

taken to this mode of communication; which is often used to prepare the way for official intercourse; but the suggestions made in it were in their substance wholly inadmissible. Not being in the shape of an official communication to this Government, it did not admit of reply or official notice, nor could it safely be made the basis of any action by the Executive or the Legislature; and the Secretary of State did not think proper to ask a copy, because he could have no use for it.

Copies of papers marked Nos. 9, 10, and 11, show an attempt, on the part of the French Charge d'Affaires, to place a copy of this letter among the archives of this Government, which, for obvious reasons, was not allowed to be done; but the assurance before given was repeated, that any official communication which he might be authorized to make, in the accustomed form, would receive a prompt and just consideration. The indiscretion of this attempt was made more manifest by the subsequent avowal of the French Charge d'Affaires, that the object was to bring this letter before Congress and the American People. If foreign agents, on a subject of disagreement between their Government and this, wish to prefer an appeal to the American People, they will hereafter, in it, be better appreciated than others, than to attempt to use the Executive as the passive organ of their communications.

It is due to the character of our institutions, that the diplomatic intercourse of this Government should be conducted with the utmost directness and simplicity; and that, in all cases of importance, the communications received or made by the Executive should assume the accustomed official form. It is only by insisting on this form, that foreign Powers can be held to full responsibility, that their communications can be officially replied to, or that the advice or interference of the Legislature can with propriety be invited by the President. This course is also best calculated, on the one hand, to shield that officer from unjust suspicions, and, on the other, to subject this portion of his acts to public scrutiny, and, if occasion shall require it, to constitutional animadversion. It was the more necessary to adhere to these principles in the instance in question, inasmuch as, in addition to other important interests, it very intimately concerned the national honor—a matter, in my judgment, much too sacred to be made the subject of private and unofficial negotiation.

It will be perceived that this letter of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs was read to the Secretary of State on the 11th of September last. This was the first authentic indication of the specific views of the French Government received by the Government of the United States after the passage of the bill of indemnification. Inasmuch as the letter had been written before the official notice of my approval of Mr. Livingston's last explanation and remonstrance could have reached Paris, just ground of hope was left, as has been before stated, that the French Government, on receiving that information in the same manner the alleged offensive message had reached them, would desist from their extraordinary demand, and pay the money at once. To give them an opportunity to do so, and at all events to elicit their final determination, and the ground they intended to occupy, the instructions were given to our Charge d'Affaires which were adverted to at the commencement of the present session of Congress. The result, as you have seen, is a demand of an official written expression of regrets, and a direct explanation addressed to France, with a distinct intimation that this is a sine qua non.

Mr. Barton having, in pursuance of his instructions, returned to the United States, and the Charge d'Affaires of France having been recalled, all diplomatic intercourse between the two countries is suspended—a state of things originating in an unreasonable susceptibility on the part of the French Government, and rendered necessary on our part by their refusal to perform engagements contained in a treaty, from the faithful performance of which, by us, they are to this day enjoying many important commercial advantages. It is time that this unequal position of affairs should cease, and that legislative action should be brought to sustain executive exertion in such measures as the case requires. While France persists in her refusal to comply with the terms of a treaty, the object of which was, by removing all causes of mutual complaint, to renew ancient feelings of friendship, and to unite the two nations in the bonds of amity and of a mutually beneficial commerce, she cannot justly complain if we adopt such peaceful remedies as the Law of Nations and the circumstances of the case may authorize and demand. Of the nature of these remedies I have heretofore had occasion to speak, and in reference to a particular contingency, to express my conviction that reprisals would be best adapted to the emergency then contemplated.

Since that period, France, by all the Departments of her Government, has acknowledged the validity of our claims, and the obligations of the treaty, and has appropriated the money which are necessary to its execution;

and, though payment is withheld on grounds vitally important to our existence as an independent Nation, it is not to be believed that she can have determined, permanently, to retain a position so utterly indefensible. In the altered state of the questions in controversy, and under all existing circumstances, it appears to me that, until such a determination shall have become evident, it will be proper and sufficient to retaliate her present refusal to comply with her engagements, by prohibiting the introduction of French products and the entry of French vessels into our ports. Between this and the interdiction of all commercial intercourse or other remedies, you, as the representatives of the People, must determine. I recommend the former, in the present posture of our affairs, as being the least injurious to our commerce, and as attended with the least difficulty of returning to the usual state of friendly intercourse, if the Government of France shall render us the justice that is due, and, also, as a proper preliminary step to stronger measures, should their adoption be deemed necessary by subsequent events.

