

MR. JEFFERSON.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

The following letter has been drawn forth by an attack made upon the "Author of the Declaration of American Independence" in the 6th Letter from "A Native of Virginia." The high character of Mr. Jefferson, "a reputation which must have been dearer to him as he was about to leave the walks of public life forever, an integrity which had never been suspected; the small sum in question, were insufficient to teach the writer the necessary caution and to screen this venerable man, the ornament of human nature, itself, from so ill-adviced an insinuation. It has been hawked about in cheap editions of the pamphlet, and finally we deemed it our duty to apprise him of the existence of such a charge, and of the circulation which they were attempting to give it. He has condescended to answer it under his own name. The refutation is complete. We cannot consent to stain our columns with the details of the odious libel. Mr. J's letter will explain the substance of it. We shall now see whether the "Native of Virginia" has the magnanimity to acknowledge his error.—We know what "an honest and impartial" man would do in such a predicament:

Messrs. RITCHIE & GOOCH:

Monticello, May 13, 1822.

I am thankful to you for the paper you have been so kind as to send me, containing the arraignment of the Presidents of the U. States generally as speculators or accessories to speculation, by an informer who masks himself under the signature of "A Native of Virginia." What relates to myself in this paper, (being his No. VI and the only No. I have seen) I had before read in the Federal Republican of Baltimore of Aug. 28, which was sent to me by a friend with the real name of the author. It was published there during the ferment of a warmly contested election. I considered it therefore as an electioneering manoeuvre merely, and did not even think it required the trouble of recollecting, after a lapse of 33 years, the circumstances of the case in which he charges me with having purloined from the Treasury of the U. States, the sum of 1148 dollars. But, as he has thought it worth repeating in his roll of informatics against your Presidents nominally, I shall give the truths of the case, which he has omitted, perhaps because he did not know them and ventured too inconsiderately to supply them from his own conjectures.

On the return from my mission to France, and joining the government here, in the spring of 1790, I had a long and heavy account to settle with the U. S. of the administration of their pecuniary affairs in Europe, of which the superintendance had been confided to me while there. I gave in my account early, but the pressure of other business did not permit the accounting officers to attend to it till Oct. 10 1792, when we settled, and a balance of \$888 67 appearing to be due from me (but erroneously as will be shown) I paid the money the same day, delivered up my vouchers, and received a certificate of it. But, still the articles of my draughts on the bankers could be only provisionally paid, until their accounts also should be received to be confronted with mine, and it was not till the 24th of June, 1804, that I received a letter from Mr. Richard Harrison, the Auditor, informing me, "that my accounts, as Minister to France, had been adjusted and closed;" adding, "the bill drawn and credited by you under date of the 21st of October, 1789, for banco florins 2800, having never yet appeared in any account of the Dutch Bankers, stands at your debit only as a provisional charge. If it should hereafter turn out, as I incline to think it will, that this bill has never been negotiated or used by Mr. Grand, you will have a just claim on the public for its value." This was the first intimation to me that I had too hastily charged myself with that draught. I determined, however, as I had allowed it in my account, and paid up the balance it had produced against me, to let it remain as it was, as there was a possibility that the draught might still be presented by the holder to the bankers; and so it remained, till I was near leaving Washington on my final retirement from the administration in 1809. I then received from the Auditor, Mr. Harrison, the following note: "Mr. Jefferson, in his accounts as late minister to France, credited, among other sums, a bill drawn by him on the 21st October, 1789, to the order of Grand & Co. on the bankers of the U. S. at Amsterdam for Banco f. 2800 equal with Agio to Current florins 2870, and which was charged to him provisionally in the official statement made at the Treasury in the month of October, 1804; but as this bill has not yet been noticed in any account rendered by the bankers, the presumption is strong that it was never negotiated or presented for payment, and Mr. Jefferson therefore appears justly entitled to receive the value of it, which, at 40 cents the guilder, (the rate at which it was estimated in the above mentioned statement) amounts to \$1148. Auditor's Office, Jan. 24, 1809."

Desirous of leaving nothing unsettled behind me, I drew the money from the Treasury, but without any interest, although I had let it lie there 20 years, and had actually on that error, paid \$888 67, an apparent balance against me, when the true balance was in my favor 259 dollars 33 cents. The question then is, How has this happened? I have examined minutely and can state it clearly.

