

John J. G. G. G.

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THE PATRIOT,

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ADVERTISEMENTS,

Not exceeding 16 lines, neatly inserted three times for one dollar, and 25 cents for every succeeding publication; those of greater length in the same proportion—Letters to the Editor must be post paid.

From Colombia.—We have been favored with the perusal of a letter received by Governor Burton from J. G. A. Williamson, Esq. American Consul at Laguayra, (Colombia,) and late of Persim county in this State, dated the 18th ultimo; from which we make the following extracts:—*Ral. Star.*

You will have observed, perhaps, by the newspapers, that the Cabildos of Caracas and Valencia have declared Gen. Paez, civil and military chief of this department, and in consequence of this circumstance, has superseded every officer of any importance, whose appointment had originated at Bogota under the Central Government. This change, which may be considered a radical one, has grown out of the following circumstances: Gen. Paez as the military commander of Venezuela had received instructions from the Vice President, St. Antonio to put in force a law of the Congress in organizing the militia into companies, battalions and regiments. He called a meeting of the citizens of Caracas, by public notice, at the convent of St. Francisco for this purpose, but on the day designated no person attended. He again called a meeting, and again no person attended. He immediately despatched a messenger to Bogota, with a statement of the facts, that the citizens would not assemble for that purpose. In return, he was ordered to execute it if possible—to bring them together at all events. He again issued a proclamation, calling upon the citizens for the above purpose. They did not attend. He immediately ordered a file of soldiers to go into the city, and bring every man they could find to the convent. He commanded them perhaps himself, or accompanied them and I suppose, in some instances made a breach upon the personal rights of some of the citizens, but he succeeded in getting the most of them together, and the militia were duly organized. In the mean time, some of the citizens preferred charges against Gen. Paez of having broken into their houses, invaded their rights, which had been guaranteed under the Constitution, in a forcible and unlawful manner. In consequence of these circumstances, General Paez was superseded in his command, and ordered to Bogota for trial. In the mean time, Dr. Penia, the Supreme Judge of the High Court, who had refused to sign a decision of the Court for the execution of a Col.—for assassination, had received from the government two or three hundred thousand dollars in doubloons, at 16

dollars each, for— and passed them off for 18 dollars each; by which he gained 20 or 30 thousand dollars, and did not or would not account for it to the government. He was likewise ordered to Bogota, to answer charges which were preferred against him—meeting with Paez at Valencia, he induced, in a confidential manner, him to believe that if they went to Bogota, they both would be shot. In the mean time, there was some excitement and inquiry among the people on this subject, and it is said, and fully believed, from the finesse and ingenuity of Dr. Penia, he managed so as to have several men assassinated near Valencia, and were brought in next morning and publicly exposed in the market. A cry immediately arose, is Gen. Paez going to Bogota? Who is to protect us? Our property and our persons are in danger—we have every thing to fear if he leaves us. During this time General Paez was at his country place near Valencia, and as soon as the feelings of the people rose to their proper height, the Cabildos was called together, and they unhesitatingly declared Paez civil and military Chief of Venezuela. Caracas, a few days afterwards, followed the example. He accepted the honor conferred, and of course, refused the order to proceed to Bogota for trial—This, I believe is a history of the early transactions, and, with the exception of the argument used in the delay of justice, from the immense distance between this department and the seat of the Central Government, and, in consequence, a confederative form would better suit the local situation of the country, may be considered the principal reasons for the assumption of the present authority, and of bringing almost to open internal war this part of Colombia, already exhausted by every circumstance that can attend war of the most lawless and sanguinary kind.

"It is fully believed, had not Gen. Paez met with Penia, he would have went to Bogota, and no doubt would have been honorably acquitted; for he had, as a preparatory measure, surrendered his authority to the officer sent to supersede him, and evidenced every disposition to comply with the orders of the government. These movements have placed Venezuela in a very peculiar situation, and no part of the people does it affect more than foreigners. The government at Bogota has placed out of its protection, every man submits to the authorities here, and will not hold itself responsible for any of their acts.

Out of these events have grown two distinct parties, and I am sorry to say, some foreigners, and, among them one or two Americans, have become involved in the changes that have taken place. The one party are for Bolivar and the Constitution and the other Gen. Paez and a confederacy. Gen. Bermudez commands at Barcelona on the constitutional side, and Barcerno Mendez, in the recent change, at Puerto Cabello, on the same; and Gen. Paez, in the centre, at Valencia, controlling Laguayra and Caracas. But I do not believe it is the wish of either party to make an attack—in other words, to commence a civil war—until positive information shall have been received from the Liberator. Both parties look to him as their rallying

point, and nothing but his presence can still the troubled waters of these revolutionary movements. He, indeed, appears all powerful, not only in the authority invested in him by the government of this country, but in the hearts of its citizens.