The return of our Charge d'Affaires is attended with public notices of naval preparations on the part of France destined for our seas. Of the cause and intent of these armaments I have no authentic information, nor any other means of judging except such as are common to ourselves and to the public eye, whatever may be their object, we are not at liberty to regard them as unconnected with the measures which hostile movements on the part of France may compel us to pursue. They at least deserve to be met by adequate preparation on our part; and I therefore strongly urge large and speedy appropriations for the increase of the navy and the completion of our coast defenses.

If this array of military force be really designed to affect the action of the Government and People of the United States on the questions now pending between the two nations, then, indeed, would it be dishonorable to pause a moment on the alternative which such a state of things could present to us. Come what may, the explanation which France demands can never be accorded; and no armament, however powerful and imposing, at a distance or on our coast, will, I trust, deter us from discharging the high duties which we owe to our constituents, our national character, and to the world.

The House of Representatives, at the close of the last session of Congress, unanimously resolved that the treaty of the 4th of July, 1831, should be maintained, and its execution insisted on by the United States. It is due to the welfare of the human race, not less than to our own interest and honor, that this resolution should, at all hazards, be adhered to. If, after so signal an example as that given by the American People during their long protracted difficulties with France, of forbearance under accumulated wrongs, and of generous confidence in her ultimate return to justice, she shall now be permitted to withhold from us the tardy and imperfect indemnification which, after years of remonstrance and discussion, had at length been solemnly agreed on by the treaty of 1831, and to set at naught the obligation it imposes, the United States will not be the only sufferers. The efforts of humanity and religion, to substitute the appeals of justice and the arbitrament of reason for the coercive remedies usually resorted to by injured nations, will receive little encouragement from such an issue. By the selection and enforcement of such lawful and expedient measures as may be necessary to prevent a result so injurious to ourselves and so fatal to the hopes of the philanthropist, we shall therefore not only preserve the pecuniary interests of our citizens, the independence of our Government, and the honor of our country, but do much, it may be hoped, to vindicate the faith of treaties, and to promote the general interests of peace, civilization, and improvement.

ANDREW JACKSON.
Washington, Jan. 15, 1836.

No. 1.—Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Barton.
Department of State,
Washington, June 28, 1835.

THOMAS P. BARTON, Esq. & Co. & Co.
Sir: Mr. Livingston arrived here the day before yesterday. By the mail of yesterday your letter of the 7th May, with a copy of Mr. Livingston's last note to the Duke de Broglie, was received.

After an attentive examination of Mr. Livingston's correspondence, with this Department and the Government of France, elucidated by his verbal explanations, the President has directed me to say to you that the Messrs. de Rothschild have been authorized by the Treasury Department to receive the money due under the treaty with France. Of this authority they will be directed to give notice to the French Government, without demanding payment. For yourself, you will, if the bill of indemnity is rejected, follow Mr. Livingston to the United States. If the money is placed at the disposal of the King, conditionally, by the Legislature of France, you will await further orders from the United States, but maintain a guarded silence on the subject of the indemnity. If approached by the Government of France, directly or indirectly, you will

hear what is said without reply, state what has occurred in full to the Department, and await its instructions. It is the desire of the President that you will make not even a reference to the subject of the treaty in your intercourse with the French Government, until the course intended to be pursued is definitely explained to the United States. Whatever may be said to the Messrs. de Rothschild, it will be their duty to report to you as well as to the Treasury Department, and, whenever they converse with you, they must be reminded that it is expected that they will wait for express notice from the Government of France that it is ready to pay before an application for payment is made.