Turning to my pocket diary, I find that on the 21st day of October, 1789, the date of this bill, I was at Cowes, in England, on my return to the U. S. The entry in my Diary is in these words: "1789, Oct. 21, sent to Grand & Co. letter of credit on Wilkins, Van Saphors & Hubbard, for 2800 florins banco." & I immediately credited it in my account with the U. S. in the following words: "1789 Oct. 21. By my bill on Wilkins, Van Saphors & Hubbard, in favor of Grand & Co. for 2800 florins equal to 6250 livres, 18 sou." My account having been kept in livres and sous of France, the Auditor settled this sum at the current exchange, making it 4148 dollars. This bill, drawn at Cowes,

in England, had to pass through London to Paris by the English and French mails, in which passage it was lost, by some unknown accident, to which it was the more exposed in the French mail, by the confusion then prevailing; for, it was exactly at the time that martial law was proclaimed at Paris, the country all up in arms, and executions by the mobs were daily perpetrating through town and country. However this may have been, the bill never got to the hands of Grand & Co.; was never, of course, forwarded by them to the bankers of Amsterdam, nor any thing more ever heard of it. The Auditor's first conjecture then was the true one, that it never was negotiated, nor therefore charged to the U. S. in any of the bankers' accounts. I have now under my eye a duplicate furnished me by Grand, of his account of that date against the U. States, and I affirm that he has not noticed this bill in either of these accounts, and the Auditor assures us, the Dutch bankers had never charged it.

The sum of the whole then is, that I drew a bill on the U. S. bankers, charged myself with it on the presumption it would be paid; that it never was paid, however, either by the bankers of the U. S. or any body else. It was surely just then, to return me the money I had paid for it, yet the "Native of Virginia" thinks, that this act of receiving back the money I had thus, through error, overpaid, "was a palpable and manifest act of moral turpitude about which no two honest, impartial men can possibly differ." I ascribe these hard expressions to the ardor of his zeal for the public good, and as they contain neither argument nor proof, I pass them over without observation. Indeed I have not been in the habit of noting these morbid ejections of spleen, either with or without the names of those venting them, but I have thought it a duty on the present occasion to relieve my fellow-citizens and my country from the degradation in the eyes of the world, to which this informer is endeavoring to reduce it, by representing it as governed hitherto by a succession of swindlers and speculators, nor shall I notice any further endeavors to prove or to palliate this palpable misinformation. I am too old and inert to undertake minute investigations of intricate transactions of the last century; and I am not afraid to trust to the justice and good sense of my fellow-citizens on future as on former attempts to lessen me in their esteem.

I ask of you, gentlemen, the insertion of this letter in your paper; and I trust that the printers who have hazarded the publication of the libel, on anonymous authority, will think that of the answer a moderate retribution of the wrong to which they have been accessory.

TH. JEFFERSON.

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

This Society have recently published their Fifth Annual Report. It is lucid in its details, and very satisfactory in its statements. The Society have succeeded in obtaining a tract of country at Cape Mesurado, about 250 miles south of Sierra Leone, whither the colonists have been removed. The situation thus acquired is stated to be highly favorable to health. The land is high, the forest trees are elevated, and the water is generally good. The following is an extract from the Report:

"The land purchased appears to include the whole Cape, with the mouth and a considerable extent of the river.

"This river empties itself into the Atlantic, and is in length about three hundred miles, being the largest African river between the Rio Grande to the north, and the Congo to the south. Its head waters are near those of the Niger and the Gambia, both of which rise on the northeast side of the same chain of mountains. Lieut. Stockton considers this station not only important for the relief and refreshment of our vessels of war cruising on the African coast, but as affording the same facilities to our merchantmen engaged in the East-India trade. To these advantages may be also added, besides connected with the immediate object of the Society, another of still greater interest. Such a settlement as we trust this is destined soon to become, cannot fail of producing an immediate and decisive effect upon that trade that still preys upon Africa, and still disgraces the civilized world. What Sierra Leone has done, and is doing, may confidently be expected in every similar establishment on the coast. What has been there done, who can sufficiently estimate? We may indeed there see a colony of free blacks, increasing in numbers, intelligence and respectability. We may there see a still more interesting spectacle, in the thousands of victims rescued from chains and tortures; once ignorant barbarians, now instructed and devout converts to the Christian faith, manifesting in the simple piety of their characters, the reality of that faith, and giving a lesson of humility and reproof, to Christians inheriting the best privileges in the most favored countries. These are great effects demanding our praise and thankfulness. But Sierra Leone has repaid Africa with still greater blessings: her example, her influence, and efforts, have given peace and security to the neighboring coast; and who can estimate the extent of misery prevented, and of happiness conferred, to a population delivered from all the horrors of the slave trade? Every year the limits of this beneficence are extending, and the cheering rays of her light dispelling a wider portion of the moral darkness that surrounds her. And is it unreasonable to rejoice that another rampart is to be raised against the power of the spoiler, that another light is to arise and shine upon this benighted continent? Or to expect that He who is thus blessing one such labour with success, will give His help in favor of another?"

