THE PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

The reports, or rather abstracts, of several of the Departments at Washington, are published in the New York Times, from which we take the subjoined—

ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

The following are the cardinal points of the documents accompanying the President's Message, in relation to our affairs with Great Britain.

Mr. Marcy, in June 1853, declares in a despatch to Mr. Buchanan, that this Government can never yield to the British pretension that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty was only prospective in its operation. After some spicy diplomatic exposure of his conduct in this negotiation, he closes by declaring that if Great Britain persists in holding Ruatan, in defiance of all right, we shall know her purpose in holding it simply as a naval and military station is to affect injuriously our interests. A predetermination to interfere with our affairs, thus manifested, will render the continuance of our amicable relations with her precarious. Mr. Buchanan's discussion of this entire question is very able and thorough.

On the 6th of August last, Mr. Marcy again urges the immediate settlement of this question, before Mr. Buchanan should retire from London, and the latter is instructed to ask Great Britain, distinctly, whether she intends to insist on holding Ruatan, and to insist on her abandoning her pretensions there.

Mr. Buchanan addressed a note accordingly, and, on the 28th of October, Lord Clarendon replied, declining to re-open the general discussion, and stating that the British Government adheres to its previous propositions.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, (Hon. James C. Dobbin,) recommends the construction of additional steam sloops of war, expresses entire satisfaction with the result of the apprenticeship system, and the legislation of the last Congress for the Navy, maintains the abolition of corporal punishment, and recommends an increase of the Marine corps, and the increase of [illegible]. He sustains the general action of the Naval Retiring Board, but [illegible] any officers in special cases who have been unjustly treated.

The remarks of the Secretary on the action of the Board will be looked for with so much anxiety by a large class of readers, that we transmit them in full:

"The report of the Naval Board of fifteen officers of the higher grades, assembled under the act to promote the efficiency of the Navy, having been approved by you, I have in pursuance of your direction carried the same into execution, according to the provisions of the law.—After a careful examination, 201 officers were, in their judgment, found incapable of performing, promptly and efficiently, all their duty, both ashore and afloat; and of those 71 were reserved on leave of absence pay, 81 on furlough pay, and 49 recommended to be stricken from the rolls.

"The vacancies have been filled according to the Act by regular promotion in the order of rank or seniority. Although there are now on this reserved list one hundred and forty-seven officers, the expenses of the Navy, as appears from calculations accurately made, are not increased, for the reason that they are not only on reduced pay, but the officers promoted to their vacancies do not receive the full pay of the grade to which they are thus promoted. They obtain the higher rank and secure more responsible and important commands, but are not to enjoy full pay until the vacancies they fill are made complete either by resignation, death or removal.—And the law, judiciously administered, by no means involves an increase of the aggregate number of officers, for it is the crowding of the service with the lower grade of Passed Midshipmen, to linger there until the prime of life, without rank, and comparatively without useful service, which has really done and mischief.

"Perhaps no event, either legislative or executive, touching the history of the Navy, has attracted more earnest attention or created a more profound sensation, than the action of the late Naval Board, with a view to a just and wise consideration of this grave and delicate subject.—The unexcited mind will not merely pass in calm and scrutinizing review the proceedings of the Board of the Executive, but naturally recurs to the history of the law itself, and with especial care to the condition of the Navy, which occasioned its passage with such remarkable unanimity.

"The peculiar nature of the law did not escape the scrutiny of those who passed it. The allegation that it partook somewhat of the odious character of a star-chamber proceeding was even then presented with ardent and warning eloquence. The feature providing for dropping entirely from the service, which was not in the original bill, was inserted in the House by an overwhelming majority, and after elaborate and thorough debate in the Senate, was passed almost unanimously. There was still on the statute book, and in daily enforcement, the law of courts martial, surrounding their proceedings with the solemnity of a sworn court, a sworn Judge Advocate, and sworn witnesses, subject to penalties for non-appearance; and yet such was the condition of the Navy as urged by secretaries and conceded by statesmen, officers and citizens, such the loud cry for prompt reform echoed and re-echoed through the country, that Congress in its wisdom failing to pass the general and more comprehensive bills originally reported by the committees, instituted this summary tribunal with signal majorities.

"The officers selected to compose this Board were in terms highly laudatory pronounced fit men for the delicate task. Indeed, when their names were announced, there was a warm and general expression of favor and gratification rarely exhibited. Before prescribing regulations as authorized, the opinion of the Attorney General was asked on the true interpretation of the following provisions of the act: "Provided that no officers upon said Board shall examine into or report upon the efficiency of officers of a grade above them." His opinion was that the entire body will sit together, deliberate and determine, and by proper means authenticate their conclusion as to lieutenants, masters and passed midshipmen. After that the lieutenants will have to retire, and the captains and commanders will act in regard to all officers of the rank of commander; while the commanders must retire and the captains will act as to officers of that rank. All the examinations having thus been made, and the proper judgments reached in the manner contemplated by the law, the sum total of the opinions will be certified to the Secretary in such form of authentication as he in his regulations shall see fit to prescribe.

