

# COLONIAL HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Furnished by Charles Campbell, Esq., for the Raleigh Register.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES BY COL. GUILFORD DUDLEY.

They succeeded in the administration of the government of N. Carolina about the end of 1771, or beginning of 1772. In politics he appeared to be moderate and tempering but like his predecessors, he was attached to the supposed interests of Great Britain and obedient to the mandates of the crown, and the instructions of its ministers. For the first two years of his administration, there was a calm or kind of lethargy as to pressing events, pervading the people of North Carolina; but in '74 their sympathies were awakened, when it was known that the British Parliament had passed the Boston port bill, by which that port was to be shut up after the first day of June, and its commerce cut off from all parts of the world; and this cruel measure was to be enforced by a large army of British troops and a powerful fleet. When the people awoke and began to look about them. This bill arrived in the Spring of 1774, during the session of the House of Burgesses, and threw the Assembly into a ferment, which prevented business from progressing. Gov. Martin found the members refractory and unyielding to his measures. He could not procure the passage of his money bills, (as it was usually called,) nor succeeded in any other of his favorite or ministerial measures. The House adjourned in discontent and disgust, and the minds of the people were alarmed and agitated. Whilst these things were transacting in Newbern, the Seat of Government, in 1774, the writer of these sketches attained his eighteenth year, and had his name immediately enrolled on the muster-list of the Town company of Melitia, in Halifax, and in a month or two, afterward had an opportunity, for the first time, of seeing Governor Martin in his own town, for two or three weeks, several times every day in the office where he wrote.

It is well known to many that King Charles the 2d granted to eight Lords proprietors that extensive tract of country lying South of Virginia, and extending along the Atlantic coast to St. Mary's river which divided it from the Floridas, and west to the Mississippi river, now including the two Carolinas and Georgia. The Lords proprietors (of whom the Earl of Grenville was one), after a fruitless attempt to colonize the country, from their own ignorance, capidity and dissatisfaction with their purchase from the crown, all surrendered, for a stipulated price, their grant into the hands of the King, except Lord Grenville, who retained his share, on a degree in breadth, from what is the Virginia line, in the North to the South, and extending from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, in the west. After the surrender of the Lords proprietors, the country was divided into North and South Carolina, and Grenville opened a land-office in his share of the former province, and placed an agent there, for the disposal of lands on low terms, subject however to the payment of an annual tax, called quit-rents, to himself and his heirs, forever, besides surveyor's fees, the cost of registration of patents, &c. For several years previous to the disturbances in America, Col. Jos. Montfort, of Halifax, a wealthy merchant, and also the Royal Treasurer, had been the agent for the heirs of Lord Grenville, though as far back as I can recollect or had any knowledge of such transactions, the land-office of Lord Grenville had been shut up; but the multifarious papers including duplicates of patents belonging to that office, still remained in the hands of Col. Montfort; but after the passage of the Boston Port bill was known in North Carolina, and General Gage with his fleet and army had arrived at Boston, in pursuance of the ministerial plan, Governor Martin, with his private Secretary, Mr. Nelson, repaired to Halifax, with written instructions and an order from the heirs of Grenville, to receive all the papers of every description belonging to that office. This was early in the Summer of 1774, at which time the writer was something more than eighteen years old, and was assistant clerk in the counting house and the Treasury office. The Treasurer was a man advanced in years, of a feeble constitution and sickly temperament, then languishing on the bed of sickness, but a Whig; and although Governor Martin and his suite were his guests for several weeks, and no doubt used much persuasion and address to get the papers into his hands, yet the Treasurer at first demurred, and for some time wavered about their delivery, until he could consult his friends about the propriety of the measure, evidently shewing a repugnance to delivering them to his Excellency at all. At last he consented, and procuring a confidential friend (for he was unable to attend himself) to superintend and direct six or eight clerks, all young men, among them myself, in the business of taking a schedule or inventory, not only of the duplicate grants, but of every other paper belonging to the office, opening and designating their import exactly in our inventory; and although we were all expert or swift penmen, yet it took us more than a fortnight or three weeks, from before sun-rise till dark every day, to accomplish this arduous work, notwithstanding the Governor was usually three or four times a day in our office, and with complacent smiles and courteous language urging us on to the completion of the work. This done, and the papers being packed up in large trunks, boxes and chests, and three wagons procured for their removal to the palace in Newbern; his Excellency departed in seeming triumph and satisfaction at the acquisition of what he no doubt deemed an immense prize, and the favor he should thereby confer on the courtly heirs of Lord Grenville. I presume this enormous bulk of papers