The course adopted by Mr. Livingston has been fully approved; and the hope is indulged, that his representations have had their just influence on the councils of the King of France. However that may be, the President's determination is, that the terms upon which the two Governments are to stand towards each other shall be regulated, so far as his constitutional power extends, by France.

A packet from the Treasury, addressed to the Messrs. de Rothschild and containing the instructions of the Secretary, accompanied by a special power appointing them the agents of the United States to receive the payments due under the treaty of 1831, is forwarded herewith. The copy of a letter from this Department to Mr. Paget is also enclosed for your perusal.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH.

No. 2.—Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Barton.
Department of State,
Washington, Sept. 14, 1835.

THOMAS P. BARTON, Esq. & Co. & Co.
Sir: So much time will have elapsed before this despatch can reach you, since the passage of the law by the French Chambers placing at the disposition of the King the funds to fulfil the treaty with the U. States, that it is presumed the intention of the French Government will have been by that period disclosed. It is proper, therefore, in the opinion of the President, that you should receive your last instructions in relation to it. It has always been his intention that the Legation of the United States should leave France if the treaty were not fulfilled. You have been suffered to remain after the departure of Mr. Livingston, under the expectation that the Government of France would find in all that has occurred its obligation to proceed forthwith to the fulfillment of it, as soon as funds were placed in its hands. If this expectation is disappointed, you must ask for your passports, and return to the United States. If no movement has been made on the part of France, and no intimation given to you, or to the banker of the United States, who is the authorized agent of the Treasury, to receive the instalments due, of the time that payment will be made, you are instructed to call upon the Duke de Broglie, and request to be informed what are the intentions of the Government in relation to it, stating that you do so by orders of your Government, and with a view to regulate your conduct by the information you may receive from him. In the present agitated state of France, it is the particular desire of the President that your application should be made in the most conciliatory tone, and your interview with the Duke marked by expressions as coming from your Government, of great personal respect for that Minister, and of an anxious desire for the safety of the King of France. If the Duke should inform you that the money is to be paid on any fixed day, you will remain in France; otherwise you will apply for your passports, and state the reason to be that the treaty of indemnity has not been executed by France.

The President especially directs that you should comply with these instructions so early, that the result may be known here before the meeting of Congress, which takes place on the 7th of December next.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH.

No. 3.—Mr. Barton to the Duke de Broglie.
[TRANSLATION.]—D.
Legation of the U. S. of America,
Paris, 24th October, 1835.

His Excellency the Duke de BROGLIE,
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

MONSIEUR LE DUC: Having executed to the letter the last instructions of my Government, in the interview which I had the honor to have with your excellency on the 20th of this month, in order further to comply with those instructions, I am about to return to the United States. Before leaving France, however, I have thought that it might not be altogether useless to address your excellency, and to submit to you the conversation which then took place between us, word for word, as I understood it. In pursuing this course, I am prompted by a double motive; first, by a sincere desire to avoid even the slightest misunderstanding as to the precise meaning of any expression used on either part; and also with a view in presenting myself to my Government, to furnish indisputable proof of my fidelity in executing the instructions with which I had the honor to be charged. This last motive, Monsieur le Duc, does not interest you personally, but the first, I am sure, will not appear without importance in your eyes.

Having said that I was instructed to employ both language and manner the most conciliatory, I begged you to believe, should anything appear to you not to partake of that character, that the fault must be attributed to me alone, and not to my Government, as in that case I should be certain that I neither represented its dispositions nor faithfully obeyed its orders.

I began the conversation by informing you that I had requested an interview by order of my Government, and that on the result of that interview would depend my future movements. I said that I was ordered to convey to the French Government assurances of the very lively satisfaction felt by the President on receiving the news and confirmation of the King's safety; and that I was further instructed by the Secretary of State to assure you personally of his high consideration. After an obliging answer of some length, I had the honor to submit the following questions:—

"I am instructed by my Government to inquire of your excellency what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government in relation to the funds voted by the Chambers?"

And I understood you to make the following answer:—

"I have written a despatch to His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Washington, with instructions to communicate it to Mr. Forsyth, and Mr. Paget having read it to Mr. Forsyth, I have nothing to say in addition to that despatch."