"The few regulations prescribed were chiefly based on this opinion, with the purpose of protecting the officers whose efficiency was thus to be examined into from the slightest danger of being prejudiced by the influence or the presence of judges below them in grade. Lieutenants were not allowed even to be present at the proceedings and deliberations in regard to commanders, and therefore could not aid to effect their own promotion; and in accordance with the same regulation, a commander could not have the opportunity, by his presence, to exert influence to secure his promotion to a Captaincy; and thus it was designed that if, by the execution of the law, officers of the board should happen to be promoted, their proceedings should not be tainted with the blighting suspicion that they labored for their own advancement and not the public good.

"The Department, therefore, by filling the board with men of high reputation, and acceptable to the country and the Navy, by surrounding them with safeguards and restrictions to secure impartiality and justice, and to remove the opportunity and the temptation for indulgence in acts of personal gain, by spreading before them the files and records of the Department, [illegible] successful effort had been made to [illegible] and satisfactory execution of a [illegible] every indication of earnest solicitude for the efficiency of the Navy.

"[illegible] the officers of their appointment [illegible] 6th of June, they [illegible] on the 26th of

"And now, sir, while the operation of this law is by some hailed with enthusiasm as a salutary and indispensable corrective of admitted ill, which depressed the service, by others it is received with undisguised discontent and dissatisfaction. This can hardly be regarded as unnatural. The provisions of the law are generous—indeed, strikingly liberal, but they are at the same time exacting and sternly just. It provides for the careful support of some, and the prompt removal of others, and however faithfully, honestly, and carefully executed, it is a measure of reform, and no measure of that character is ever executed without more or less inconveniences, disappointment and discontent.

"Actuated, no doubt, by a desire to seek truth and justice as nearly as possible, Congress thought it safest to entrust the reform not merely to the President and the Secretary, whose acquaintance with the officers, both personally and officially, must necessarily be very limited, but chiefly to the officers of three higher grades, whose knowledge of their brother officers naturally enables them to perform the duty more thoroughly, and with less liability to err. The task was delicate and involved struggles between duty and feeling. They were men not infallible. It would be strange, indeed, if their work were perfect and entirely free from error. Those errors, if they exist, will soon and surely be discovered by the developments of time, by continued inquiry, and by calm, dispassionate observation.

"The officers of the Navy, as a class, are proud, brave, sensitive, patriotic and self-sacrificing, and if the sword of any one of those gallant men has been incautiously taken from him, all right-minded men will say, let his country restore it to him, with all the honors and reparation due to injured merit, and while I can by no means recommend the adoption of any measure of repeal or any course of proceeding in conflict with the general action of the Board, I have no doubt that there should be, and will be, found a remedy for any mistake or error of judgment, if the service has thus been deprived of a meritorious and capable officer, either by resignation or dropping. Facts which have come to my knowledge assure me that it would be but reasonable to provide a year's pay for the officers who have been suddenly dropped from a service, on which they had heretofore so exclusively depended, without any consideration for their future self-reliance.

"But, sir, I cannot conclude this branch of my report without doing justice to the officers of the Board. From the spirit and temper with which they entered upon a painful and unsought duty, and from the earnestness and diligence with which they searched the records of the department, I deem it but an act of simple justice to express my conviction that they were actuated by elevated considerations, and that their aim was truth, impartiality, and the good of the service; and although from the liability of man to err, there may be discovered here and there a mistake of judgment, I have an abiding conviction that history will prove that this work reinvigorated the Navy, imparted to it a robust and active health, inspired the hearts of the young and gallant officers, hitherto drooping with hopeless despondency, with fresh energy and contentment with the service, warned the thoughtless and the indolent to quit the haunts of idleness and seek the path of duty leading to honor, and caused the country to repose with the more pride and confidence in the invincibility of this right arm of defence. I have no hesitation, and I take much pleasure, in saying that I have already witnessed its happy effects in the new impulse and readiness for duty seen and felt at the department.

"And, sir, though the number reported incompetent seems large and may well attract attention, is that a circumstance of itself sufficient to justify reflection upon a board who were bound under the law to make a 'careful examination,' and report the names of all whom they adjudge incompetent, of every grade, to do their whole duty promptly and efficiently, ashore or afloat? If but a small number of officers had become inefficient, would the Secretaries of the Navy for the last fifteen years have again and again urged, with almost pertinacious zeal, that some stringent measure of reform was indispensable to save the navy from impending ruin?—Would committees, session after session, have reported and pressed such measures? Would grave members have arisen as they did in Congress and have seriously moved to abolish the navy and begin again, if but a small defect existed?—Would the Senate, every session for some years, have almost with unanimity passed the measure for relieving the service of the inefficient, and for imparting vigor and health by promoting able and brave officers, before age had crippled their energies and impaired their usefulness?—Would the press in almost every town and village have fulminated its thunders for reform and have teemed with articles of laudation and approval when the measure prevailed, if but a small number of the incapable blocked up the path of promotion? Or had it become manifest to all, to statesman and citizen, that something radical, thorough and searching must be administered to secure the navy from the dangers which imperilled it, and emancipate it, if possible, from the weight which seemed so surely to be burdening and pressing it down?"

