

RALEIGH REGISTER

AND NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

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

THREE DOLLARS Per Annum,
ONE HALF IN ADVANCE.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1836.

VOLUME XXXVII.
NUMBER 27.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY,
By Joseph Gates & Son.

TERMS.
THREE DOLLARS per annum—one half in advance. Those who do not, either at the time of subscribing or subsequently, give notice of their wish to have the Paper discontinued at the expiration of the year, will be presumed as desiring its continuance until countermanded.

ADVERTISEMENTS.
Not exceeding sixteen lines, will be inserted three times for a Dollar; and twenty-five cents for each subsequent publication: those of greater length, in proportion. If the number of insertions be not marked on them, they will be continued until ordered out and charged accordingly.

Hon. Lewis Williams.

We have been favored with a Pamphlet copy of a Circular Letter recently issued by this gentleman to the citizens of the Thirteenth Congressional District of North-Carolina. We publish it entire, because his opinions on all subjects are entitled to respect—because the topics of which he treats, are of absorbing interest at this moment—because his manner of discussing the several matters referred to in the Circular, is lucid in style and unexceptionable in temper—and because our paper circulates extensively in his District.

To the Citizens of the Thirteenth Congressional District of North-Carolina.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: The prospect of a war with France, which we have been threatened for more than a year past, has at length happily subsided. At the close of the last session of Congress, apprehensions were entertained of an unfavorable issue to the controversy. In the Circular Letter which I had the honor to address to you at that time, I took occasion to say, that in my opinion there "was not an adequate cause for war," and that by exercising sound discretion, I hoped it might be avoided. In the course of the ensuing summer, intelligence was received in this country that the French Chambers, or Legislative Assembly, had passed a law appropriating the money required to fulfil the treaty; but annexed a condition that explanations should be given by the Executive of the United States, of certain expressions used in his message to Congress, of December, 1829; and especially of the part in which he recommended that the Government of the United States should adopt "reprisals," as a suitable and proper measure of retributive justice against France. It is difficult to perceive why this condition should be thought to interpose insuperable obstacles to a final and satisfactory adjustment of all the points in contestation between the two countries. The explanations required by the law of the French Chambers had been substantially given by our Minister, Mr. Livingston, when the message was first received at Paris; and it was now necessary for the President only to say, that his intentions had been correctly expounded. A single conciliatory word of this kind, rendering the explanations of our Minister more formal and clear, would have removed all difficulty, and the money would have been promptly paid. No scruples on the subject were entertained in 1830—31, when our Minister, Mr. Rives, gave to the French Government all the explanations required of certain expressions contained in the President's message, of December, 1829.—If it was right, at that time, to explain to Charles the Tenth, a legitimate, and in many respects, an absolute monarch, it certainly could not be wrong, in 1835, to explain to the present ruler of France, who came into power according to the forms of a written, and in many respects, of a free Constitution; who was more the friend and advocate of liberty than any of his predecessors, and who had been the first among them all, to acknowledge the validity of our claims. The French Minister, in consequence of the Message of December, 1829, had been withdrawn from the United States; and Mr. Livingston had returned from France, in pursuance of directions given him, to leave that country in case the law for the fulfilment of the treaty should not be passed. The affairs of the two countries were thus brought to a most critical posture, requiring only a spark to light up the flame of war between them.

It would be useless, perhaps, to trace the controversy through its subsequent stages to the meeting of Congress, at the beginning of the present session. Instead of an effort to avoid war, there appeared to have existed a disposition to provoke it. Circumstances, trivial in themselves, were seized upon as if to aggravate the causes of disagreement, and to excite still greater irritation. The language of newspapers and public meetings through the country, also, had an evident tendency that way. To involve the nation in war on a point of etiquette merely, was repugnant to the feelings of humanity and the dictates of wisdom; but yet we were placed in a situation from which it was difficult to advance or recede.

