until ten days after it had been accomplished, it cannot be supposed that officers, whose authority to act commenced only at the moment of the actual violation of the laws, and who could be justified only by clear and explicit evidence of the facts in proof of such violation, should have been apprized of the necessity of their interposition in time to make it effectual before the person accused had departed from this country.

As, in the recent discussions between Mr. Onis and this Department, there is frequent reference to those of the negotiation at Aranjuez, in 1805, the correspondence between the Extraordinary Mission of the United States at that period, and Don Pedro Cevallos, then the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Spain, will be also submitted as soon as may be, to be laid before Congress, together with the correspondence between Don Francisco Pizarro and Mr. Erving, immediately preceding the transmission of new instructions to Mr. Onis, and other correspondence of Mr. Onis with this Department, tending to complete the view of the relations between the two countries.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

[Accompanying this Report were a variety of Documents, twelve in number, from the last of which the following is extracted.]

Extract of a letter from Mr. Secretary ADAMS to DON LOUIS DE ONIS, dated March 12, 1818.

"You perceive, sir, that the government of the United States is not prepared either to renounce any of the claims which it has so long been urging upon the justice of Spain, or to acquiesce in any of those arguments which appear to you so luminous and irresistible. Determined to pursue the establishment of their rights, as long as by any possibility they can be pursued through the paths of peace, they have acquiesced, as the Message of the President at the commencement of the present session of Congress has informed you, in that policy of Spain which has hitherto procured the amicable adjustment of these interests; not from an insensibility to their importance to this union, nor from any indifference to the object of being upon terms of cordial harmony with Spain; but, because peace is among the dearest and most earnest objects of their policy; and because, they have considered, and still consider it, more congenial to the principles of humanity, and to the permanent welfare of both nations, to wait for the favorable operation of time upon the prejudices and passions opposed to them, than to resort to the unnecessary agency of force. After a lapse of thirteen years of patient forbearance, in waiting for the moment when Spain should find it expedient to meet their constant desire of bringing to a happy and harmonious termination all the conflicting interests between them, it will need little additional effort to wait some what longer with the same expectation. The President deems this course even more advisable than that of referring the questions depending between the two nations to the arbitration or mediation of one or more friendly European powers, as you have been authorized to propose. The statement in your note of the 30th of February, in reference to this subject, is not altogether correct. It is not the British Government which, on this occasion, has offered; but your government which, without first consulting or asking the concurrence of the United States, has requested the mediation of Great Britain. The British Government, as must be well known to you, have declined the office of their mediation, unless it should be requested by both parties; and have communicated to the government of the United States this overture on the part of Spain. The President has thought proper, from motives which he has no doubt will be deemed satisfactory, both to Great Britain and Spain, to decline entering in this request. He is indeed fully persuaded that, notwithstanding any prepossessions which the British government may heretofore have entertained with regard to any of the points in controversy, they would have been entirely discarded, in assuming the office of a mediator. But it has hitherto been the policy, both of Europe and of the United States, to keep aloof from the general federative systems of each other. The European states are combined together, and connected with one another, by a multitude of important

interests and relations, with which the United States have no concern, with which they have always manifested a determination not to interfere, and of which no communication being made to them by the governments of Europe, they have not information competent to enable them to estimate their extent and bearings. The United States, in justice to themselves, in justice to that harmony which they earnestly desire to cultivate with all the powers of Europe, in justice to that fundamental system of policy which forbids them from entering the labyrinth of European politics, must decline soliciting or acceding to the interference of any other government of Europe, for the settlement of their differences with Spain.

But however discouraging the tenor and character of your recent notes has been to the hopes which the promises and professions of your government had excited, that the time for adjustment of these differences with Spain, herself, had at length arrived, the United States will not abandon the expectation that more correct views of the subject will ultimately be suggested to your government, and they will always be disposed to meet them in the spirit of justice and amity. With regard to those parts of the province of Louisiana, which have been incorporated within the state of that name, it is time that the discussion should cease—forming part of the territory of a sovereign and independent state of this union, to dispose of them is not within the competency of the executive government of the United States; nor will the discussion be hereafter continued. But if you have proposals to make, to which it is possible for the government of the United States to listen, with a prospect of bringing them to any practicable conclusion, I am authorized to receive them, and to conclude with you a treaty for the adjustment of all the differences between the two nations, upon terms which may be satisfactory to both.

With regard to the motives for the occupation of Amelia Island, the Messages from the President of the United States to Congress, and my letter to you of 6th January, have given the explanations which, it is presumed, will be satisfactory to your government. The exposed and feeble situation of that island, as well as the remainder of East Florida, with their local position in the neighborhood of the United States, have always been among the primary inducements of the U. S. for urging to Spain the expediency to the interests of both nations, that Spain should cede them for a just and suitable equivalent to the United States.

In the letter of the 25th of January, 1805, from Messrs. Pinkney and Monroe, to Mr. Cevallos, the following passage stands prominent among the arguments used by them to that effect. "Should Spain," say they, "not place a strong force in Florida, it will not escape your excellency's attention, that it will be much exposed to the danger of being taken possession of by some other power, who might wish to hold it with very different views towards Spain than those which animate the government of the United States. Without a strong force being there, it might even become an asylum for adventurers and freebooters, to the great annoyance of both nations."

You know, sir, how far the events thus anticipated, and pointed out so early as in January, 1805, to the prudent forecast of Spain, have been realized. Pensacola has been occupied by another power, for the purpose of carrying on war from it against the United States, and Amelia Island has been occupied by adventurers, to the great annoyance of both nations, and of all others engaged in lawful commerce upon the Gulf of Mexico. Before these events occurred, the Congress of the United States, aware of the great and growing danger of them, which had been so long before distinctly foreseen, had made it the duty of the Executive government, in case of such a contingency, to take the temporary possession of the country, which might be necessary to avert the injuries that must result from it. Amelia Island was taken, not from the possession of Spain, but of those from whom she had been equally incapable of keeping or of recovering its possession, and who were using it for purposes incompatible with the laws of nations and of the United States. No purpose, either of taking or retaining it as a conquest from Spain, has ever been entertained, and unless ceded by Spain to the United States, it will be restored, whenever the danger of its being again thus occupied and misused shall have ceased.

It is needless to add, that the proposal that the United States should take any further measures than those already provided by law for preventing armaments hostile to Spain within the territories of the United States, is inadmissible. The measures already taken, and the laws already existing against all hostile armaments within our jurisdiction, incompatible with the obligations of neutrality, are sufficient for its preservation; and the necessary means will continue to be used, as they have been, to carry them faithfully into execution.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration, sir, your obedient and very humble servant.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.