The regulations prescribed—which have heretofore been published—the correspondence with and the report of the board accompany this report.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Secretary of War (Hon. Jeff. Davis) urges increased compensation to army officers, and a revision of the law respecting their allowances. Also, that the provision of the last Congress, increasing the pay of the rank and file, be extended to all enlisted men. Also, an increase of medical corps, and the addition of five military storekeepers. He recommends a judicious continuance of sea coast defences, and especially renews the suggestion for the fortifying of Ship Island to defend the approaches to New Orleans. He presents, also, a neat and forcible argument in favor of the Pacific Railroad, as a means of National defence, but avoids recommending its construction by Governmental aid, although he distinctly intimates a disposition to favor such aid. He shows the actual strength of the army to be fifteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-two men. Enlistments during the last twelve months, ten thousand five hundred and forty-six; enlistments refused, twenty thousand five hundred and twenty-two; number of casualties, five thousand five hundred. Disposition of the troops remains pretty much as stated in last annual report.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The Postmaster General (Judge Campbell) suggests that the franking privilege be restricted to public documents and letters on public business merely; also, the charge of full rates upon newspapers in all cases, instead of half rates, when paid quarterly in advance. He recommends compulsory pre-payment by stamps of postage on books, pamphlets, circulars, and all other transient matters. He again urges the six months notice to the Collins steamers in discontinuance of the extra pay voted them in July, 1852. He presses this subject at some length.

"VERY AMUSING.—The Herald says that the responsibility for the disordered condition of the Know-Nothing House, at Washington, rests upon Democracy."—*Mail.*

Not more amusing that true. The ballots show that there are forty Americans, seventy-five pinch-back Democrats, and one hundred and six Woolly-Heads, in the House. Does this make it an American House? The forty Americans proposed to meet in caucus with all members of all parties who would pledge themselves opposed to further slavery agitation, and willing to admit all new States whether their constitutions countenanced or rejected slavery. This was a fair proposition, and would have secured an organization of the House upon a national basis, but it was spurned by the seventy-five so-called Democrats. Are they not responsible for the disordered condition of things at Washington? There is a strange inconsistency between the statements of the Democratic press upon this subject. The Cumberland Alleghanian calls the American members a "small squad," while the Mail says the House is a *Know-Nothing* House. There is a lie out somewhere.—*Hagerstown Herald.*

From the "Richmond Enquirer."

TABLEAUX OF THE CHILDREN OF THE OLD YEAR.

The Old Year lay on his dying couch, his breath came cold and heavily, and the sadness of dissolution was around him. Of his twelve children, but one, his youngest, remained to watch beside him.

The aged parent thought of all his once blooming children, who had come to maturity and fallen, each before its successor took its place; and sighed mournfully to the weeping December:—"Oh, my child, my youngest born! dearly do I love thee, and dearly have I loved all that have preceded thee. I have watched, with a fond father's eye, their rapid development and their equally rapid decay. I have seen them expire gently, and their parting breath has seemed merely to be wafted from their lips to animate another form; for the moment of death to one was the instant of birth to another. Would that I could see them pass in review before me! Would that I could show them to thee! Such a vision would cheer my last moments and soothe the agony of death."

As he ceased, his child gazed upon his pallid features and silver locks, and determined, if it were possible, he should be gratified.

She remembered to have heard her father speak of Memory, the friend of his youth, who possessed the power to bring back scenes of the past, portraying them in such vivid characters that they appeared like reality. "I will seek her," murmured she, "and entreat her, by all her early friendship, to visit my father and grant his last desire." Full of this determination, she left the couch of the then sleeping sufferer and wandered forth in quest of the stranger.

She directed her steps to a mountain, whereon she knew was situated a castle dedicated to the Virtues, thinking there she would be most likely to meet with her she sought;—nor was she mistaken in her conjectures, for, upon entering the castle, and asking for Memory, she was shown into an unoccupied apartment, antiquely furnished. On looking round, she perceived the walls were hung with tapestry representing events that had occurred in the earliest ages of the world, many of which are now only known by tradition. The high arched windows admitted the light through stained glass, that pictured scenes in the days of the heathen gods; the seats were of ancient form and simplicity, and the floor was inlaid with stone.

Soon, her examination of the room was interrupted by the entrance of a dignified matron, who stood before her, and demanded the object of her visit. December, awed by her appearance, remained for a moment silent; then, raising her eyes, beaming with filial love, to those of the stranger, she exclaimed, "Oh Memory! friend of my father in his early years, I conjure you now to hear me, and to grant my request. I am December, the last child of the Old Year. he is dying, and has spoken to me of his eleven children, my brothers and sisters, whom I have never seen; he longs to behold them once more and to show them to me. You only can gratify him. Come, visit his couch, I entreat you, soothe his last moments." She stopped, and, breathless with emotion, awaited the reply. Memory, pleased with the earnestness of the daughter, smilingly said: "I do remember my old friend, your father, and will grant the request of his child—with to-morrow's twilight I will be with you; till then farewell!"

Thankful and delighted, December returned home to resume her watching.

At the appointed hour Memory arrived and was greeted with delight by the father and daughter. "I come," said she, "to fulfil my promise, and to re-call to your sight the forms of the departed. Permit that I leave you in darkness, while I prepare the representations."

She left them, and arranged the scenes. In a short time she returned, a curtain was withdrawn, and the Old Year, raising himself upon his pillow, beheld, with December, the first tableau.