Such was the state of things when the President delivered his annual message to Congress, on the 8th day of December,

last. After recapitulating at great length the various points in dispute, he stated that "it was not his intention to menace or insult the Government of France," in the Message of 1834. On receiving this assurance, the French Government were satisfied, and have ordered the money to be paid.

In looking back on these transactions, it is impossible, I think, not to feel emotions of gratitude to the Senate of the United States, for the wisdom, dignity and firmness which marked their proceedings. Had they yielded to the recommendation of reprisals in 1834, it is reasonable to suppose the House of Representatives would have concurred; and at this moment, in all probability, we should be engaged in war, instead of being surrounded by the blessings of peace. An approved writer on the laws of Nations says:—"Those who rush to arms without necessity are the scourges of the human race, barbarians, enemies to society, and rebellious violators of the laws of nature, or rather the laws of the common Father of mankind." The fact that our controversy with France has been amicably settled, proves that war would have been unnecessary; and if we had plunged the country into it, we should have been reproached by the civilized world in terms like those above recited.

It will always redound to the credit of Great-Britain, that she interposed as mediator between France and the U. States, that her good offices were accepted by both Governments; but before they could be rendered effective, France became satisfied with the explanations in the Message delivered to Congress in December. But why, I ask, should France and the United States ever go to war? We were friends and allies during our revolutionary struggle. By the aid she afforded us, we were able to triumph in many instances, when without that aid defeat and disaster would have attended us. Old friends, friends in time of need, should not be forgotten.

Peace being thus restored, and there being not the least prospect of collision with any other civilized power on earth, it would seem to be the duty of the United States, to examine well our internal condition, and see what measures ought to be adopted for the good of the several States. The surplus in the Treasury amounts to about thirty-five millions of dollars, a considerable portion of which has been derived from the sale of the public lands. The States have a right to demand this part of the surplus, as clearly as an individual citizen would have to demand any property to which his title was indisputable. A sufficient balance would be left in the Treasury for all the purposes of national defence, after dividing among the States what properly belongs to them. But, instead of pursuing this course, dictated both by justice and sound policy, many of those who are concerned in the administration of the General Government, seem disposed, thus far, to resist every measure which has a tendency to divide the surplus among the States. Their excuse is, that all the money must be appropriated to the building of ships, fortifications, &c. This is utterly repugnant to every principle, as well as to the uniform practice of the government since its foundation, to the present time. If all the money were to be appropriated, it could not be usefully or profitably expended. In proof of this, it is only necessary to state, that of the useful and ordinary appropriations heretofore made, there are eight millions expended in the Treasury. How then would it be possible to absorb the extraordinary sums now called for, if eight millions of the former appropriations remain on hand, as an unexpended balance? Either the Executive officers must have been delinquent in the performance of their duty; they must have been negligent in prosecuting the various branches of public service, or the money heretofore voted for that purpose, must have been more than sufficient. This conclusion cannot be avoided or resisted. But again: If the amount of a particular kind of labor in the country will require only a certain sum of money to employ it, the price of that labor will be enhanced in a ratio with the increase of money. In this way, the government would derive very little, if any advantage whatever, from increased appropriations. No more work would be done, but a double price would be paid for it; one ship, or one fortification would cost perhaps as much as two ships, or two fortifications would have done, before the increase of money in the market.

From 1816 to 1836, we have expended about fourteen millions of dollars on fortifications and for the increase and repairs of the navy, upwards of twenty-two millions. The whole military establishment has cost, in that time, upwards of one hundred and thirty-three millions; and the whole naval establishment has cost nearly sixty-seven millions. At this rate, I am willing to proceed in future disbursements; but I cannot see upon what principle it is that appropriations of the public money, so much greater than have heretofore been made, should now be demanded by any one who looks with a single eye to the good of the nation. To waste money because we have it, would be as imprudent and censurable as a government, as an individual, so long as I have any thing to do with legislation, I shall endeavor to avoid all extravagance, whether the

Treasury be full or empty. A contrary course would soon lead to an empty Treasury, while the extravagant habit, with its annoying propensities, would remain in full force.