was immediately shipped to England by Gov. Martin, to the legal representatives of the old Grantee; but their receipt traileed them not at all, for in little more than two years after, North Carolina, when she became an independent State, and framed her own Constitution, virtually confiscated this immense tract of country, by a clause in that instrument which says—"that the soil belongs to the good people of this State," which also included the vacant or unappropriated lands belonging to the Crown. They confiscated also, by Act of Assembly, all other estates belonging to British subjects residing in Great Britain, or any of its provinces or territories. And thus the heirs of the Earl of Grenville, the original patentee, lost forever the greater part of what remains to North Carolina, and two-thirds of what now constitutes the State of Tennessee, and these by far the richest portions, as to soil, situation and value, in both the States.

When the news of General Gage having arrived at Boston, with a fleet and army, and shut up that port, reached North Carolina, the Captain of a Company of Halifax, where the narrator then resided, and to which Company he belonged, resigned the commission he held under the King, making at the same time a public declaration, "that he would no longer serve his Majesty either in a Civil or Military capacity, until American grievances were redressed." His subaltern officers followed his example, and presently afterwards the Field Officers of the County resigned their Commissions also, and thus the Militia of that county, at least, were left in a State of anarchy. The late Captain of the Town Company, however, lost no time in convening the citizens of the place and its vicinity, who had formerly composed his command, and after making a short harangue, proposed that they should form themselves into an independent company, and elect their own officers, in defiance of all legal authority. This proposition was highly relished and acceded to by all the company, a few excepted, who were Scotch merchants and their clerks, when they proceeded to head them and most of their late subaltern officers, and immediately went into a course of rigid training.—But being somewhat deficient in the knowledge of Military tactics, at this period, Robert Washington was invited from Virginia, for the purpose of disciplining this corps. He had served as a British sergeant during the whole of the preceding War, and was well skilled in the manual exercise and the various evolutions introduced into the Prussian armies by Frederick the Great, whilst he had been previous ly trained in the antiquated discipline of Bland, an English author. And thus, as the writer of this narrative believes and then understood, was formed the first Independent Company in America.

North Carolina, like her neighbor, Virginia, and the other provinces, had her committee of correspondence also in 1774, for the purpose of intercommunication, and as soon as it was determined to hold a general Congress at Philadelphia, in September of that year, appointed her Delegates to attend that meeting. These were Joseph Hewes, of Edenton, a virtuous man and an old and highly respectable merchant, of great experience in mercantile commerce; Richard Caswell, of Dobbs County, in the District of Newbern, a very respectable lawyer, and William Hooper, of Hillsboro', also a lawyer, and the most pleasing speaker I had ever seen at any bar.