There stood before him, as in life, his first-born son, January. He was a young man, full of vigor, with two faces—one was turned as if looking back into the past, the other seemed to enquire of the future. Around him was thrown a white mantle, and his crown was of naked twigs. Old Boreas, his musician, stood on one side, in the attitude of blowing hoarse music from his [illegible], and on the other was placed an altar heaped with blazing fagots. At his feet lay the furs of animals and the fleeces of rams. In a few moments the curtain dropped, and, when it again was raised, the second child, but first daughter, February, was presented. Her profile bore a resemblance to her brother's front face, but her features were more delicate, and her countenance wore an expression of softness and sympathy. She was seated by the side of a sick girl in the attitude of bathing her feverish brow. On one side was the altar on which she sacrificed to expiate the sins of the people, and her foot rested on sweet herbs, which she crushed to assuage the pains of the suffering. Her dress was of wool finely woven, and around her brow was a wreath of evergreens.

Next appeared in the midst of a forest, the second son, March, habited as a hunter. His countenance exhibited the marks of a changeful disposition. The brow was austere and the eye piercing, but around the mouth played a sweet smile. His form was athletic and displayed in its contour the strength of active manhood, for he loved the exercise of arms, as well as of the chase. His favorite animals, the horse, the wolf and the dog, were near him, and the pye, the cock and the vulture were perched upon the tree that overshadowed him.

The fourth tableau brought before the gazers a lovely maiden standing in a green meadow, contemplating her image as reflected in a glassy rivulet, which flowing gently along, lost itself in the mazes of a neighboring wood. Her bright eye beamed with gladness; sweet smiles dimpled her cheeks; her long golden tresses were wreathed with buds; a rainbow encircled her head, and none were so insensible as not to admire the beautiful but coquettish April.

Her gentle sister, May, succeeded, and who can paint her quiet beauty as seen reclining upon a mossy rock, shaded by a luxuriant vine, which flinging its long waving branches from a majestic tree, reached over the side of the rock, and, fastening there its tendrils, formed a fragrant arbor worthy the being whom it sheltered! By her side, was a basket of wild flowers, yet fresh with the morning dew, from which she had selected the choicest buds, to twine a wreath for her own bright hair; and her soft blue eyes, turned upwards, were full of tenderness and love.

"Too pure, too beautiful for earth, wast thou, my darling May," whispered the Old Year. And December sighed responsively. Memory waited a moment, as if to indulge the old man, and then presented to his view the queenly June.

She was walking in a tastefully arranged garden, crowned with roses; her flowing robes of azure and white were decorated with festoons of beautiful and fragrant flowers. Across her path, bending as if in homage, were branches of the small fruits of early summer, while in the trees were seen the nests of singing birds that, morn and even, poured forth melodious concerts. Her eyes were of a darker shade, the expression of her countenance more matured and her mein more dignified than were her elder sisters.

The queen of all the children of the year was followed by July, a noble youth. His sway was over reapers, and at his approach nothing was heard but the sharpening of the sickles, the falling of the grain, and the merry song of the husbandmen. The cattle fled from him and sought shelter beneath thick spreading trees, for they feared the brightness of his eyes, the scorching heat of his breath, and the storms and lightnings that played about his path. He stood mid sheaves of grain, his brow encircled with waving corn, and falling from his shoulders upon the earth was a golden mantle. On his altar lay an offering of fruits and at the base were heaps of dogs, that had been slain in sacrifice.

Memory next showed to the gazers a matured and classic form, clad in robes of finest purple, broidered with gold. On his head he wore a wreath of laurel and in his hand was the peaceful olive. His altar was formed of parchments closely written and was draped with the finest produce of the loom; upon it lay the works of various artizans and near by were implements of husbandry. The Old Year, overcome by the sight, trembled violently. "August! last of my summer children," cried he, "glorious wert thou in thy manly beauty! Proud was thy father's heart to behold thee patron of science and of the arts of peace! Would that thou could'st have been ever with me. But alas! Fate is inexorable. The shadows gathered around thee, and thou wast hidden from my sight."

Memory was touched by the grief of the father, and hastened to place before him another scene. September was portrayed as a husbandman in a vast field, with his hand upon the plough. He had just turned from the press, where piles of red and golden fruit yielded streams of rich, sweet juice, to quench the laborer's thirst. Near by stood a cot, covered with vines that showed, glowing in the sunlight, clusters of purple grapes, and the [illegible] studded with autumn flowers.

Now comes the careful matron [illegible]. Her robes are of the brightest [illegible], yellow and crimson, blending together in [illegible] harmony. Around her stand her maidens, at the wheel and at the loom, preparing for use garments from the fleeces of her flocks. The fruits of the earth are dried and placed before her, and she lays up stores for those who shall follow after her. "Hospitable and provident daughter," said the Old Year, "thousands bless thee and enjoy the comforts thou hast provided."

November, in the sportsman's dress, closes the scene. Suspended at his side is the pouch distended with game, and on his shoulders lay the stiffening hares. Dogs of the hunting breed are at his heels, and around him stands a jovial group. His frank, open countenance, ruddy with healthful exercise, shows him worthy to be the successor of the matronly October.

"And, now," said Memory, "I take my leave. Such have been thy children, Old Year; December, youngest, is still at thy side. Thou hast been the parent of twelve sons and daughters, who have ministered to the pleasure of thy whole existence. But thy days are numbered here; the hour of parting comes, and for the present, I must say farewell, since [illegible]—and I, thou knowest, am imperishable. Yet once beyond the dark waters, and thy nature will be transformed. Time will be no more, but Eternity, as thou wilt then be called, will know of no decay. Memory will again meet thee in the gardens of Delight, as the friend of a never-fading youth. Once more, I say farewell."