Those who advocate the doctrine of increased expenditures of the public money, which I have attempted to controvert, may be fairly presumed to have some other object in view. By exhausting the Treasury, they must intend to defeat the passage of the land bill. For the last seven years, I have seen the growing importance of this question, and have never failed to call your attention to it by every means in my power. I told you that, in my opinion, the new States designed ultimately to get possession of all the public lands, and thus to deprive the old States of their interest in this immense fund of national wealth. The right of the old States to a share of this property, is too plain to be doubted or denied; and I shall not weary your patience by undertaking to prove what is incontestable.

The proceeds of the sales of public lands, last year, amounted to more than fifteen millions of dollars; and if the sales of this year should go on as they have commenced, the revenue from that source will be between twenty and thirty millions. If the bill now before Congress should pass, North-Carolina will receive on the 1st day of July, more than a million of dollars. Next year, if the sales should continue as above stated, she would receive upwards of a million more, and so on through all future time, till the thousand millions of dollars, which she has a right to the money equally distributed; provided there should be no war, or other calamity, to divert or suspend the operations of the law.

Now it is monstrous injustice, it is an insulting and flagrant injury to the old States, to say that they must surrender their claims to this property, or the proceeds arising from it, for the benefit of the new States exclusively. Is there a human being in the old States so lost to every dictate of reason and common sense, so regardless of what is due to himself and his fellow-citizens, so incapable of discerning the true interest of his country, as to tolerate for a moment the demands of the new States?—I should hope not.

These demands are too unjust and extravagant, the consumption of them would be too unrighteous, not to excite alarm in the old States, if they should be at once fully developed and properly understood. Hence they have been frequently made to assume the shape of bills, which speak one thing while they do another; which deceive and mislead by degrees, so as to awaken apprehension or rouse opposition. Of this character is the bill now before Congress, which proposes "to graduate the price of the public lands; to make provision for actual settlers, and to cede the refuse lands to the States in which they lie." The title of a bill is always understood to declare its object, but in this case we are not told a word about reducing the price of the lands, nor about ceding those which are valuable to the States. It speaks only of graduating the price and ceding refuse lands, or in other words, such as are of little or no value. Let us then look at the bill itself, and see what it contains.

The bill provides that, in five years after the 4th of July next, all the lands now in market shall be ceded in full property to the States in which they may lie; that in the mean time, the price shall be reduced every successive year at the rate of twenty-five cents per acre; that the same principle of reduction shall be applied to all lands hereafter to be brought to market; that actual settlers on the land shall have a pre-emptive right to purchase it, at whatever reduction the price shall have attained at the time they may wish to purchase, &c. This bill, if it should pass, will completely subvert the whole land system of the United States. In the first place, it will effectually stop the sales; for no one will buy land if the price is reduced at the rate of twenty-five per cent, every year, because by delaying the purchase from year to year, he will make, or, which is the same thing, he will save, money faster than he could do by any investment in land. After five years shall have elapsed, the sales in the mean time having been obstructed in the manner pointed out, the lands are to be ceded in full property to the new States; and the President is directed to close all the land offices, and thus to put an end finally to the whole business.

Such is the sweet morsel which the old States are asked to swallow, for the benefit of the new! I have been somewhat particular in describing it, that you might see more distinctly and appreciate more fully, the enormous injustice of its several enactments. But yet the advocates of this measure, forgetting the Constitution of the country, and the compact and treaties with the old States, from whom the land was acquired by gratuitous cession, regardless of the claims of equity and good faith, seem to persevere as if they were engaged in a meritorious work. They allege that the Executive is in favor of their scheme. But before this argument can be allowed to have weight with a virtuous, independent people, who have knowledge to perceive and intelligence to pursue their own interest, it must be proved that the scheme itself is right; that it is essentially just and proper. Until this shall have been done, the opinion of no individual, whether he be high or low, ought to be regarded as authoritative. The objection to the land bill, in the Veto Message of 1835, was that it proposed to give twelve and a half per cent to the new States. It seems then that we have two opinions in direct conflict with each other. If it was wrong in 1835, to give one-eighth to the new States, as was proposed to be done at that time, it is certainly eight times more wrong to surrender the whole to them in 1836.

