

have no doubt, as far as appears on this record, of the obligations of the United States to make provision for issuing a grant in his favor, and in the mean time the courts of the United States are not without resources in their equity jurisdiction to afford him relief.

WASHINGTON March 16.

Our Relations with Spain.

A message was received from the President of the United States containing a complete view of our relations with Spain up to this date, which in the words of the President, "place the conduct of the United States, in every stage, and under every circumstance, for justice, moderation, and a firm adherence to their rights, on the high and honorable ground, which it has invariably sustained."

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 this Department and the Spanish Minister residing here, since he received the last instructions of 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 by Mr. de Onis of the 6th of 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 30th 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 the 6th of December will shew that measures had been taken by the competent authorities of the United States to arrest McGregor as soon as the unlawfulness of his proceeding 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 vindication of the Magistrates 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 U. States at that period, and Don Pedro Cavallos, 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 the Department, tending to com-

plete the view of the relations between the two countries.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS.

The documents accompanying this report are numerous and long. The following extract from the last letter, from the Secretary of State to the Spanish Minister De Onis, dated the 12th inst. shews the result of the whole:

"You perceive, sir, that the government of the United States is not prepared either to renounce any of the claims which it has been so long 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 the policy of Spain which has hitherto procrastinated 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 this 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 somewhat 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 of mediation of one or more friendly European powers, as you have been authorized to propose. The statement in your note of the 10th 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 of Great Britain. The British Government, as must be well known to you, have declined the offer 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 no doubt will be deemed satisfactory, both to Great Britain and Spain, to decline uniting 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 system 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 the 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 expressed, 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 U. 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 16th 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 of 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 United States for urging to Spain the ob-

edience 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 28th of January, 1815, from Messrs. Pinkney and Monroe, to Mr. Cavallos, 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 Gulph 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 the 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 of 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.

AN ACT to provide for certain persons engaged in the land and naval service of the United States in the revolutionary war.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, musician, and private soldier, and all officers in the Hospital department and Medical Staff, who served in the war of the revolution until the end thereof, or for the term of nine months or longer, at any period of the war, on the continental establishment; and every commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, mariner, or marine, who served at the same time, and for a like term, in the naval service of the United States, who is yet a resident citizen of the United States, and who is, or hereafter, by reason of his reduced circumstances in life, shall be in need of assistance from his country for support, and shall have substantiated his claim to a pension in the manner hereinafter directed, shall receive a pension from the United States: if an officer, of twenty dollars per month during life; if a non-commissioned officer, musician, mariner, marine, or private soldier, of eight dollars per month during life: Provided, no person shall be entitled to the provisions of this act, until he shall have relinquished his claim to every pension heretofore allowed him by the laws of the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That to entitle any person to the provisions of this act, he shall make a declaration, under oath or affirmation, before the district judge of the United States of the district or before any judge or court of record of the county, state, or territory in which the applicant shall reside, setting forth, if he belonged to the army, the company, regiment, and line to which he belonged; the time he entered the service, and the time and manner of leaving the service; and in case he belonged to the navy, a like declaration, setting forth the name of the vessel, and particular service in which he was employed, and the time and manner of leaving the service, and shall offer such other evidence as may be in his power; and, on its appearing to the satisfaction of the said judge, that the applicant served in the revolutionary war, as aforesaid, against the common enemy, he shall certify and transmit the testimony in the case, and the proceedings had thereon, to the Secretary of the Department of War, whose duty it shall be, if satisfied the applicant comes under the provisions of this act, to place such officer, musician, mariner, marine, or soldier on the pension list of the United States, to be paid in the same manner as pensions to invalids, who have been placed on the pension list, are now paid, and under such restrictions and regulations, in all respects, as are prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every pension by virtue of this act, shall commence on the day that the declar-

ation under oath or affirmation, prescribed in the foregoing section, shall be made.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, no sale, transfer or mortgage of the whole, or any part of the pension payable in pursuance of this act, shall be valid; and any person who shall swear or affirm falsely in the premises, and be thereof convicted, shall suffer as for wilful and corrupt perjury.

H. CLAY,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

DANIEL B. TOMPKINS,

Vice-President of the United States,

and President of the Senate.

March 18, 1818—Approved,

JAMES MONROE.

NEGOCIATION WITH HOLLAND.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Washington, March 23.

On Friday last the following Message was transmitted by the President of the United States to both Houses of Congress.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

In the course of the last summer a negotiation was commenced with the government of the Netherlands, with a view to the revision and modification of the commercial treaty existing between the two countries, adopted to their present circumstances.