I said "I am also instructed to inquire of your excellency whether His Majesty's Government is ready to pay those funds?"

And you returned this answer: "Yes, in the terms of the despatch."

I added, "I am instructed to ask another question—Will His Majesty's Government name any fixed determinate period when they will be disposed to pay those funds?"

"To this question, the following was your excellency's answer, as I understood it:—'I am instructed, if necessary, to make a written official communication, have expressed its regret at the misunderstanding which has taken place between the two Governments; assuring us that this misunderstanding was founded on an error, that it did not intend to call in question the good faith of His Majesty's Government; the funds are there, we are ready to pay. In the despatch to Mr. Paget, we gave the views of our Government on this question. Mr. Forsyth not having thought proper to accept a copy of that despatch, and having said that the Government of the United States could not receive a communication in such a form, I have nothing to add. I am forced to entrench myself behind that despatch. If the Government of the United States does not give this assurance, we shall be obliged to think that this misunderstanding is not the result of an error, and the business will stop there.'"

"To your excellency's offer to communicate to me the despatch to Mr. Paget, I replied that, as my instructions had no reference to that question, I did not think myself authorized to discuss it."

After some minutes, I rose, and said, "In a short time I shall have the honor of writing to your excellency."

You answered, "I shall, at all times, receive with pleasure any communication addressed to me on the part of the Government of the United States," and our conversation ended.

Such, Monsieur le Duc, as far as my memory serves me, are the literal expressions employed by both of us. Should you have any inaccuracies in the relation which I have the honor to submit to you, it will give me pleasure, as it will be my duty, to correct them. If, on the contrary, this relation should appear to you in every respect conformable to the truth, I take the liberty of claiming from your kindness a confirmation of it. For this reason, which I have already had the honor to explain, I have eagerly availed myself of this occasion, Monsieur le Duc, to renew the assurances of very high consideration with which I have the honor to be,

Your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,
THOMAS P. BARTON.

No. 4.—The Duke de Broglie to Mr. Barton.
[TRANSLATION.]—F.
Paris, Oct. 26, 1835.

To T. P. BARTON, Charge d'Affaires of the U. States.

Sir: I have received the letter which you did me the honor to address to me on the 24th of this month.

You are desirous to give your Government a faithful account of the conversation which you had with me on the 20th; and you have requested me a statement of that conversation, you request me to indicate the involuntary errors which I may remark in it. I appreciate the motives which influence you, and the importance which you attach to the exactness of this statement; and I therefore hasten to point out three errors which have found their way into your report, acknowledging, at the same time, its perfect conformity on all other points, with the explanations interchanged between us.

In reply to your question—Whether the King's Government would name any fixed and determinate period at which it would be disposed to pay the twenty-five millions? you make me say, "I am instructed to say that the Government of the King's Government shall, by a written official communication, have expressed its regret at the misunderstanding which has taken place between the two Governments; assuring us that this misunderstanding is founded on an error, that it did not intend to call in question the good faith of His Majesty's Government, &c."

Now, this is what I really said:—"I am instructed to say, immediately, if the Government of the United States is ready on its part to declare to us, by addressing its claim (reclamation) to us officially in writing, that it regrets the misunderstanding which has arisen between the two countries; that this misunderstanding is founded upon a mistake, and that it never entered into its intention (purpose) to call in question the good faith of the French Government, nor to take a menacing attitude towards France."

By the terms of your report, I am made to have continued thus:—"In the despatch to Mr. Paget, we gave the views of our Government on this question. Mr. Forsyth, not having thought proper to accept a copy of that despatch, and having said that the Government of the United States could not receive the communication in that form," &c. That was not what I said, because such was not the language of Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Paget. On refusing the copy offered to him by that Charge d'Affaires, Mr. Forsyth gave as the only reason, that it was a document which he did not think it his duty to take, and was the phrase repeated by me.

Mr. Forsyth made no objection to the form which I had adopted to communicate to the Federal Government the views of the King's Government; in fact, not only is there nothing unusual in that form; not only is it employed in the intercourse between one Government and another, which might involuntarily arise from an exchange of conciliatory notes in a direct contrary, but reflection on the circumstances and the respective positions of the two countries will clearly show that it was chosen precisely in a spirit of conciliation and regard for the Federal Government.