At this time, when Rail roads and Canals are progressing in every direction through the country, it is of unspeakable importance to North-Carolina to receive the amount to which she is so justly entitled. There is already a rail-road from Petersburg in Virginia to the Roanoke river. There is one building from the Roanoke to the City of Raleigh. Now if we could receive a million of dollars in July, and another million probably in the course of next year, we should have funds sufficient to construct a rail-road leading from Raleigh through the centre of the State to the mountains. The work could be completed in a few years, and then our farmers, taking charge of their own produce, might leave Wilkesborough or Statesville, and in twenty-four or thirty-six hours travel, arrive at Petersburg, Richmond, Washington, or Baltimore, according as they should find the best market in one or the other of those places. The advantages of transportation like this are incalculable, and the old States ought to be fired with indignation at the attempts made by the new States to take away all the land, and deprive them of the means necessary to construct such works. The new States are prolific enough in schemes for their own improvement. At this moment, a bill is before Congress authorizing the construc-

tion of a rail-road three or four hundred miles through the public lands in the State of Illinois, and granting to the company every alternate section of land, at the minimum price, along the whole distance. The powerful and effective aid of the Government is thus given to almost every project in the new States, while the claims of the old States, founded in right and justice, are denied. Similar projects for improving the rest of the new States and territories, have been submitted, and considered, I believe, with more or less favor, in every instance.

If the new States expected to act in good faith, they would not oppose the land bill, because the price would be just the same to them, whether the proceeds are divided among all the States, or remain in the Treasury. Their opposition to the measure proves that they expect, at no distant day, to get the whole of the land. Did they, for example, object to the bill of 1835, which proposed to give them twelve and a half per cent more than to the old States, because it was too little or too much for them to receive? We may, certainly, because they thought it too little, and the hope of getting more must have been the sole cause of their opposition to the bill. The old States, by opposing it also on that ground, acted precisely as the new States would wish them to do, and contributed to give effect to their designs of finally getting possession of all the land. After this manner it is, that the old States have been accessories in the wrong done to themselves—have been instrumental in working their own injury.

This twelve-and-a-half per cent, to the new States is not without some reason to support its interest to the old States, and according to the rule laid down in the deeds of cession, this advance of twelve-and-a-half per cent, to the new States was thought by many to be strictly just and right, because it was proportionate to the greater increase in the number of their inhabitants. Whether it was so or not, one thing is evident, that "half a loaf is better than no bread." I should therefore contend, that it was much wiser policy in the old States, much more to their interest, to take seven-eighths of the proceeds of the lands, than to encounter the risk, nay, absolute certainty, of losing the whole; provided we do not agree to that distribution. A million of dollars this year, a million next year, and a million perhaps for every year afterwards, through a long succession of ages, would enable North-Carolina to accomplish every thing she could desire in the way of rail-roads and canals, or the establishment of free schools. Even the half, or a third, or a fourth, in this view of the case, would be better than nothing at all. In this opinion, fellow citizens, I am persuaded you will fully concur.

The New States further allege, that the lands which they ask us to grant them, is "refuse land," and of little or no value. Now it is very strange indeed, they should want the land, if it is worth nothing. The fact of their wanting it proves that they think it valuable. I contend that it is immensely so, for it yielded last year, more than fifteen millions of dollars, and will probably yield the same or a greater amount for many years to come. Neither is it "refuse land," in the sense in which they use that term. Before any thing can be called "refuse" it must be wanted, it must be seen, examined and rejected, as unworthy of being taken. In this sense there is scarcely a foot of land throughout our vast and wide spread domain, which can be called "refuse." The reason it has not been taken and used, is that we have surveyed and offered to sell more of it, than can be purchased or occupied by the number of inhabitants in the country. It appears from a report made to Congress in 1834, that there are upwards of thirty-five million acres of land in the State of Illinois, of which something more than two millions have been sold at that time. In Missouri, there were upwards of thirty-nine millions of acres of which not two millions had been sold. It is then an abuse of language, to say that all the land which had not been sold in these two States, amounting to about seventy millions of acres, is "refuse," and of no value.