Experience has proved, that the climate is little more hostile to blacks, than that of our own country. We quote a paragraph from the Report on this point:

"From a comparison of the deaths occurring among the white and black classes of the population of Sierra Leone, respectively, with the mortality experienced by the corresponding classes of emigrants from America, the conclusion appears to be authorized, that the climate is much less noxious to the black people, although the natives of temperate countries, than to the whites. The result of all the experience hitherto had of the African climate, goes directly to establish the conclusion, that it is not materially unfavorable to the health of the colored people emigrating to Africa from countries situated in the latitude of the northern States of America, or even in that of Nova-Scotia and Great-Britain; and that the natives of the middle and southern States may sustain the transition, with little danger arising from the change of climate. The small number of deaths which have occurred among the colored people, and their general health since their removal from Campelar, confirms the opinion expressed in the last annual report of the Board, that much of the sickness and mortality experienced at that place, was caused by circumstances of a peculiar character."

The prospects of the board appear to be favorable. Several individuals, of respectable qualifications, have offered their services, in any useful capacity, on the coast of Africa. Doctor Ayres, in particular, has been sent thither, and been actively engaged in promoting the objects of the Society. Several hundred blacks in the United States, have offered themselves to the Board, as colonists; and many extensive proprietors of slaves have signified their intention to liberate them, and aid them in returning to Africa.

Whatever may be the opinions respecting the ultimate success of the Society, there can surely be no doubt that their efforts, so far as they extend, will be entirely beneficial, and may be extensively instrumental in suppressing the slave trade.—Col. Star.

AMERICA AND RUSSIA.

The following summary of the correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Chevalier Poletica, the Russian Minister, (relative to the north-west coast of America, communicated by the President to Congress) we extract from the Philadelphia Franklin Gazette.

The first is a letter from Mr. Poletica to the Secretary, communicating the regulation adopted by the Russian American company, and sanctioned by the Emperor, asserting a territorial claim on the part of Russia to the north west coast of America from Behring's Straits to the 51st degree of north latitude, and interdicting to all commercial vessels other than Russian, upon the penalty of seizure and confiscation, the approach upon the high seas within 100 Italian miles of the shores.

No. II. from the Secretary to Mr. Poletica, expresses the surprize of the President at the measure, and requests an explanation of the grounds of it.

No. III. in answer, is a detail of these grounds, in which the Chevalier de Poletica states the discovery of Behring's Straits, & of Cape or Mount St. Elias by Behring in 1741, who with Tchirikoff discovered as far as the 49th degree of north latitude; the private expeditions in 1743, and the Russian settlements existing in 1763, and found by Cook in 1773; and other voyages made by Russian navigators, no account of which has been published.—The Spaniards had not objected to the Russian settlements; and in 1789, when the Emperor Paul gave the present Russian American Company its first charter, he gave it the exclusive possession from the 55th degree of north latitude to Behring's Straits, and permitted them to extend their discoveries and form establishments to the south. The American government obtained of Spain, by the treaty of Washington in 1819, the right of the Spaniards north of the 42d degree of north latitude, but the northern boundary was not fixed. He concludes, therefore, that the right of Russia rests on three recognized bases: first discovery, first occupation, and peaceable possession for more than half a century. The American right was derived from Spain, who never claimed against the limits assigned to the Russian Company. And Russia might have extended them as far as the 49th degree of north latitude. The 51st degree is a mean point between New Archangel under the 57th, and the American Colony at the mouth of Columbia river, which is under the 46th degree of the same latitude.