The Report from the Secretary of State, which I now lay before Congress, will shew the obstacles which arose, in the progress of the conferences between the respective plenipotentiaries, and which resulted in the agreement between them to refer the subject to the consideration of their respective governments. As the difficulties appear to be of a nature which may perhaps for the present be more easily removed by reciprocal legislative regulations formed in the spirit of amity and conciliation, than by conventional stipulations, Congress may think it advisable to leave the subsisting treaty in its present state, and to meet the liberal exemption from discriminating tonnage duties which has been conceded in the Netherlands to the vessels of the United States by a similar exemption to the vessels of the Netherlands which have arrived or may hereafter arrive in our ports commencing from the time when the exemption was granted to the vessels of the United States. I would further recommend to the consideration of Congress the expediency of extending the benefit of the same regulation to commerce from the passage of the law to the vessels of Prussia, Hamburg and Bremen; and of making it prospectively general in favor of every nation in whose ports the vessels of the United States are admitted on the same footing as their own.

JAMES MONROE.

DOMESTIC.

MILLEDGEVILLE, March 11.

Skirmish with the Indians.

The following was received this evening by express to the Governor:

HARTFORD, GEO. March 10.

SIR.—I have this moment received information through Mr. Isham Jordan, of Telfair county, which I rely on, of a skirmish between the Indians and some of the citizens of Telfair on the south side of the Oakmulga river in the afternoon of the 9th instant, 20 or 25 miles below this.

On the night of the 3d inst.—Joseph Bush and his son were fired upon by a party of Indians the father killed and the son severely wounded and scalped, but he so far recovered as to reach home in two days after. The citizens receiving information of the foregoing facts, assembled on the 9th inst. to the number of 36, and crossed the river in the forenoon to seek redress. Finding considerable sign of Indians, they pursued the trail leading from the river some distance out, where they came in view of a body of Indians, 50 or 60 advancing with in gun shot. The firing commenced by each party and warmly kept up for three quarters of an hour. A part of the detachment effected their retreat, bringing off

one badly wounded—four were certainly killed; the balance of the detachment has not been heard from—Maj. Cothum, (commandant of the Telfair militia) is among the missing. Four Indians were killed.

From information, the citizens below this are much alarmed and leaving their homes. I have tho't proper to communicate the foregoing to you by express.

I am your Excellency's most obedient servant.

R. H. Thomas, Lieut. Col.

In consequence of the foregoing, the Pulaski Troop of Cavalry has been ordered out by the Executive to scour the frontier and afford protection to the inhabitants.—The Telfair detachment, we fear, has suffered greatly and we shall rejoice, if all who are missing have not perished. It would seem that the Indians confiding in superior numbers, had sought to draw out the militia, by permitting the young man whom they scalped to reach the settlement.

The detachment of troops from Tennessee, under Col. Hayne of the Regular army, about 1,200 strong reached the Chatahoochie on Wednesday last, and are by this time near Fort Scott, if they have not arrived there. M'INTOSH, the distinguished friendly chief, has gone with his warriors, to the aid of General Jackson.

[Geo. Milledge Journal Jan. 10.]

General Gaines.—The unpleasant intelligence which the subsequent paragraph contains of the supposed disastrous fate of Gen. Gaines comes we think in too questionable a shape for belief.—Gen. Gaines must have been fully acquainted from the position of his command with the dangers attending an enterprise of such a nature as he is represented to have undertaken, and would undoubtedly have used the necessary precaution of a strong escort—the Editors of the Savannah papers put no confidence in the report:

Charleston Paper.

From the Milledgeville Reflector.

Unpleasant News!—We are indebted to the politeness of Dr. Miller, (of South Carolina,) for the following unpleasant intelligence, which he heard at Fort Mitchell a few days ago:—in consequence of information received from the commanding officer at Fort Scott of the scarcity of provisions and dissatisfaction of the troops, general Gaines accompanied by Maj. Wright and several soldiers, embarked in a small boat at Fort Early, with the intention of going to Fort Scott; but when within about 40 miles of their place of destination the boat struck a sawyer, and precipitated all on board in the river. Major Wright and some of the soldiers were drowned, Gen. Gaines reached the western, and one of the soldiers the other bank of the river. The latter repaired to Fort Scott with the news of the disaster, and major Bee with a party of soldiers immediately went in search of the Gen. They found written with a pencil on a tree, near where the boat was wrecked, his intention of proceeding to Fort Gaines, at which place he had not arrived five days after the boat was wrecked. It is generally feared he has fallen into the hands of the enemy.

Charleston, March 21.

FROM THE ARMY.—Information from a credible source has been received at Savannah, that an Indian runner had arrived on the 11th inst. on the frontier of Tattnal County in the State of Geo. with intelligence, that a large body of Indians, under cover of the night, had broken into the Encampment of the Troops commanded by General Jackson; at a point called Hammock near the Flint River, but were repulsed with great slaughter—Five hundred of the Enemy, among whom were several whites and negroes,