Finally, sir, after having said, "If the Government of the United States does not give this assurance, we shall be obliged to think that this misunderstanding is not the result of an error," I did not add, "and the business will stop there." This last error is, however, of so little importance, that I hesitate to notice it.

Receive, sir, the assurances of my high consideration,
V. BROGLIE

No. 5 Mr. Barton to the Duke de Broglie.
LEGATION OF THE U. S. OF AMERICA,
Paris, November 6, 1835.

MONSIEUR LE DUC: Having been recalled by my Government, I have the honor to request your excellency will be pleased to cause passports to be prepared, to enable me to proceed to Havre, thence to embark for the United States.

and for my protection during the time I may find it necessary to remain in Paris. I am instructed to give as a reason, for my departure the non-execution on the part of His Majesty's Government of the convention of July 4th, 1831.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Duc, to renew the assurances of very high consideration with which I have the honor to be your excellency's most obedient, humble servant,
THOMAS P. BARTON.

His Excellency the Duke de BROGLIE,
Minister of Foreign Affairs &c.

No. 6.—Duke de Broglie to Mr. Barton.
[TRANSLATION.]
To Mr. BARTON, Charge d'Affaires of the United States of America:
Paris, November 8th, 1835.

Sir: Having taken His Majesty's orders with regard to your communication of the 6th instant, I have the honor to send you herewith the passports which you requested of me. As to the reasons which you have been charged to advance, in explanation of your departure, I have nothing to say, (Je n'ai point a m'y arreter.) The Government of the United States, as you know, that upon itself depends honorably the execution of the treaty of July 4th, 1831.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my high consideration,
V. BROGLIE.

No. 7.—Mr. Forsyth to M. Paget.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 29th June, 1835.

M. PAGET, Charge d'Affaires, &c. &c.
Sir: I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of your Government, that the Secretary of the Treasury has, in conformity with the provisions of the act of Congress of the 15th July, 1832, designated the Messrs. de Rothschild, Brothers, of Paris, as agents to receive the payments from time to time due to this Government under the stipulations of the convention of 4th July, 1831, between the United States and His Majesty the King of the French; and that the President has granted a special power, authorizing and empowering them, upon the due receipt of the same, to give the necessary acquiescence to the French Government, according to the provisions of the convention referred to.

The power given to the Messrs. de Rothschild Government is ready to make, and you will be pleased to have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH.

No. 8.—M. Paget to Mr. Forsyth.
[TRANSLATION.]
Washington, June 29, 1835.

To the Hon. Mr. FORSYTH, Secretary of State:
Sir: I have received the letter which you did me the honor to address to me this day, and by which you communicated to me the information of my Government, that the Secretary of the Treasury, in virtue of the act of Congress of July 15th, 1832, has appointed Messrs. de Rothschild, Brothers, at Paris, agents for receiving, as they become due, the several payments of the sum stipulated as indemnification, by the convention concluded on the 4th of July, 1831, between His Majesty the King of the French and the United States of America.

I lost no time, sir, in transmitting this communication to my Government; and I embrace this opportunity to offer you the assurance of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be, your most humble and obedient servant,
A. PAGEOT.

No. 9.—M. Paget to Mr. Forsyth.
[TRANSLATION.]
Washington, Dec. 1, 1835.

To the Hon. John Forsyth, Secretary of State of the United States:
Sir: On the 14th of September last I had the honor, as I was authorized, to read to you a despatch which His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs had addressed to me on the 17th of June previous, respecting the state of the relations between France and the United States. The object of this communication was to make known to you the state of the relations in a form often employed, the point of view from which the King's Government regarded the difficulties between the two countries, and to indicate the means by which, in its opinion, they might be terminated in a manner honorable to both Governments. I was also authorized to allow you, in case you should desire it, to take a copy of this despatch, and to contract the expectation which diplomatic usage in such cases permitted me to entertain, you thought proper to refuse to request it.