The Old Year stretched forth his icy hand to bid adieu to his earliest friend, and drew closely to him the faithful December. She cast one glance upon his pallid brow, then, yielding to his cold embrace, sank upon his breast and both were silent forever. The winds gave one long, loud wail, the snow spirits wove their shroud, and the waters of Lethe closed over their remains.

THE BURIAL PLACE OF PULASKI.—We re-publish to-day, from the Patriot of December 22d, a paper read before the Maryland Historical Society at its last monthly meeting. It is the production of the President, Gen. John Spear Smith, a gentleman widely known for his attainments in general literature, and more particularly for his accurate knowledge of events connected with the history of this country. It establishes beyond doubt the fact that the skeleton which was taken up near Savannah for that of Pulaski, and buried beneath the monument erected to his memory, was not his. A stranger then, as it happened in the case of James IV., in Scotland, who was killed at Flodden Field, and in that of Charles the Bold, who was killed at the battle of Morat, occupies the place intended for the hero. There remains no doubt, after the evidence of Colonel Bentalou, that Pulaski was buried at sea.

Gen. Smith has discharged a high and holy duty—a duty which was such to every American who had the facts in his possession—to the memory of Count Pulaski, in rescuing it from the imputation of excessive rashness and total ignorance of the plainest military rules, under which it lay. We confess we were agreeably surprised when we read the statement. We had always understood that Pulaski was an extremely unhappy man, rendered so by the misfortunes of his country, which, only five years before his death, had been partitioned for the first time between Catherine II., Frederic the Great, and the Emperor of Austria. He had taken an active part in those events, and had gone so far as to carry off the unfortunate King Stanislaus, the dupe, tool, and ultimately the victim of Russia, by force from his palace, in the night. By this and similar daring acts, he had rendered himself more than commonly obnoxious to Catherine, who claimed him for her subject, and she had confiscated his estates, imprisoned his family, and wreaked upon him, in every possible shape, the vengeance of a despot and a tyrant. For this reason it was said that he never smiled, and that he courted death in every possible way upon the field of battle, always exposing his person with a recklessness which attracted the attention, not less of the enemy than of his own friends. On the occasion under consideration, the tale went, (though we have never seen it in print,) that he charged upon the walls of the fortress with the Legion, 120 strong, and that every third man was killed or mortally wounded, he himself being among the latter. It was further said that he courted death, and that he sought this occasion, as he sought many others, to get rid of his life. Much of this story has always appeared to us entirely inconsistent with the character of Pulaski, of whom many anecdotes, betraying almost a woman's tenderness of heart, are related, and whose perfect good faith and loyalty are above all suspicion. We could never understand how a humane man, let him have been as anxious to get rid of his own life as he might be, could have led so many others to certain death, without a single compunctious visiting of nature, or how a man, who was acting in good faith toward his adopted country, could have exposed her cause to such a terrible shock as it must have received from the slaughter or dispersion of his corps, which he could not avoid knowing must be inevitable, from the nature of the service in which he was about to employ it.

We are happy to say that our doubts upon this subject are entirely cleared up by General Smith. The Polish hero has always been to us an object of deep and melancholy interest. The very fact that he never smiled, never spoke of his misfortunes to any one, never traded upon his sufferings, but bore in silence, as best he might, the heavy load that had been laid upon him, contrasting so strongly with the Kossuths and Mitchells of our day, is enough to recommend him to every heart which has the generosity to feel for fallen greatness. The only stain upon his otherwise irreproachable name has been removed, and we are happy that it has been.—*Balt. Rep.*

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR GARDNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BOSTON, JAN. 3, 1856.

Governor Gardner's message was delivered to the Legislature to-day. He recommends twenty-one years' residence of foreign born citizens, and ability to read and write, before they are allowed to vote, deprecates the passage of the Personal Liberty act by the last Legislature, and urges its speedy repeal, suggests a reduction of the number of members of the popular branch of the Legislature, and denounces lobbying legislation. The message is strongly native American in its tone.

Francis Lieber has just closed a connection of twenty years standing with the college of South Carolina, by resigning his Professorship of Political Economy. A distinguished, and, in his way, a famous man. An old soldier of Waterloo, scarred by French ball or sword; the friend of Niebuhr; the associate of Byron in the Greek death-struggle; now, in his riper years, a deep thinker, thorough master of political economy and all kindred science, and author of our best compendium of political ethics. They will miss him at Columbia, one would think.

WRAPPING PAPER at Factory prices. Call at J. J. LITCHFORD'S.

THE RALEIGH REGISTER.

"Ours' are the plans of fair, delightful peace, Unwarped by party rage to live like brothers."

RALEIGH, N. C.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 9, 1856.

OUR RELATIONS WITH ENGLAND.

In the discussion in the Senate upon the President's Message, as reported in the *National Intelligencer*, we see a good deal to shadow over the prospect of continued peace between the United States and Great Britain. There was no difference of opinion among the Senators who spoke upon the main point of insisting upon the execution of the Clayton Bulwer Treaty, *at all hazards*. Even as cautious a man as Seward, with all his Black Republican affinities, came out and boldly took his stand along-side of the President, and declared himself in favor of an extreme course, unless Great Britain fulfilled on her part the stipulations of that treaty. When we perceive in such a quarter such unity and decision of sentiment and feeling upon a great question like that at issue, we cannot but consider a rupture between the two governments as a seriously threatened event. We still hope, however, that it will be averted by an adjustment that will be honorable and satisfactory to both parties.