"The improvements of Venezuela have been by these events thrown back. I might almost say, 50 years. A broader character has been somewhat implicated, and at home her energies have been diverted from the true source of grandeur and wealth. In her fiscal arrangements, there is no order nor system and the people are generally so much exhausted in purse and physical energy, that they would scarcely be able to supply any of the requisites of war. But certainly there is no section of the world; the productions of which are richer, and none where they can be grown to a much greater advantage. All that this country wants is peace, peace internally and externally, and to discard some of the jealousy they evince towards foreigners. There is still some of the old fetters of Spanish tyranny observable, and not a small part of their religious superstition. The one has nearly vanished, and the other is fast losing its power over the hearts and conduct of the people. But, without education, this country has done nothing for itself. A free and protecting introduction of it would emphatically be laying the ax at the root of the tree of all the bigotry and superstition, that must, without eradication, retard its growth. The people generally are ignorant of laws and constitutions, of the mere rights of necum and turp; but are susceptible of great improvements, and disposed in every instance to recognize the system of our own government as the only one that can render secure and give to each individual his proper rights and due protection. The cheering intelligence of the arrival of Bolivar at Bogota, on his way to Venezuela, is now placed beyond doubt, and we look for him about the 17th of January."

"The climate here is fine, and in Caracas, luxurious beyond any thing I ever enjoyed."

Washington, Jan. 22.

COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

On Saturday last the annual meeting of this Society took place in the Capitol. At eleven o'clock Judge Washington, President of the Society, took the Chair.

The Annual Report of the Managers having been read, several resolutions were offered and agreed to. Mr. Powell of Virginia, having risen to propose a resolution, bore testimony to a great change in his opinion of this Society: He said he had at first looked upon it as calculated to produce evil instead of good. He did not think it necessary to explain the manner in which the change in his sentiments had been effected; but he now felt convinced that this Society promised to be the instrument of great and beneficent results.

Mr. Key said, before the question was taken upon the resolution offered, he would suggest to the meeting, how ever pleased the Managers were to see the gentlemen who were present, whether it would not be desirable that the annual business of the Society should be postponed until a larger meeting could be convened. Several circumstances had operated to prevent the attendance of many of

the members of the Society; among which were the neglect to advertise the meeting in the papers of the day & the unfavorableness of the weather. He would therefore move that when the meeting adjourn it adjourn to Saturday next.

Mr. Mercer moved that in the mean time the report, which had just been read, be printed. That document, he thought, would attract a great number of persons who might not otherwise attend. It had also been suggested that, if the meeting was fixed for the afternoon, many members of Congress would be able to be present. He therefore moved, in addition, that the meeting of Saturday next be fixed at seven o'clock, P. M.

Mr. Clay rose to express his hearty concurrence in the motion. He thought, however, that six o'clock would be a more convenient hour.—The very interesting report would, he should conceive, be a great inducement to many to attend.

Mr. Powell suggested that the Columbian Institute, (in whose Hall the Society was sitting) had a meeting this day week.

Gen. Mercer remarked, that the adjourned meeting would probably require a larger room, and he would move that a Committee be appointed to provide a more commodious place.

The several motions were put and carried when the meeting adjourned. [Nat Int.]

Legislature of N. C.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.

DEBATE

On the bill to advance the administration of Justice in Courts of Equity, and to establish Courts for that purpose.

The House in Committee of the Whole Mr. DONOHU in the Chair.

Mr. MOREHEAD said, he had no doubt imperfections would be found in the bill before the committee but these imperfections, he hoped would be removed by amendments, as it must be allowed by all that a bill of this kind is necessary to advance the administration of justice in Courts of Equity in this State.

Every professional gentleman, especially those who practice in the western part of the State, must be convinced of the necessity of a remedy for the evils at present experienced for want of a proper tribunal to decide causes in Equity. He would not himself say when any Superior Court for Hillsborough District, in which he practiced, heard a cause in Equity. He had been at the bar for some years and he recollected but very few cases being heard, for want of time, every day being fully occupied with the Civil and Criminal Dockets. How it was in other parts of the State he could not tell. But in the Hillsborough and Mountain Circuits, they had the name of a Court of Equity, in which, indeed, they could commence an Equity suit, but could never get it tried; so that suitors were deprived of their rights, unless indeed they will consent to have their suits transmitted to the Supreme Court, and put themselves to the expense of employing additional counsel to argue the cause in that Court. This is considered a hardship, both as it respects the parties in all such cases, who are necessarily put to great inconvenience, and as it respects the attorneys who practice in the Superior Courts, who, though they be employed to prepare their cases for trial, cannot conveniently follow them to the Supreme Court.

Mr. M. then proceeded to shew from the census of 1820, that the white population of the Hillsborough District was more than one-fourth