In regard to the maritime prohibition, he states it was intended to repress foreign traders, who furnish arms and ammunition to the savages, exciting them to revolt. Complaints had been made of them, but no step taken by the American government. He further considers the sea between America and Asia as a shut sea, which the Russian government might have entirely closed.

No. IV. is the reply of the Secretary of State by directions of the President, that the claim by Russia is now for the first time asserted; that its only foundation appears to be the settlement at New Archangel, which is on an island; that in 1799, the limits prescribed by the Emperor Paul to the Russian Company were fixed at the 55th degree of north latitude, and that assuming the latitude at 51 is a new pretension not sanctioned by any settlement made since 1799; that as to the maritime prohibition, the right to navigate those seas was part of the independence of the United States and enjoyed ever since; that as to its being a shut sea from America to Asia, the distance from shore to shore is not less than 4000 miles; that the citizens of the United States had a right to trade with the Indians as fully as to navigate those seas; that no specific complaint was ever made to the government of the U. States, or it would have been attended to.

No. V. is a letter from the Chevalier de Poletica to the Secretary of State, explaining the grounds taken in his prior letter, with the additional statement that in 1789 the descendants of the companions of Capt. Tchirikoff, 462 in number, were found in the latitude of 48 and 40.

The idea of a shut sea of 4000 miles in width is something new in the law of nations, we believe. Vattel says, that "no nation has a right to lay claim to the open sea, or to attribute the use of it to itself, to the exclusion of others. The Kings of Portugal have formerly arrogated to themselves the empire of the seas of Guinea and the East Indies; but the other maritime powers give themselves little trouble about such a pretension."

The claim to the territory by the Russian Company, on the validity of which must depend the right to regulate the distance from the coast, would seem not to extend south of 55, the limit assigned to it in 1799. The power to make settlements, never executed, cannot confer any right; the accidental settlement by the descendants of Tchirikoff's companions, if continued, which does not appear to be the case, cannot be considered as a colonization. That the Spaniards never objected, was probably owing to the very circumstance of no attempt being made to extend the settlement of New Archangel. We rather suppose that the whole is a scheme of the Russian Company to monopolize trade and aggrandize themselves, no matter what may be the consequence.

Gen. Morales made his appearance at Alta Gracia, (opposite Maracaibo) on the 30th of March, and, in consequence, Lino de Clemente, the Intendant, issued a proclamation on the 9th ult declaring the city to be under Martial Law.

Gen. M's force was reported to be about 3000 strong, about one half of which were new troops. He occupied the coast from Punto de Palmas to Alta Gracia, (about 18 miles.)

The Patriot force at Maracaibo, was under the command of Col. Jose de los Heros, and consisted of the battalion of Tiradores de la Guardia, under Lieut. Col. Rembold; the battalion of Carabobo, under Lieut. Col. Brand; the battalion of Maracaibo; a brigade of artillery and 200 cavalry.

Despatches had been sent to Col. Pacango, who had arrived at Coro, from Caracas, and when the Sally sailed (20th ult) he was momentarily expected, with a force of 2000 infantry and 500 cavalry, well mounted.—He had received supplies from Curacao, and intended immediately to take up the line of march. His command was composed of the battalions of Bravo de Apure, Boyaca, Occidente, Orinoco, and 4000 cavalry from the guardias of the General in Chief Antonio Paez.

In addition to the above, the Patriot forces was augmented by a detachment of 500 infantry from Rio de la Hacha—the vanguard of which arrived at Maracaibo the day before the Sally sailed.

From the situation of the place where Gen. Morales' force was not concentrated, it was thought that he would not be able to effect a retreat.

Gen. Paez was besieging Porto Cabello, with a respectable force. It was also closely blockaded by sea, so as to prevent the importation of supplies.

FOREIGN.

FROM THE COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.

New-York, May 14.

We are indebted to Capt. Williams, arrived yesterday from Maracaibo, for a regular file of papers to the 14th ult, inclusive, as also for some verbal intelligence. The President's Message to Congress, recommending the recognition of South-American Independence, had been received at Maracaibo by the schr. Lottery from Baltimore. The most enthusiastic demonstrations of joy were evinced on the occasion: the Intendant's palace was brilliantly illuminated, and rockets were fired from the public square.

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The Coast of Coro was also blockaded by a Patriot force, consisting of 5 armed vessels, under command of Com. Beluche.