Much injury has been done to the public land, by the operation of what are called "pre-emption laws." These laws give to actual settlers a prior right to purchase the lands at the lowest price, the exclusion of all other persons. Hence the public sales, which is the fairest mode of disposing of the lands, are pre-empted or effectually superceded in every instance, where pre-emption rights obtain. Lands, worth five, ten, fifteen or twenty dollars an acre, are thus permitted to be taken up, and appropriated by settlers at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. The Government, or which is the same thing, all the rest of the people of the U. States, are thereby injured by the granting of the land in this manner, and it is difficult to perceive why settlers should be so much the objects of preference and favor, when in fact they are intruders upon the land, having gone there in express violation of the laws of the country. But however meritorious this class of persons may be, the laws which have been passed for their benefit have been abused, and the most infamous frauds have been practiced upon the Government. Speculators are said to have hired certain persons, to go all through the public lands, to select the most valuable tracts: To clear away few trees and bushes on each tract. To plant perhaps a dozen hills of corn and potatoes, or sow a turnip patch, probably not more than ten feet square, and then claim the benefit of the pre-emption laws, by swearing that they had made actual settlements. In this way, it is said, frauds to the amount of ten millions of dollars, have been committed in Louisiana alone, and to what extent similar offences have been perpetrated in other new States cannot be told, I suppose, with precision. At any rate, we know enough of this system, of the fraud, forgery and perjury, which it produces to demand its repeal. If no such consequences resulted from it, the direct interest which all the people of all the States have in selling the land for what it is worth, would forbid the continuance of the system. The rights of all the people in the aggregate, ought certainly to be considered of paramount importance to the benefit which it may be supposed to confer on a few individuals, who if not speculators of the worst kind, are intruders upon the lands and violators of the laws. They neither merit nor should receive indulgence, beyond what is bestowed on all the rest of their fellow citizens. If any difference is claimed, it should rather be in favor of those who claim themselves submissively to the laws, and justly in reference to the rights and interests of others.

The whole expense of the land system to the Government of the United States, the cost of making the surveys, the payment of officers, &c. &c. must be between three and four hundred thousand dollars a year. It would therefore be little better than profligacy to permit the most valuable portions of the land to be engrossed by speculators, who act only from a love of their own interest, and who make immense

turns out of the substance of the people: Congress should prevent such occurrences if possible.

On the subject of the public lands, my remarks fellow-citizens, will perhaps engage an undue portion of your time. It demands your most serious attention, especially at this moment, for Michigan and Arkansas are claiming to be admitted into the Union. If successful, they will increase the relative strength of the new States in Congress, and add to the difficulties hereafter of passing any law for the benefit of the old States. Michigan seems to have been so eager to get all the land in her limits, that she did not insist in her Constitution, the usual provisions, disclaiming on the part of that State, the ownership of the soil or the right to dispose of it. For this reason, among others, I expect to vote against admitting Michigan into the Union.

Considerable fears are entertained in regard to the safety of the public money deposited in the pet banks. There are thirty-five of these banks which have immediate liabilities amounting nearly to seventy-two millions of dollars, and ten million of course they have less than one dollar in gold and silver to pay six dollars of debt. One bank in Michigan, where the capital is only a hundred and fifty thousand dollars, has nearly eight hundred thousand dollars placed in its keeping. These are a few facts out of many which might be stated, to show that the condition of the public money is not as safe as it ought to be. In order to throw light on the subject, repeated efforts have been made to pass a Resolution in the House of Representatives, empowering a Committee to send for persons and papers, and to examine fully into all dry matters touching the condition of the Banks and the safety of the Government Deposites. But these efforts have been voted down, under the rule which requires two-thirds to suspend it, and those who were in the negative on the question seem pre-determined not to institute the least inquiry. What they mean by it, I cannot tell; but it appears to me, it is the plain and imperative duty of Congress to get all the information they can on any subject, and especially in regard to the safe keeping of the public money. For the money belongs to the people, and Congress, as their agents and representatives, are bound to provide for its perfect security. Nor should these pet banks be allowed to use the deposit, without paying interest. They have about thirty-five millions, which at an interest of six per cent, would yield more than two millions of dollars. As the money belongs to the people, so likewise does the interest; yet the banks, as far as I know, have not been required to pay any interest at all. Thus in effect they have enjoyed the privilege and emoluments from the rest of the community.

