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[From the North American Review.] CESSION OF LOUISIANA.

Account of the erigin and progress of the cession of Louisiana to the United States, abstracted from the French of Barbe Marbois' History of

As soon as Bonaparte became convinced that war was inevitable, he turned his thoughts towards the colonies. On the continent he confided in his own strength for success; but his navy was in no condition to compete with that of England, and the colonies could only be defended by a naval force. From that moment he hastened to Livingston in a tone strangely altered from any is surprised that the pacific dispositions of the French republic towards the U. States should affection of France for her old friends is analtered. He alludes to the expected arrival of Mr. mission will terminate to the mutual satisfaction must be lost to France. The object of Bonaparte was to turn it to his own advantage, and prevent of this affair." pp. 298-301. its falling into the hands of England. The following description of an interview between him

"On the 10th of April, 1803, Faster Sunday, have wished to repair the fault of the French negotiator who abandoned it in 1763. Some to lose it. But if it slips from me, it will one day cost dearer to those who oblige me to deprive myself of it, than to those to whom I wish to deliver it. The English have successively ta ken from France, Canada, Isle Royal, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, the richest parts of Asia They are at work to agitate St. Domingo. They shall not have the Mississippi which they covet. Louisiana is nothing in comparison with their acqui itions throughout the globe; and yet the jealousy which the return of this colony under the French dominion causes them, proves to me that they desire to get possession of it, and that it is thus that they will commence the war. They have twenty vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. they overrun those seas as sovereign, whilst our affairs in St. Domingo grow worse every day since the death of Le Clerc. The conquest of moment to lose in putting it out of their reach. I their place, I would not have waited I wish, if there is yet time for it, to take from them even the idea of ever possessing the colony. I think of ceding it to the United States. I can scarcely say that I cede it to them, for it is not yet in our possession. If I leave ever so little time to our enemies, I shall only transmit an empty title to those republicans, whose friendship I seek. They only ak of me one town in Louisiana; but I already consider the colony as entirely lost, and it appears to me that in the hands of this growing republic, it will be more useful to the policy and even to the commerce of France, than if I attempt to retain it Tell me each of you his opinion." Here follows at length the views of the ques-

tion given by M. de Marbois, and the other min-

The deliberation lasted till late at night, and Bonaparte dismissed the ministers without mak ing known his intentions. They passed the night at St. Cloud, and very early in the morning the first consul sent for M. de Marbois, whom he requested to read the despatches just arrived from London. The ambassador had written, that an extraordinary activity prevailed in making preparations for war both by land and sea.

"The English," said Napoleon. " demand o me Lampadosa, which I do not possess, and in the mean time they would hold Malta for ten years. This isle, in which military skill has exhausted all its resources in bringing the places of defence to such a degree of perfection as no one could conceive without having seen them, would be for the English another Gibraltar. To leave them there would be to give up to them the commerce of the Levant, and to take it from my southern provinces. They would keep this possession, and have me immediately evacuate Hol-

But we have no time for uncertainties and in attempting its preservation would be folly. I serve those beautiful countries. To morrow you align have your full powers. Here the new please and the Columbia river, and that their possible have the presence of the consumer of the consu there be a subject of great admiration; and yet it all obscure stipulations.

seems not there to be much regarded, when the question is agitated of seizing the most beautiful countries in Asia.

" Perhaps also it will be objected, that the Americans will become too powerful for Europe in and admitted as soon as possible, according to two or three centuries; but my foresight does not the principles of the federal constitution, to the embrace these distantifears. Besides, one may expect hereafter rivalries in the bosom of the union itself. The confederations, which are called perpetual, will endure no longer than till protected in the enjoyment of their liberty and the contracting parties shall find their account in breaking them; and it is against the present dangers, to which we are exposed by the collossal most important change in the constitution and

dy. Mr. Monroe is on the point of arriving. To this minister, coming two thousand leagues from his constituents, the president must have given, after having defined the object of his mission, secret instructions more extensive than the ostensible ones of Congress for the stipulated payments. Neither this minister, nor his colleague, will expect a resolution, which surpasses infinitely what they are about to demand of us. Begin with them, and come directly to the point of the nego-U. States. On the 24th March, 1803, we find tiation. Inform me from day to day, from hour U. States. On the 24th March, writing to Mr. to hour, of the progress you make. The cabinet Washington, but they can have no suspicions of thing which this minister had been. Talley rand that which I am taking. Keep it a profound sem pisters. Their interest in it is not less than have been suspected, and assures him that the ours. Correspond with M. de Talleyrand, who his advice, France would limit her ambition to Monroe, and says that he will be received with the left bank of the Rhine, and would make war Monroe, and says that he consul, who hopes his only to protect the feeble, and prevent being disof both nations. It was evident that Louisiana cession of Louisiana is not a dismemberment of France Be careful to inform me of the progress | may their common origin, relationship, language