THE MESSAGE.—The President's Message, we are glad to see, is everywhere well received by the conservative portion of the country. This speaks well for the tone of national sentiment.—The Message itself, however, would speak better for the President, were not his professions and his deeds so inconsistent and incompatible. We are forced, at the same time that we admire its manly defence of constitutional rights, to remember that most of the agitation now threatening the peace of the country has been caused by the encouragement given to fanaticism by the author himself, in the appointment of agitators to places of honor and emolument.

THE BUFFALO KNOW NOTHINGS, in convention, have approved the anti-Banks course pursued by Mr. Solomon G. Haven, in Congress, and have appointed him their delegate to the Philadelphia National Council of the 22d February, naming, also, Mr. Fillmore, as their candidate for the Presidency.

We had the pleasure of a visit, on Saturday last, from Mr. HEARTT, the estimable veteran editor of the "Hillsboro' Recorder." Mr. HEARTT bears his age well, and is destined, we trust, to many years of usefulness yet.

SNOW.—We were visited on Friday and Saturday with the heaviest fall of Snow that we have known in this region for many years past. It still lies about six inches deep on the ground, affording fine sleighing,—a novel enjoyment with us. Our citizens, almost generally, seem to have availed themselves of it, and on every side the merry jingle of bells is heard.

The snow has laid a complete embargo upon the mails in every direction.

EX-GOVERNOR FLOYD, OF VIRGINIA.—This gentleman, who is now a member of the House of Delegates of Virginia, from Washington Co., during the debate on the disreputable proposition of the pseudo-Democrats of that body to give a partisan complexion to a Board of Trustees, who had nothing in the world to do with politics, but whose office was to be the custodian of the fund for orphans whom the mysterious ordinations of God had made lonely and desolate by plague, with commendable manliness, said—

"He considered that the course of the debate had given pain to every man there. He avowed himself a party man, and ready to battle for his party; but let the battle be one for the honor and dignity of the party. The matter at issue was unworthy a fight. The gentleman from Norfolk said he had not designed to give a party character to the trustees. Take this statement as true, as he was sure it was, and suffer him to correct the list.

This was the course. Reconsider the vote to get rid of the implied censure; send the bill back to the committee and thus get rid of angry debate, and restore to the House that harmony and unity that had been disturbed. He deprecated the scene of contest over this fund, contributed for purposes of humanity, by all parties and all sections, even including the Abolitionists. He deplored this struggle about the broken victuals left at a wake where a nation mourned."

THE WAR IN EUROPE.—In the absence of later advices from Europe—the steamer due last week not being heard from—the following from a New York letter is interesting:

"The peace prospects which have gained so much credence during the past week appear to have received a disastrous check, according to the latest advices by the Pacific. A postscript article in the last number of the Illustrated London News, says:

"We have been informed, on good authority, that the peace negotiations have finally come to an end. Certain propositions were made by Austria to the Governments of Great Britain and France—propositions which were not in any way prompted or authorized by Russia, but which, if mutually accepted by all parties, would, in the opinion of Austria, be sufficient to secure and consolidate the peace of Europe, and to free the Ottoman Empire from all future danger of Russian aggression. * * We are further informed that these terms were not considered insufficient either by the British or French Governments, but were accepted as satisfactory, or nearly so, by both, and returned to the Austrian Government with a notification to that effect. Russia, however, to whom the propositions were submitted by Austria, considered them unpalatable, and notified to the Emperor Francis Joseph that they would not be accepted, or even debated upon; and so the matter rests. It is therefore evident that the war must proceed."

"This is the most decisive statement, so far as my research extends, received by this steamer; and the character of the journal in which it appears entitles it to some respect."

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT.—The Report of the Secretary of the Interior is very interesting.—The cash receipts from sales of land during the year show an increase of nearly $2,500,000, and the sales 8,500,000 acres over the preceding year. The decrease in the number of acres located on scrip and warrants is upwards of 2,000,000 acres. Efforts are making to adjust all the claims of the States for lands. The Mesilla valley contains 20,000,000 acres, and parts of it are very productive of grain; gold, silver and copper are also found on the hills. The amount of stocks held in trust for the various Indian tribes is $2,000,000. The Secretary recommends a more liberal and generous policy towards the Indians.