The General Congress accordingly met at Philadelphia, on the 6th of September, '74, all the provinces being duly represented except Georgia, which, for prudential reasons, approved of by the other colonies, declined sending delegates at this time. The first thing they did, was to enter into a non-importation agreement whereby all commercial intercourse between Great Britain and the Colonies was suspended. It was recommended to the people to discontinue the use of Tea, their favorite beverage, and merchants were forewarned not to sell. It was recommended to the people also, to increase their flocks of sheep, killing lamb but sparingly and then those of the least profitable kind. They petitioned the crown for redress of grievances, and drew an Address to the people of Great Britain, "a production of the finest pen in America." These virtuous and enlightened men continued their labors from day to day, for the general welfare of all the provinces, with great moderation and ability, until the 26th of October, when they adjourned to meet again on the 10th of May ensuing, 1775.—In the mean time, North Carolina re-elected the same Delegates, Messrs. Hewes, Caswell and Hooper, to attend this meeting and the House of Burgesses adjourned their session to meet again at Hillsborough, about the 1st of June—a measure unprecedented in the annals of that Province strongly opposed by Governor Martin and his adherents, who seemed to be alarmed at the idea of leaving the Palace at Newbern, and going so far into the interior, to transact public business. However, as nothing had been done at that session which met the Governor's wishes, and as he was, as I have before said, rather of a tempering disposition, and willing to keep the Assembly in good humor, he consented to meet them there, at the time appointed. But in the mean time the affairs of Lexington and Concord had happened, on the 19th of April, '75, and the lives of our people destroyed by actual hostilities, being thus wantonly destroyed by the British. Not only this Province, but all America was thrown into an increased ferment.—The House of Burgesses however, true to their appointment, met at Hillsborough, but the aspect of affairs at this crisis, so alarming to his Excellency, caused him to pause, and the longer he deliberated upon the awful subject of hazarding his sacred person

•Christopher Dudley.

among the hardy sons of the West, more than 200 miles from his palace, the more his mind became bewildered and panic-struck, and instead of repairing to Hillsborough, according to promise, with his council, faithful adherents and advisers, who, in imitation of the British House of Lords, constituted the upper House of our Legislature, he flew off in a tangent of more than 90 degrees, from the point in question, and with his whole household, while the Assembly was impatiently waiting his appearance, in order to begin business, and hastily repaired to Wilmington, where he got on board of a King's ship lying at that place, or a few miles thence, below the Flatts, where he was safe; and thus abdicated the government over which he presided. Tyrants despots and their substitutes always evince a cowardly heart, in proportion to their acts.

As soon as this manoeuvre was known at Hillsborough, the Assembly took the reins of Government into their own hands, and evidenced to the world, that they could legislate for themselves, without the assistance of the Royal substitute and his council, usually composed of creatures of Crown, selected for their pliability to its measures.

••• Let us, return to the Assembly at Hillsborough. Finding they had happily got rid of the Royal authority, in the manner above mentioned, they proceeded to take into consideration the state of the Colony, and their obligations to the other Provinces, of mutual co-operation in this incipient stage of our confederations, and instead of enacting statute laws, proceeded to something more substantial and requisite, in the present posture of affairs. Among their first acts, was to raise two regiments of regular troops; the command of the first was given to Col. James Toore, of the North West of Cape Fear, and the other to Col. Robert Howe, of Brunswick, blow Wilmington. And a considerable sum of paper money was voted, to be issued for the purpose of enlisting men and to pay other expense of Government.—They also organized the Militia as to raise some Regiments of minute-men, and appointed the Colonels—a species of regular troops, who voluntarily enrolled themselves without receiving bounty or any other pay, except.

### How Pat Macnamara got his Outfit, or the Admiral at Fault.

The following amusing incidents we extract from 'Sketches of the Queen's Bench,' a series of excellent papers now in course of publication in one of the English magazines, written by the author of 'Stories of Waterloo.' We have not given the whole article, but only that portion which will be most interesting to our readers:—

Miss H— was married when sixteen to a man on the wrong side of forty. In arranging her union, her parents treated her like a child, regulated her settlement, and told her, when called upon to sign the deed for the first time, the name of the happy man to whom her hand had been legally assigned, and with as little ceremony as a horse is knocked down at Tattersall's to the best and highest bidder. Her liege lord was of the Boreanschool, rude, noisy, and swore, as antiquated troopers used to swear. A slash of the cutlass across the cheek does not add much to personal beauty; and although a wooden leg is a very honorable substitute for a flesh one, still among boarding school girls the prejudice is strong in favor of the latter supporter. Sir Hannibal regulated his household as he did his ship. He was, in truth, what is termed "a taut hand." At the sound of his stump, cook and house-maid held their peace, "dreading the deep damnation of his 'Bah'" while his lady wife scarcely dared to bless herself without permission.