The French commissioner made no delay in commencing the negotiation with Mr. Livingston, and two of his ministers, explains the subject so but that minister had not the necessary powers fully, and is written in so graphic and interesting for treating in the manner proposed. He had a manner, that our readers will be pleased with been turned off with vague replies, and deceived petusing it in detail. One of these ministers was with false hopes. It was not surprising, there-M. de Marbois himself; the other had likewise fore, that he should have little confidence at this been in America, and was well acquainted with time in the advances of the French cabinet. Marbois, he considered as equally an artifice to after having given his time to the solemnity of gain time and tranquillize the excited feeling the day, and the demands of ceremony, he called which began to show itself with so much warmth those two counsellors, and speaking to them with in the U. States. He accordingly avoided comthat vehemence and passion with which he was ing to any decided points on the subject, till Mr. especially c rried away in political affairs, said, Monroe's arrival and even then he relied so little carring disgrace, charge them with the enormous "I know the whole value of Louisiana, and I on the sincerity of the French councils, that in a letter to Mr. Monroe at Havre he expressed his opinion, that the best means of ensuring success any of the common modes of valuing property. would be the certainty of the United States' have The sovereignty of a people, the works and forhave scarcely recovered it, when I must expect ing already taken possession of New Orieans. tifications heretofore built at the public charge, When Mr. Monroe, arrived in Paris, Mr. Living. and the right to a territory undefined, but of alston said to him, 'I could wish the proposition most immeasurable extent, were to be exchanged made by Mr. Ross to the Senate had been adopt- for a specified quantity of gold or silver. How ed; I am almost certain we shall never obtain to measure this quantity with much approach to New Orleans by negotiation. We must employ exactitude, might well have puzzled the science forcr. Let us first take possession and negotiate of more adroit and practised fit anciers than our afterwards.' But Mr. Monroe since he had not negotiators may be supposed to have been. The the same prepossessions to combat, nor the same American plenipotentiaries at last agreed to the reasons for distrust, found it less difficult to con- eighty millions, reserving the condition that vince himself that the French commissioner was twenty millions of this amount should be approin earnest. A mutual confidence was immediately printed in payment of the claims held by the citie tablished; no other preliminaries were necessary, and the negotiation was entered upon without

under much embarras ment. They had not been the amount would be demanded. But no discusauthorised to treat for any thing more than New sion of this nature took place. It was, immedi-Orleans, and that portion of Louis and situate on ately conceded, that twenty millions should be the ast side of the Mississippi. For this cession deducted as an indemnity for such captures as Louisiana would be easy, it they only took the trouble of making a descent there. I have not a it was projosed to offer two millions of dollars.— should be proved to be real. 'The intention to never to have been contemplated, or even thought on both parts. The gross sum of twenty millions do not know whether they are not already there of. At least there was no provision to this effect was evidently an estimate formed on reasonable. tilities were on the point of breaking out between established on accurate knowledge. But the A France and England; the treaty, if made at all, merican plenipotentiaries agreed in orinion, that must be closed before that event, no time could if there was any difference, it rather exceeded for more ample instructions, and there was an the French negotiator gave an assurance, that, in absolute necessity for the plenipotentiaries to act case of an excess, no part of it should be reclaimwith such powers as they possessed, or forego the ed by France.-This important part of the nego opportunity of making a negociation of immense tiation was thus amicably settled. mportance to the United States, and which, considering the state of France at that moment, was attended with some difficulties, and was un c uld certainly neve. again be commenced under fortunately not very successful in its execution circumstances so favorable. These considera- by not having provided for a pro rata division of tions brought the plenipotentiaries to a speedy the money among the claimants according to the decision to treat for Louisiana in its fullest extent, and submit the result of their proceedings for the approbation of Congress and the pation.