I regretted this resolution of yours, sir, at the time, because, in the first place, it appeared to be at variance with (l'écarter de) that conciliatory spirit which an particularly characterized the communication just mentioned, and which, as it seemed in a manner to deprive the Cabinet of Washington of the means of knowing, in their full extent, the views of the King's Government of which an attentive examination of the Duke de Broglie's letter could alone have enabled it to form a just estimate. These regrets, sir, have not diminished, and at the moment when the President has decided to communicate to Congress the state of the relations between France and the United States, I consider it useful and necessary, for the interests of all, to endeavor to place him in possession of all the facts which may afford him the means of giving an exact account of the real dispositions and views of the King's Government on the subject of the existing difficulties.

With this intention, and from a desire to neglect nothing which, by offering to the American Government another opportunity of making itself acquainted minutely with the highly conciliatory sentiments of His Majesty's Government, may contribute to restore good understanding between the Cabinets of Paris and Washington, I have the honor to transmit to you a copy of the Duke de Broglie's despatch, and to request you to place it under the eye of the President.

I embrace this opportunity, sir, to renew to you the assurance of the high consideration with which I have the honor to be,
A. PAGEOT.

No. 10.—Mr. Forsyth to M. Paget.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, 3d Dec. 1835.

Sir: I had yesterday the honor to receive your note of the 1st instant, with the accompanying paper, purporting to be a copy of a letter, addressed, under date of the 17th of June last, by His Excellency the Duke de Broglie, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, to yourself.

After referring to what occurred in our interview of the 11th of September, in regard to the original letter, expressing your regrets at the course I then felt it my duty to take, you request me to place the copy enclosed in your letter under the eye of the President.

In allowing you, during that interview, to read to me the Duke de Broglie's despatch, which I cheerfully did, you were enabled to avail yourself of that informal mode of supplying this Department of the views of your Government in the full extent authorized by diplomatic usage. The question whether or not I should ask a copy of that despatch, was, of course, left as it should have been by your Government, exclusively to my discretion. My reasons for not making that request were frankly stated to you, founded on a conviction that, in the existing state of the relations between the two countries, the President would think it most proper that every communication on this subject in difference between them, designed to influence his conduct, should, before it was submitted to his consideration, be made to assume the official form belonging to a direct communication from one Government to another, by which alone he could be enabled to make a reliable reply to me given to it, and to submit it to his associates in the Government. I had the honor, at the same time, to assure you, that any direct communication from yourself, as the representative of the King's Government, to me, embracing the contents of this despatch, or any other matter you might be authorized to communicate in the accustomed mode would be held without delay before the President, and would undoubtedly receive from him an early and just consideration.

It cannot have escaped your recollection, if my duty required that the circumstances of an interview between us should be reported to the President, and that the discovery of any error in my part in representing his views of the course proper to be pursued on that occasion would, without fail, have been promptly communicated to you. That duty was performed, and the substance of our interview, and the course by which my course in it had been guided, was immediately communicated to, and entirely approved by, him. I could not, therefore, have anticipated that, after so long a period had elapsed, and without any change in the condition of affairs, you should have regarded it as useful or proper to revive the subject at the time and in the form you have seen fit to adopt. Greatly respecting, however, the conciliatory sentiments expressed in your note, and in deference to your request, I have again consulted the President on the subject, and am instructed to inform you that the opinion expressed by me in the interview between us, and subsequently confirmed by him, remains unchanged, and I therefore respectfully restore to you the copy of the Duke de Broglie's letter, as I cannot make the use of it which you desire.

I am also instructed to say that the President entertains a decided conviction that a departure, in the present case, from the ordinary and accustomed method of international communication is even more unusual, rather than to diminish the difficulties unhappily existing between France and the United States, and that his observance in their future intercourse will be most likely to bring about the amicable adjustment of those difficulties on terms honorable to both parties. Such a result is sincerely desired by him; and he will omit nothing consistent with the faithful discharge of his duties to the United States, by which it may be promoted. In this spirit I am directed by him to repeat to you the assurance made in our interview in September last, that any official communication you may think proper to address to this Government, will promptly receive such consideration as may be due to its contents, and to the interests involved in the subject to which it may relate.