When promoted to his flag and a commodar, d the martinet habits pursued for a dozen years in his domicile and ship underwent no change, and the laws of Medes and Persians were never more absolute than the port regulations of the single-legged commander. One grave offence in the eyes of Sir Hannibal was, a youngster appearing on shore, unless he were "in full rig," and wo unto the unhappy reifer upon whom the rear admiral could pounce in mufu.

In a seaport, like an inland village, scandal will occur; and, as in earlier life, the West Indies had been the scene of his exploits, it was maliciously whispered, that he had there committed an anatomy escaped and when 'Bacchi plenus,' had married a woman of color. Report further stated that, tired of his black beauty the admiral had drawn the splice, alighting to the lady of his former love a small annuity to support herself and one youthful pledge of mutual affection.

Late one fine afternoon, Sir Hannibal was taking a digestive stroll after an early tiffin, when on rounding the corner of a street, he ran against an unhappy midshipman who had ventured on shore in a round hat.

"Hallo, youngster, what ship do you belong to?" roared the commander.

"To the Penelope," stammered the reifer.

"What is your name, eh?"

"Pat Macnamara."

"You have no cocked hat, it would appear, eh? Well, we'll try and find you one." And taking the victim by the arm, he crossed the street, and entered an out-fitter's shop.

"This young gentleman requires a cocked hat," said the admiral. "Supply him with what he wants, and I will see you paid."

And with a grin of satisfaction, he bade the alarmed midshipman "Good morning," and toddled down the street. Mr. Macnamara watched him until he had stumped round the corner and then, turning coolly to the counter, he selected a handsome

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"How devilish particular my father is,"

said the reifer, as he examined his person with great satisfaction in the pier-glass.

"Your father, sir?" returned the astonished latter.

"Yes," said the unblushing midshipman. "The thing's not generally known, for my stepmother is so infernally jealous, that if she discovered Sir Hannibal had a successor in his estates, there would be no devil to pay and no pitch hot."

Now Mr. Gubbins, the out-fitter, had heard the West Indian story whispered quietly at his counter, and Mr. Macnamara being exceedingly swartly, he concluded him to be the half-caste heir of the wooden legged commander, and great was his civility accordingly.

"Was there any other article he could show him?" and stocks, shirts, and pocket-handkerchiefs were rapidly paraded. Mr. Macnamara thought he might as well complete his outfit at once, settled himself on a chair, and most generously encouraged trade by an extensive selection. The articles were to be directly sent to the sally-port where the boat was waiting for him, and Macnamara was ceremoniously bowed out of the shop, he having given the out-fitter a monetary hint that he was to take care when he handed the bill to his papa that his step-mother was not present.

Three days passed. The admiral was taking his usual stroll, and perceiving Mr. Gubbins disengaged he stumped into the shop, and took a chair beside the counter.

"He, he, he! Gubbins—brought you a customer 't'other day; that yellow chap you recollect?"

"He is a little dark, Sir Hannibal; but, Lord! he's a fine off handed young gentleman. I assure your honor, when he told me of the relationship, that I supplied him with the best articles and charged the lowest figure."

"The relationship!" exclaimed the admiral. "Why, who the devil is he related to?"

"I never," said Mr. Gubbins, in reply, and simpering as he bowed, "name any thing entrusted to me in confidence; but I never saw a stronger likeness to a father in my life. Lord! Sir Hannibal, had the young gentleman not mentioned it himself, I should have guessed it in a moment."

"Guessed what?" roared the admiral.

"That I had the honor to supply your son."

"Whose son?"

"Yours, Sir Hannibal."

"Hell and furies!" shouted the infuriated commander. "I have no son."

"Not, as the young gentleman explained to me, by her present ladyship, but by a black gentleman in Jamaica. Indeed, he considerably mentioned that I was not on any account to hand you his little bill in the presence of his step-mother, for that she was a regular white sergeant, and you dare not buckle on your leg without permission."

Sir Hannibal stared: his eyes dilated 'till each strained ball of sight seem'd bursting from his head.