The negotiation divided itself into three parts, vis. the cession, the price to be paid for it, and the indemnity for the claims of the citizens of the United States against France. These three objects were considered separately, and it was agreed that a distinct treaty should be made for

The particulars of the cession were first discussed. Each party drew up a project as the basis Americans. - Forgetting or feigning to forget, of a treaty for this purpose, but that of the French | the sum he had mentioned he replied with vivanegotiator was adopted as the test by which the city to the French minister: "I would have these conferences were to proceed. The chief difficulty | twenty millions rendered to the treasury. Who of this part of the negotiation were in fixing the has authorized you to dispose of the effects of limits. Maps were examined, charters perused, the state? The rights of the claimant should ing the vessels with hay in trusses, garlic, ancient treaties consulted, but all these only serv- be second to our own." The first excitement was ed to increase the despair of the negotiators, and calmed, when he was reminded of his previous to convince them that they were searching for a consent to treat for a' sum much less, and that thing that had never existed. No one could tell, the treasury would receive one much larger or even conjecture, where were the western without comprehending the twenty millions of boundaries of Louisiana; and for a very good indemnity for captures .- "It is true" he rejoinreason,-they had never been defined. Those ed, "the negotiation has left me nothing to de regions were as little known as the centre of Af- sire. Sixty millions for an occupation, which rica. The negotiators had the wisdom, therefore will endure perhaps only for a day I I would to abandon a search, which only led them more have France enjoy this upexpected capital, and only New Orleans that I will cede, it is the whole and more into the dark. To solve the difficulty profit by it in her marine." At that moment be colony without reserve. I know the price of in the shortest way, the American plenipotentia- dictated a decree for the execution of five canals, what I abaudon, and I have given sufficient proof of the manner in which I esteem this province, since the object of my first diplomatic act with spain was its recovery. I renounce it therefore with the greatest dissatisfaction. To be obstinate in allemning its preservation would be followed. treaty. Inis was leaving the door to a tangled for ever the power of the United States, and I holding it, that had any one had a fewer or twined with a few cars of wheat and corndiscussion between the United States and Spain, have just given to England a ma of Congress. Wait not even for the arrival of which, in due time, this latter power took care to will humble her pride." Mr. Monroe. Open the subject this day to Mr. revive. It was nevertheless obvious that no better Livingston; but I have need of much money for plan could be devised by the plenipotentiaries. Marbois, that of the Floridas, and the extinct this near and the money for Upon this clause M. de Marbois observes; "am- tion of certain grants and original titles, have cost and Spain have been expending means for the melioration of Lands and Spain have been expending means for the melioration of Lands and Spain have been expending means for the melioration of Lands and Spain have been expending means for the treaties, yet in the present instance the American lions of france. The territories acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with countries acquired contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contain the earl of Arundel was ordered to sea with contai melioration of Louisiana, and commerce has never indemnified them. Sums have ween lent to appearing to resign themselves to general exit must be confessed the event justified their fore. The value of these lands when in the possession Companies and agriculturists, which have never pressions through necessity, they considered this again been returned to the treasury. The price in effect preferable to more precise stipulations. of all these things is justly due to us. If I were it must be confessed the event justified included to the later of the shores of the Western ocean were to regulate my conditions by the value of these sight. The shores of the Western ocean were by reason of the necessity I am under to make lished there." The point of this sentence is not the sale. But observe well—I will be a first the full extent in which The point of this selection of the day when orders should be given to the golden of the most of the day when orders should be given to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which perhaps strictly correct to the full extent in which the sale. But observe well—I will have fifty millions, and for less than that sum I will not treat; I the author would have it understood. It must be would extend that sum I will not treat; I the author would have it understood. States had claims would rather make some desperate effort to prewould rather make some desperate effort to preserve those beautiful countries. To-morrow you shall have your full countries. To-morrow you shall have your full countries. To-morrow you

The third article of the treaty was drawn up by Bonaparte himself. It stipulates, that, 'the inhabitants of the ceded territories shall be incorporated into the union of the United States, enjoyment of all the rights, advantages, and immunities of the citizens of the United States; and in the mean time they shall be maintained and property, and in the exercise of the religion which they profess. This cession was to produce a power of England, that I would provide a reme- laws of Louisiana, and in the condition of the people ; and it was considered a day, it seems on the part of the Freuch government, to make the best provision possible for the security of the rights and privileges of the inhabitants, whose destiny was thus decided by the single act of a power on another continent. In alluding to the above article, M. de Marbois says, "The first consul, left to his natural dispositions, was always inclined to the side of an elevated justice and generosity. He himself prepared the article in question. The words which he used on that occasion were entered on the journal of the negotiation, and they deserve to be perpetuated. 'Let the Louisianians know, said he, "that we separate ourselves from them with regret, that we stipulate in their favor every thing which they can desire; and hereafter, happy in their inde pendence, may they remember that they have been Frenchmen, and that France, in ceding them away has secured to them advantage which they never could have obtained under a metropolitan government in Europe, however paternal it might have been. Let them preserve manners, perpetuate the ties of friendship.