The enclosed paper is not considered the subject of reply, you will allow me to add, for the purpose of preventing any misconception in this respect, that my silence in regard to its contents is not to be construed as a putting the accuracy of any of the statements or reasonings contained in it.

I have the honor to renew, &c.
JOHN FORSYTH.

No. 11.—M. Paget to Mr. Forsyth.
[TRANSLATION.]
To the Hon. John Forsyth, Secretary of State of the United States
Washington, December 5, 1835.

Sir: I yesterday evening received the letter which you did me the honor to write to me on the 3d of this month; with it, you return to me the copy of a despatch which I had transmitted to you two days before, and the original of which was addressed to me on the 17th of June last, by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I will not seek, sir, to disguise from you the astonishment produced in me by the return of a document so very important in the present state of the relations between the two countries; neither will I undertake to reply to the reasons on which this determination of yours is based. My intention in communicating this document to you, in a form not only sanctioned by the diplomatic usages of all nations, and all ages, but also chosen, which I could possibly have chosen, was to make known the real dispositions of my Government to the President of the United States, and through him to Congress and the American People; conceiving that, in the existing situation of the two countries, it was essential that each Government should fully comprehend the intentions of the other. This consideration appeared to me paramount to all others. You have judged otherwise, sir, and you have thought that, whatever might be the importance of a communication, it was proper, before receiving it, to examine whether the form in which it came to you were strictly accordant with the usages necessary, in your opinion, to be observed in diplomatic transactions with the Government of the Republic. I will not insist farther. I have fulfilled all the duties which appeared to be prescribed for me, by the spirit of reconciliation in conjunction with the respect due by me to all communications from my Government; and nothing more remains for me, than to express my deep regret that the misunderstanding between the two Governments, already so serious, should be kept up, not by weighty difficulties which involve the interests and the dignity of the two countries, but by questions of form, as uncertain in their principle as doubtful in their application.

I have the honor, sir, to renew to you the assurances of my high consideration,
A. PAGEOT.

No. 12.—M. Paget to Mr. Forsyth.
[TRANSLATION.]
Washington, January 2, 1836.

To the Hon. Mr. John Forsyth, Secretary of State:
Sir: I have the honor to announce to you that, in consequence of the recall of Mr. Barton, the King's Government has given me orders to lay down the character of Charge d'Affaires near His Majesty near the Government of the United States. I shall, therefore, immediately begin the preparations for my return to France, but, in the mean time, I think proper to claim the protection of the Federal Government during the period which I may consider it necessary to remain in the United States.

I have the honor to be, with the most distinguished consideration,
Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,
A. PAGEOT.

No. 13.—Mr. Forsyth to M. Paget.
DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, Jan. 2, 1836.

Mr. Alphonse PAGEOT, &c.
Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your note of this day's date, in which you announce that you have the order of your Government, given in consequence of the recall of Mr. Barton, to lay aside the character of Charge d'Affaires of the King of France near the Government of the United States. The proceeding of the Federal Government is due, and will, of course, be extended to you, during the time necessary for your preparations to return to France.

I am, sir, with great consideration, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH.

Twenty-fourth Congress.
IN SENATE.
Tuesday, Jan. 14.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the Senate proceeded to consider a bill for the relief of the sufferers by fire in New York, which yesterday passed to its third reading. The bill was read a third time, and passed, and sent to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

Mr. Moore offered a resolution, which lies on the table for one day, calling on the President for information relative to facts connected with an attempt to be committed, in the sales of public lands, with the name of any public officer charged with being connected therewith.

The debate on Mr. Benton's resolutions to set apart the surplus revenue and dividends of Bank stock to the general defence and permanent security of the country, was resumed and continued by Mr. Webster, and Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Benton, Mr. Porter, and Mr. Calhoun, in the course of the debate, a Mr. Goldsborough moved to amend the resolutions by striking out all the first resolution after the word "Resolved," and inserting, "That all the power and authority of the Government should be vested in and placed for the national defence."