The Liberator President had arrived at Pampayan, to open the campaign, and several letters had been received from the Vice President, at Santa Fe de Bogota, from which it appeared that the campaign would result favorably to the Colombian army. Gazette.

MEXICO.

In the Havana "Noticioso" of the 27th of April, we read the following letter received by a respectable inhabitant of Havana, from his friend in Mexico. It is dated the 3d of April, and furnishes a late and interesting account of the actual political state of New Spain.—Charles City Gazette.

This evening, a little before prayers, the government received information that a regiment of military had been raised at Texcoco, at the head of which is Capt. Buceli—they shouted Viva el Rey! and leaving their baggage in the care of the Ayuntamiento (town council) they proceeded to Chalco in good order. The government immediately ordered the march of a body of grenadiers, which took place at 12 P. M.; but, unfortunately, the regency did not know the feelings of these men—for the soldiers disobeyed their commanders and deserted most shamefully. This was the conduct of about 70. In Tacubaya the soldiers disobeyed their commanders even to the extreme of violence, using insults, snatching off their cockades and delivering them to the general. The Congress distrusted these last regiments, (of Cruz & Bustamante) and as they happened to both sally forth on the same day, it gave occasion to think they were among the conspirators.

It was already past 10 o'clock at night, when these rumors reached us, and even then many persons hastened to the house of Brisenia for their money, so that out of a million and a half of dollars he has not half remaining.—It is now eight o'clock, and the deputies of the Congress have just retired. Their discussions lasted from nine in the morning to this hour.

At 10 yesterday, Iturbide presented himself to the Congress, saying that public tranquility was threatened, and requested that certain deputies should be dismissed the assembly, who were comprehended in the conspiracy. He was answered that, according to rule, no body could be sent out, and as he himself did not compose the Regency, he would please retire and return with them, &c.

Don Yanez then observed, "I will thank your Excellency to receive my resignation. Your Excellency will pardon me, (addressing Iturbide)—you are the only man who usurps all powers. Iturbide replied, "we shall soon find, Signor Yanez, who is the traitor." Yanez replied, "I shall not leave this spot before I convince your Highness, you are that traitor."

Much tumultuous discussion took place, which time forbids me to repeat. I am convinced the sittings and disturbances have occurred because Iturbide wishes to destroy the Congress.

The General presented a letter, which he received from Davila, in which he is invited to reconquer the Empire, and place it under the protection of Spain. But, as if the Devil had a hand in it, the plot was discovered. These plots and usurpations have destroyed the equilibrium of our government, and we are now in the situation of Buenos-Ayres."

BOOTS & SHOES

At prime cost.

THE subscriber respectfully informs the citizens of Raleigh and its vicinity, that in consequence of his bad health, he will sell all or any part of his stock of BOOTS AND SHOES now on hand, for Cost. Those who want would do well to call in the course of a week or ten days, next door above J. & W. Peace's.

B. ELDRIDGE.

Raleigh, May 10. STATE OF NORTH-CAROLINA. Rockingham County. In Equity.—April Term, A. D. 1822. Robert Galloway, Administrator of the Estate of Charles Galloway, dec'd.

Agains Elizabeth Geuney, Administratrix of the Estate of James Galloway, dec'd, and others. IT appearing to the Court that Thomas H. Perkins, Nicholas Perkins, Peter Pryor, Green Pryor, Edward Williams, Green J. Williams, Thomas Williams, Alexander M. Williams, Thomas Worsham and Nancy his wife, Stephen Coleman and Polly his wife, John T. Johnston, Lewis Dilahunty and Lucinda his wife, Hardy and Sally his wife, Meridith Johnston, Minerva C. Johnston, Nicholas Seates, Joseph H. Seales, Robert Seales, Constant Seales, Peter Seales, George W. L. Man, John Man, William M. Man, Sally Man, Constant H. P. Man, Peter N. Man, Agatha Man, Mathew Daniel and Agatha his wife, reside without this State, and they being part of the defendants to the Bill of Complaint filed in this case: it is ordered, that publication be made for six weeks in the Raleigh Register, for the above named defendants and each of them to appear at the next term of this Court, on the 5th Monday after the 4th Monday of September next, then and there to answer, plead or demur to the said bill, or the same will be taken pro confesso against them, and heard ex parte.

Test. JAMES T. MOREHEAD, c. x. n. May 4, 1822. 826