The other articles of the treaty of cession wer

in their order discussed and adopted. The negotiations came next to the second treaty. which relates to the amount of money to be paid by the United States. Bonaparte, as we have seen, fixed this sum at fifty millions of francs but the negotiator deemed this amount much too small. Without consulting farther with the first consul on this subject, M. de Marbois first spoke of a hundred and twenty millions as the probable value of the ceded territory, but the definite sum which he proposed, was eighty millions. Our citizens,' observed Mr. Livingston, ' have an aversion to public debts, and how can we without in as not, perhaps, a very easy point to settle by zens of the United States against France.

M. de Marbois supposes, that the American ministers fixed upon this round sum of twenty The American plenipotentiaries felt themselves | millions with the expectation that a reduction in e allowed to apply to the American government than fell short of the exact amount; and the

> The third treaty, defining the mode of payment principle afterwards followed in liquidating the Spanish claims.

'The first consul,' says M. de Marbois, 'had followed with a lively interest the progress of the negotiation. It will be recollected, that he had announced fifty millions as the sum for which he would make the cession, and it is believed he did not expect a larger amount. He learnt that eighty millions had been agreed to, but that it had been reduced to sixty, by the amount with drawn to extinguish the debt of France to the

"The acquisition of Louislana, adds M. de mains unsold will, in less than a century, be

of individuals is not to be calculated."

know of no better illustration of the prodi over the smooth bosom of another Cydnus. gal expenditure of money which charac- The masts glittered from top to bottom terized the government of the European with rich jewelry, and some of them were monarchies in the fourteenth and fifteenth covered with sheets of fine gold which gloricenturies, than the history of a meditated ously reflected the rays of the sun. The inroad upon the territories of England, banners, pennons and standards were also conceived by Charles VI. of France, in the decorated with every rich ornament that vear 1386. Home's account of this affair the owners could imagine, or the ingenuity is desparched in a single paragraph of a of the artisans devise. dozen lines; but the details of it may be interesting to some of our readers, and we ceedings at Sluys, and began to be exceed-

have collected them for their amusement. Richard the Second had just arrived at sions in many towns two or three times a the age of twenty-one years, and his exces- week, and offering up prayers that the sive fondness for the amusements into which anticipated evil might be averted. Those he had been led by several of his gay and dissipated tavourites, together with the em- | paying what they owed, were however debarrassed state of his kindom on account of lighted with the coming on of this trouble, the disorder in Scotland, and the absence of and appeared the demands of their creditors the Duke of Lancaster, who with the flower by asking, "how can you call on us for of the English military force, was arging money? Is nt it better that we should spend his clams to the Crown of Castile, by lorce it, than that the French should carry it out of arms, -induced the counselfors of Charles of the corretry?" The coasts opposite to to believe that their ancient enemy might France d Flanders were strongly gatribe made to rue his former unwelcome visits to the continent, "Why should not we," said they, " for once in our lives, make the passage across the channel to see the countty and the inhabitants that are so renowed for us, therefore, sentiments of affection; and through the world! The English are well Richard's army when mustered consisted enough acquainted with the road to Rheims, -let us prove to them that we have pilots dred thousand archers. A tax of two milwho can direct us in the course to London." Great were the preparations, accordingly, to carry into execution a plan which would certainly enable some of the knights to evince their extravagance, and perhaps, fird many of them an opportunity to dis play their powers in the field. The whole summer was employed in all the towns adining Sluys, whence the king intended to embark, in grinding corn and making bread. Rich and poor were forced to contribute almost every thing in their possession to eke out the scanty means of the treasury; and there was not a vessel of any size on the whole coast that the French could lay their hands on, which was not impressed into service by methods fair or foul, as would best answer the purposes of the royal officers. Provisions arrived every day from all quarters,-and they consisted, as a writer of that period informs us, of " very great quantities of wine, salted meats, oats. russes of hay, onions, verjaice, biscuit, flour, butter, and the yolks of eggs powder ed and rammed into barrels, in such quantities," continues the same author, "that in future times, those who have not been eye-witnesses, will never believe the ac-

Lords and Knights at a great distance were invited to accompany Charles in this expedition, and they came with numerous attendants, at the call.