Heaven and earth! it was quite evident that he had been humbugged; but that he, before whose wrath a whole ship's company trembled, and to whose order the perfect spider-brusher dared not offer a reply—that he should be represented as rough ridden by his wife, and debarred from using his wooden substitute, without obtaining feminine permission before he strapped it on! Why, a saint, laden heavily with psalm-books, could not listen to the charge with a common patience!

"You did not let the young scoundrel take away the hat?" inquired the old gentleman, suspiciously.

"The hat!" exclaimed the astonished tradesman. "Ay, and six-and-twenty pounds worth of general out fittings besides—Why, on your respected guarantee, he might have carried off the shop, contents and all."

The admiral, dreaming of nothing short of the annihilation of this young and nefarious delinquent, stumped out of the shop, and bent on speedy vengeance headed to the pier. His barge was promptly on the water, and the crew of the Penelope were marvelously surprised to see the dreaded functionary, at this unusual hour, pulling directly to the frigate.

"What the devil drives old timber-toe this way, and at this time?" inquired one idler from another, as standing on a caronade he scrutinized the approaching boat through his telescope.

"No friendly errand, you may depend upon it. I can even now remark that there is a cockle in his wig. But here comes the schipper!"

And as the captain came on deck, the youngsters moved away.

Ten minutes brought Sir Hannibal alongside, and an honorable reception placed him and his wooden supporter in safety on the frigate's quarter-deck. The unusual and unexpected evening call had excited a general curiosity over the ship, and hundreds were listening anxiously to learn what might be the cause of this mysterious visit. The admiral was no whisperer—and all doubt as to the object of his coming was speedily put to rest.

"Muster your midshipmen," roared the single-legged commander. "You have, Captain Blackwood, a d—d scamp among the lot."

"If you made the number half a dozen, Sir Hannibal, you would come nearer to the mark. May I inquire the name of the *maximus* subject after whom you so particularly inquire?"

"He calls himself Macnamara."

"No such name upon our muster-roll. Describe him, if you can, personally."

"A tall, wiry, devil-may-care-looking chap, dark eyes and hair, and yellow as a kite's claw."

"Nothing in the Penelope that answers this description. But I see the youngsters laugh. Possibly from some of them we may find a clue to Mr. Macnamara. 'Ho, ham,' and he beckoned to one of the re-

fers, who immediately came forward 'do you know anything—'

"Of a scoundrel who did Gubbins out of thirty pounds, and swore that I was his father!" shouted the admiral.

Captain Blackwood turned his head aside, and he felt some difficulty to preserve a proper gravity.

"I am pretty sure, sir, that I know the young gentleman."

"A d—d wild eye, eh?" said the commander.

"And a complexion between a man in yellow jack and a full-colored orange lily?"

"That's the chap's description to a T," roared Sir Hannibal. "Is he aboard?"

"Aboard!" replied the reifer. "Why, he's nearly clear of the land. He sailed last Tuesday morning for the East Indies in the Hebrus."

"D—n!" growled the commander, as he stamped his wooden member on the deck, and in three minutes afterwards he was seen pulling shoreward from the frigate both sadder and wiser than when he left the pier.

Men cannot stand ridicule and Sir Hannibal prudently hushed up the affair, paid Mr. Macnamara's bill, and never, during the subsequent two years of his command, introduced, as far as we know, another customer to his friend, 'Mr. Gubbins.'

### DIFFICULTIES IN CANADA.

The troubles in Canada begin to wear an aspect of menace; not that they disclose a purpose of rash and inconsiderate rebellion—that would be, as it has been, crushed without much difficulty—but because there is manifested a calm and stern spirit of independence, apparently inconsistent with the long continued connexions of the colonies with the mother country. There is also one peculiar and pregnant fact in relation to the present disturbance. In the rebellion of 1837 the malcontents were the French population; now, the opposition to government is from the Anglo-Saxons. They allege that the policy of the government is partial towards the French population, and inconsistent with the progress of the colonies. But the immediate issue arises from the proposition of the government to issue debentures to compensate for losses during the rebellion of 1837. The loyalists, or those who were then loyalists, protest that the measures will tax them to pay the French for their rebellion—for the government considers no one to have been connected with the insurrection who has not been convicted of it. The discussions in the Assembly have been stormy, and have even been attended with personal violence. We learn that the number of persons to be paid under this projected law is 2176, and the amount which they claim for losses sustained is £241,965. Some of the claims are for property destroyed; others for loss of time while in prison or exile; and others still for passage money from Bermuda to Australia. Montreal papers of the 24th state that the resolutions had passed the Assembly. If so, the end is not yet.