MR. CLAYTON'S SPEECH UPON THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.—The public has long been familiar with the title by virtue of which Great Britain claims a right to colonize Central America, and it is stated in the speech of Mr. Clayton with a clearness which admits of no misapprehension. From the days of the Armada, in the time of Elizabeth, down to those of the first Georges, it was a favorite maxim with all British seamen, merchants, and others connected with the English marine, that "there was always war with the Spaniard beyond the line." The meaning of this was, that though in Europe, Great Britain and Spain might be at peace, any British subject who chose might ravage the coasts of South America as he pleased, capture as many towns and ships as he could find, and make any settlement he might have the strength to make. The British seamen practised upon this principle to an enormous extent, and thence arose that formidable body of freebooters known as buccaneers, who, caring little for the imaginary limit set to their enterprises by their creed, plundered indiscriminately all Spanish property, whether found on this side of the line or the other. These men were never formally recognised by the English government, and they were liable at all times to be punished as pirates. No act of theirs, in pursuance of their vocation, could be legal, and of course no title could be established which had its foundation in any thing they had done. They were, in fact, not exclusively English. They were composed of all nations. English, Scotch, Irish, French, Spaniards, Portuguese, Danes, Negroes, and Indians—all manner of people, in one word—were to be found fighting and plundering under the black flag. It was upon the act of one of these desperadoes that the original title of Great Britain to the Mosquito coast was founded. Towards the close of the 17th century, while Great Britain was at peace with Spain, the buccaneer Morgan seized upon a portion of the Spanish Main as a convenient base for his future operations in the Gulf of Mexico. It was about the same thing as if a British pirate, liable to be hung whenever caught, should take possession of one of the Keys on the coast of Florida at this moment, while we are at peace with Great Britain, as a depot for his plunder, and she should afterwards claim it as conquered from us by one of her subjects. Several things were wanting to constitute a title. First, the buccaneers, being pirates, were no longer her subjects. They were outlaws—"*hostes humani generis*," as they are designated in the law books. They could neither acquire nor transmit a title to property. Secondly, if they had been her subjects, the acquisition was made in time of peace, and was not therefore legal. Thirdly, it was abandoned by them, either voluntarily or in consequence of the approach of a Spanish force to relieve it.

In the beginning Great Britain did not claim in her own right. She was a mere tenant by sufferance under the King of Spain. But her usurpations led to a war with Spain in 1739, and to many bitter controversies, both before and after that event. At the general pacification in 1763 she agreed to destroy all the fortifications made in the country by her subjects, and stipulated only that they should be allowed to cut logwood. In 1780, Spain, worn out by her repeated violations of this treaty, took advantage of the war then raging between her and the American colonists supported by France, and joined the alliance against her. By the treaty of Paris in 1783 she agreed to abandon the country, only stipulating to remain at Belize for the purpose of cutting logwood, the words of the treaty being, as Mr. Clayton has shown, that all the English on the "*Spanish continent should retire within the district of the Belize.*" The two French words "Continent Espagnol," "Spanish Continent," or in common parlance "Spanish Main," gave rise to a quibble on the part of Charles James Fox, at that time the master spirit of the Rockingham ministry, altogether unworthy of his character, and painful to every man who entertains any respect for it. All this is set forth in the speech of Mr. Clayton. It is clear that when the British government signed that treaty they intended to violate it. The quibble very much resembles that by which Lord Clarendon afterwards attempted to show that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty meant nothing. It is remarkable that George III saw through the iniquity of this proceeding. When the treaty was presented to him for signature, and Fox explained the interpretation which it was intended to place upon the phrase "Continent Espagnol," that it did not mean "American Continent," and therefore did not determine their claim, he said: "it is a very untoward circumstance that a definite treaty cannot be signed without leaving clear ground for fresh dispute." The continued encroachments of Great Britain having again produced violent altercations with Spain, another treaty was made in 1786, by which she engaged, as Mr. Clayton says, "in the strongest language that man could devise," to evacuate the country.

From that time until the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, by virtue of which the United States acquired California, nothing more was heard of these pretensions. No sooner, however, had those events occurred, than she not only set up a claim to the protectorate of the Mosquito Indians, but seized the town of San Juan, placed a British governor there, changed its name to Greytown, and claimed the whole coast of the Atlantic. It was to get rid of this illegal occupation that the Clayton Bulwer treaty was made. That if its provisions are clearly carried out, she would be compelled to evacuate the country, no man can possibly doubt. Lord John Russell acknowledged, while he was Secretary of State, for Foreign Affairs, that the American interpretation of Lord Clarendon is one of the most scandalous attempts to swindle that has ever attracted the attention of the world.

It is scarcely possible, we think, that Great Britain will go to war with us in support of a cause so utterly infamous. But if she should push us to that extremity, it is evident that our government will be supported by the entire body of the people. Mr. Clayton, Mr. Weller and Mr. Seward, representing the three parties into which the American people are divided, all sustain this portion of the Message. The American people will never agree to let Great Britain cut them in two, as she would do by this occupation, and as she evidently designs to do. There is no division upon this subject. The people are prepared to undergo any extremity rather than submit to this.

A CALL ACCEPTED.—Rev. H. T. Lee, of Winchester, Virginia, has received a call to the charge of the Chapel of the Cross, (Episcopal church) at Chapel Hill.

We are requested to state that the Concert and Festival of the "Independent Guards" has been postponed until Monday night next.

A FACT WORTH KNOWING.—Astronomers say that if a cannon ball were fired from the earth to Saturn, it would be one hundred and eighty years in getting there. In that event, Prof. John Phenix thinks the people of Saturn would have time enough to *dodge the shot.*

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, January [illegible]

SENATE.

The financial report of the Secretary of the Treasury was received.

Mr. Mason moved that 10,000 copies be printed by the printer to the Senate of the last Congress.

A discussion ensued as to the power of the Senate to take such action, since it would (as was contended on one side,) be a violation or evasion of the law of the last session relative to the public printers. The resolution, however, was adopted.

Mr. Hale remarked that he was not in his seat when the President's annual message came in, else he should have objected to its reception as irregularly sent here. He would not pretend to state the reasons why the President took such an extraordinary and unprecedented course, but yankees are allowed to *guess*; and he would by no means presume to say that the President had taken this opportunity to go down on his knees to the South, because several Southern States are to hold democratic conventions on the 8th of January. [Laughter.]