"Never, since God created the world," exclaims the enthusiastic Forissart, " were there seen such numbers of large ships as filled the harbours of Sluys and Blanckenburgh; for when they were counted in the month of September, they were twelve hundred and eighty-seven .- Their masts on coming from sea, appeared like a thick

The Constable of France had constructed a complete town of frame-work, of large timber, which was intended to be put toge ther, so soon as the forces should land in England, for the French lords to retreat to, as a place of safety, to prevent any danger that might arise from nightly attacks. This mammoth piece of architecture was so constructed that it could be taken to pieces, roofs and all; and many workmen were specially employed to superintend the erection and removal of it.

We must quote Froisart once more "Whoever," says he, "had been at am me, Bruges, or Sluys at this time, and had seen how busily all were employed in loadonions, biscuit in sacks, peas, beans, cheesebowls, baily, oats, rye wheat, wax-candles, petticoat of bright scarlet displayed an anhousings, shoes, boots, hamlets, spurs, knives, kle, combining, like the fetlock of an Arahatchets, wedges, pickaxes, hooks, wooden bian horse; delicacy, activity, and grace in pegs, boxes filled with ointments, tow, ban la singular degree. The fine voluptuous dages, cover-lids, horse shoe nails, bottles of outline of her limbs, at her early age, gave verjuice and vinegar, iron, stone ware, token, to a practised eye like that of Oberpewter and wooden pots and dishes, can- teldt, of the perfection which it would atdlesticks, basons, vases, fat pigs, hasters, tain in the maturity of womanly beauty. kitchen furniture, utensils for the buttery, Her scarf was disposed around her bosom and for the other offices, and every article in a manner somewhat fantastic indeed, but tooth ache, he would have got rid of them, by running from one place to another."

duly informed of those proceedings, and delicacy of texture, which almost render it

Meanwhile the din of mighty preparaed down from above, or could be pumped gems which form the crown and completion.

was to a first the first of the same of th

Invasion of England in 1386 .- We patra, prepared to bear a voluptuous queen

The English were informed of the proingly alarmed, -the priests making proceswho were in debt and had no intention of soned; and directions were given that it the French forces succeeded in landing, the whole country should be set on fire, in order to starve out the enemy, if all efforts to beat him back should prove unavailing. of ten thousand men at-arms, and one hunlions of florins was immediately raised and paid into the hands of the Archbishop of York, for the further defence of the country.

The projected invasion was at length abandoned, to the no small mortification and disappointment of Charles The Constable of France on his way to join his monarch at Sluys, was crossed by so severe an accident that both deemed the wiser part of valor to be discretion, and concluded to retire quietly into winter-quarters. The Constable it appears, embarked as Tregnier, a town on the sea coast of Brittany, with a fine body of men at arms, and ample purveyances, on board of seventytwo vessels. Some of them were freighted with the wooden town that was to be erected on their landing in England. The Constable had a favorable wind when he left the harbor ; but as he approached the English coast, it became contrary, and the tarther they advanced the more violently it blew. When opposite to Margate at the mouth of the Thames, the fleet was dispersed, and from unskilful management on the part of the mariners, as well as from the force of the gale, some were driven into the river, where they were easily captured by the English. Among these were the galleys with parts of the wooden town onboard, which was sent to London in great. triumph. Others of the fleet were forced. upon the coast of Zealand and seized; but the Constable and his lords with much difficulty arrived at Sluys, where they were joyfully received by the King and his ba-

"Constable," said the King, as soon as he saw him, " I have been aboard my ship; I like the sea much, and I believe I shall prove a good sailor, -for I was not in the least sea sick."

"God grant then," replied he, "that your Majesty's stomach hold good when you have heard the news of which I am the bearer. For my own part, I am sicker than a dog, of the sea and every thing thereto pertaining."

THE BOHEMIAN DANCER. The tollowing powerful sketch of a Bohemian Dancer we copy from Tales of Passion by the author of "Gilbert Earle,"

just published. "The dancer was a young girl apparently about sixteen; she was slender and finely formed, like most of her race, but she was already of a height beyond their ordinary low stature, and had the appearance of not being yet arrived at her full growth. A. fields. Her skin was dark in complexion, Richard and the English Council were but of that exquisite clearness, and extreme

So soilly dark, and darkly pure,