A meeting of the opposition—four thousand being present—was held at Montreal on the 17th ult. The Montreal Herald predicts that the date of the meeting will be the day from which the future historian may date the emancipation of the British colonies from the imposition of foreign masters." Bold language this. Sir Allen McNab declared in the Assembly that "if the measure were forced upon the country, it would be a question for the people of Upper Canada to consider whether it would not be better for them to be governed by the people on the other side of the river than by a French Canadian majority, because he considered the measure a most unjust one." This snarl of treason. The population now excited is a different, more vigorous, and more determined one than that engaged in the affair of 1837.

"There's matter in't indeed, if they be angry."

But, with great deference to Sir Allen of "Carolina" notoriety, we have supped full of annexation and have no appetite for the luxury of an unnecessary and unjust war with Great Britain, nor for acquiring the right of way to the North Pole. Canada, as a republic, would thrive and win a respectable place among the nations of the earth. We would be proud of her as a free neighbor and fast friend, but do not cover her as an acquisition.

### THE BILL RELATING TO CALIFORNIA.

AN ACT to extend the revenue laws of the United States over the territory and waters of Upper California, and to create a collection district therein.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the revenue laws of the United States be and are hereby extended to and over the main land and waters of all that portion of territory, ceded to the United States by the "treaty of peace, friendship, and limits between the United States of America and Mexican Republic," concluded on the 2d day of February, in the year 1848, heretofore designated and known as Upper California.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all the ports, harbors, bays, rivers, and waters of the main land of the territory of Upper California, shall constitute a collection district, by the name of Upper California, and a port of entry shall be and is hereby established for said district at San Francisco, on the bay of San Francisco; and a collector of the customs shall be appointed by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to reside at said port of entry.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That ports of delivery shall be and are hereby established in the collection district aforesaid, at San Diego, Monterey, and at some convenient point within the territory of the United States, to be elected by the Secretary of the Treasury, as near as may be to the junction of the rivers Gila and Colorado, at the head of the Gulf of California. And the collector of said district of California is hereby authorized to appoint, with the approbation of the Secretary of the Treasury, three deputy collectors, to be stationed at the ports of delivery aforesaid.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the collector of said district shall be allowed a compensation of \$1500 per annum, and the fees and commissions allowed by law; and the said deputy collectors shall each be allowed a compensation of one thousand dollars per annum, and the fees and commissions allowed by law.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That until otherwise provided by law, all violations of the revenue laws of the United States,

committed within the district of Upper California, shall be prosecuted in the district court of Louisiana, or the supreme court of Oregon, which courts shall have original jurisdiction, and may take cognizance of all cases arising under the revenue laws in said district of Upper California, and shall proceed therein in the same manner and with the like effect as if such cases had arisen within the district or territory where the prosecution shall be brought.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after the 10th day of March next.

[The above bill has become a law.]

## WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.  
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1849.

THE DISTINCTION.  
We may daily expect the arrival of those celebrated performers. Of the nature of the instrument used by them, in their performances, we are ignorant, but find they have attracted much attention and created much applause, in Europe as well as this country.

MADAME BISHOP.  
We were authorized to announce the expected arrival of Madame Bishop, which we did, a few days ago. We fear this lady has turned to us the "cold shoulder," as she passed thro' this place on Tuesday, on her way to Charleston.