If that was the cause, he was sorry the President had taken so much pains for nothing, for there is just as much chance for one of the Senate pages to be nominated for the presidency as for Mr. Pierce. [Laughter.] The President takes up much of his message in talking about Central American affairs, but he (Mr. Hale) thought there was a place in the central part of the United States on which the eyes of the people are turned with vastly more attention, namely, Kansas. He stated on the authority of Mr. Calhoun, that the Monroe doctrine so much talked about was originally suggested by the British Cabinet. True, as said by the President, acts have occurred in Kansas, contrary to good order, but they had taken place by instigation of the President. This is not the first time the President has delivered a lecture on Slavery.

It was insulting to the majority of his nation for the President to say, in effect, that men who disagree with him on that subject are enemies of the Constitution. Mr. Hale sternly rebuked such an imputation. God, for punishment of our national sins, or the humiliation of our national pride, permits Mr. Pierce to occupy the Presidential chair, and he comes down into the arena of the demagogue, stripped of everything which should clothe him with Executive dignity. (Laughter.)

Mr. Wilson offered a resolution, which lies over, calling on the President for information relative to the troubles in Kansas.

The Senate then adjourned to Monday.

In the House, two unsuccessful ballotings were had for Speaker.

WASHINGTON, Jan 4.

In the House, the Hon. Wm. W. Boyce, of South Carolina, made a personal explanation. He thought and had frequently expressed the opinion, that circumstances were hurrying us almost irresistibly to disruption as a nation. With the most profound regret he had seen a great political party formed at the North, based upon the single idea of hostility to the institutions of the South, which party holds that freedom should be national, while slavery was sectional, and the Constitution of the country recognized slavery. The formation of that instrument, said the speaker, it was well known, was the result of harmony, conciliation and compromise. If this great Northern party should obtain possession of the government, said the speaker, he thought Disunion would surely be the result. He did not desire this. God forbid that it should ever be brought about.

The Hon. JOHN ALLISON, of Penn., said the party to which he belonged had no disposition to war upon slavery in the States in which it now existed, but were opposed to its extension.

A ballot was then taken which resulted as follows:

Banks,	104
Richardson,	[illegible]
Fuller,	[illegible]
Pennington,	[illegible]
Scattering,	[illegible]
No choice.	

Another ballot resulted precisely like the above, after which the House adjourned.

From the Washington Star.

FROM WASHINGTON.

THE CONTEST FOR THE NOMINATION COMMENCES.—On the 8th instant, Democratic State conventions for the choice of delegates to the approaching Cincinnati Convention meet in Tennessee and Alabama, and on the 10th instant in Mississippi, while on the 8th, it will be recollected, the National Democratic committee assemble in this city to determine at what precise time the Cincinnati Convention shall come together. These facts have caused a terrible commotion among the Democratic politicians of all shades, now assembled in Washington. Very little is seen of it on the surface of things, but there is already a heaving to and fro underneath, which must very shortly result in a great bubbling and seething on the surface. It is now very certain that there will be at least four gentlemen prominently urged for the nomination—Mr. Hunter, of Virginia; Mr. Buchanan; Mr. Dallas; and last, but by no means least important in his strength before the convention, President Pierce, for a re-nomination. All of them have advocates among the Democratic members and the numerous leading Democratic politicians who have been in Washington since the first Monday in December last.

As the different Democratic State conventions will all be very soon held, the politicians of that party among us will have a very excited time of it for the next two months; as, upon their action will depend almost entirely the solution of the mystery of the probable action of their representatives at Cincinnati.

No little bad blood and backbiting on the subject has already been manifested here; and as there is little reason to believe that the race of professional politicians has improved its code of moral ethics of late years, we anticipate witnessing a display of much more of the same sort of work.

NICARAGUA AFFAIRS.

Colonel Kinney, in Greytown, and General Walker, in Grenada, are, it is certain, no friends, though both stars in the order of Fillibusters.—Kinney, in his Greytown Central American organ, issues an edict against the Nicaragua Transit Company, and J. L. White and Walker, in his Grenada organ, we have already shown, is hostile to Kinney below. Walker, we see, is spreading "the American Eagle." Accounts tell not only of his efforts to command with a fleet the Lake Nicaragua, but he aspires also to having steamers on the ocean, in which ambition, if he be successful, he must beware lest John Bull be after him there and cut him up. The most important of his efforts, however, is the re-organization of the army. The rates of pay to officers and soldiers in the army have been fixed upon the following liberal basis, viz:

"Commander-in-Chief, $500 per month; brigadier general, $300; colonel, $200; lieutenant colonel, $175; major, $140; captain, $100; lieutenant, $80; second lieutenant, $70; first sergeant, $32 50; second sergeants, $27 50; soldiers in the ranks, $25. The clothing and rations to be the same as in the United States army."

Walker's views are large, very large. His eye is of the spread-eagle kind and his genius of the towering order. The "rebels" in Honduras have been wooed and won, and the "Trojan horse" is already within the Honduras wall, we see. The union of the five Central American States, we are told, is the watchword, and Walker gives out that Carrero has returned to Guatemala. It is surmised that the expected action of the Americans has hastened this step.

Honduras is already strongly in favor of this union, and Costa Rica is making friendly advances. But before any step is taken in advance, Walker wants to hear of the reception of his new minister, Col. French, at Washington.—*N. Y. Express.*