SHIPPING AND FREIGHTS.  
We have already, under the proper head, called the attention of the public to the fact, that there is a great demand for shipping in this port at the present time, and that liberal freights can be readily commanded. A great quantity of Lumber and other Produce is lying on hand, waiting for conveyance to other markets. We will thank our exchange papers if they will draw the attention of ship owners to the state of affairs here.

BREAD.  
A correspondent, last week, spoke of the deficiency in the weight of the Bread offered in market in this place, and invited the attention of the authorities to the delinquency. We learn that there is great complaint in respect to the quality as well as the quantity. We have no doubt but both points will be attended to and amended.

CHEERING.  
The North Carolinian of the 10th inst. says: \$35,000 have been subscribed, thus far, to the Bank road, and there is supposed to be no doubt of its construction. \$75,000 have been subscribed, we learn, to the Cape Fear and Deep river improvements. There seems to be considerable spirit up in regard to the central rail-road, too.

BRITISH WAR IN INDIA.  
The English papers contain advices from Calcutta to the 8th and from Bombay, to the 19th January.—The most important intelligence from that quarter is that of the bombardment and capture of the town of M'ultan. It was one of the most gallant defenses on the part of the Moontas ever recorded in martial annals.

"On the 30th, a fort containing 800,000 pounds of powder was blown up by a well directed mortar.—The devastation was horrible. The dewar's mother, several of his relatives, with many of his attendants, together with a great number of his troops and people, were blown into the air, and the destruction of mosques and buildings around was most extensive.

The Moultans made a sortie on the 31st, but were driven back, and the commanding continued incessantly the two first days of the year. On the 2d, the breach being deemed practicable, the assault took place. Moortaj determined to defend himself to the last. He retired to the citadel, which was being mined, but he held out. On the 7th January, the last date, overtures had been made by Moortaj, but nothing except the unconditional surrender would be listened to. The bombardment seems to have been one of the most remarkable on record, and the stubborn defence of the enemy has never been surpassed in Indian warfare. The destruction of property has been immense."

THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.  
The President of the United States, surrounded by his constitutional advisers, received the salutations of the Representatives of Foreign Governments at Washington, on the 12th inst.

The whole number of the members of Foreign Legations present, was thirty-two, all in their official costumes.

The Address, on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps, was delivered by the oldest Member of that Corps present, Gen. DON CARLOS MARIA DE ALENAR, Minister Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary of the Argentine Confederation, in the following terms:

MR. PRESIDENT: The Diplomatic Corps, accredited to the Government of the United States, has the honor, through me, to express to the Chief Magistrate of this Republic, its sincere congratulations on his recent election to the Presidency, which they are profoundly convinced will redound to the honor and happiness of the great people over whom you have been called to preside; and that those relations of peace and friendly intercourse which now so happily exist between the United States and the various countries which we have the honor to represent will be preserved and perpetuated to the mutual advantage and well-being of all. And you may be well assured, sir, that nothing shall be wanting on our part to contribute to so desirable a result.

We profit of this occasion, Mr. President, to express to you our most cordial wishes for your health and happiness.

To which Address the President replied:

GENTLEMEN: I accept, with lively satisfaction, the congratulations which you have been pleased to tender to me upon this occasion. You may be assured that it shall be my undeviating endeavor to cultivate with the nations which you respectively represent the most cordial relations of amity and good will. In this I shall be guided by the cardinal policy of this Government, and, I doubt not, cheered by your kind and zealous co-operation.

Permit me also to offer to you, individually, my best wishes for your welfare.

The President was then presented individually to each of the gentlemen composing the Corps, exchanging salutations with them in his usually cordial manner.

OPPOSITION TO TAYLOR.  
Indications of opposition to the administration of President Taylor have already appeared. This clearly demonstrates that he is not opposed on principle, because no act of his administration can become, thus early, the subject of animadversion.

There will be, doubtless, an organized opposition, conducted by leaders who want office. It will be a contest for the "spoils," and nothing else. How far this spirit will meet with favor from the people remains to be seen. We believe the public mind is pretty well made up to give Gen. Taylor's administration a fair trial, while great confidence is entertained that public expectation will not be disappointed. In regard to disappointed politicians, we may