The number of State Banks has greatly multiplied of late, and at present amounts, I believe, to about six hundred. From certain indications, it would not be surprising if many of them were to break before long, and the country should again be flooded with such ragged, worthless paper money as prevailed fifteen or twenty years ago. If these evils do come upon us, I shall have the consolation to know that I have used every effort in my power to prevent their recurrence; that I have invariably opposed the system of policy which will have resulted in so deplorable a state of things. My views on this subject have heretofore been fully communicated to you, and it is unnecessary now to repeat them.

A new territorial Government is about to be established called "Wisconsin," situated between Lake Michigan on the east, and Mississippi river on the West. No other part of the United States, and certainly no inland part, presents, perhaps, as many commercial advantages as this. It is bounded by the Lakes it communicates with the sea, and by means of the Erie canal, with the City of New York. On the west by the River Mississippi, it communicates with New Orleans. The two best markets in the United States, and the best in the British dominions, are thus easily accessible to the people of Wisconsin. It is said, also, to be a fine country, having a good climate for so high a latitude, a rich soil, and an abundance of mineral wealth.

Our Confederacy consisted of only thirteen States in the Revolution. It now consists of twenty-four. Arkansas and Michigan are to be admitted this session, which will make twenty-six; and when Florida and Wisconsin are admitted, the Union will be composed of twenty-eight states. The great extension of our country in territorial limits, and its unexampled growth in wealth and population, must be a source of high gratification to every patriotic mind. In contemplating our future destiny, nothing can be more desirable than the felicity of the prospect, but the pretensions of the new States in regard to the public lands, if they should wrest from the old States all their rightful share of this property, it must very materially impair the relations of good will, which ought to subsist between members of the same confederacy. An act of that sort would convince the old States that justice and generosity cannot be relied on as furnishing motives suitable for governing the conduct of States, when tempted to aggrandize themselves. As a necessary consequence, the value of the public land will be greatly depreciated, and its terms more exposed to interruption. States no more than individuals can dwell together in peace and happiness, unless the obligations of equity and good conscience are reciprocally fulfilled.

In the letter which I had the honor to address to you at the last Session, I stated that "the number of officers, agents and persons in the employment of the government, was sixty thousand two hundred and ninety-four; that all of them held their places, directly or indirectly from the Executive, and with the exception of the Judicial officers, were liable to be dismissed at his pleasure." The number of officers, thus dependent on the will of the Executive, is necessarily increasing every year from the expansion of the country, and the multiplication of business; and the more I reflect on the subject the more am convinced, that some modification of the laws in this respect, is essentially requisite. For the unrestrained exercise of executive discretion gives to it a vast pre-ponderance over all the other branches of the government; and at last will invest it with powers equivalent to absolute monarchy or despotism. The people by whom and for whom the Government was established, have provided in the Constitution for the ultimate ascendancy of the Representative Branch. But the evident tendency of the system in practice is to give supremacy to the Executive; and if it be not arrested will finally lead to the consolidation of all power in that branch. In order to remedy this, a bill has again been reported in the Senate, requiring the President, when he makes nominations to fill vacancies, occasioned by exercising his power of removal from office, to state the reasons, for such removals. To this change of the law, I should

suppose there could be no valid objection whatever. It is due to the country generally, and particularly to the officer concerned, that the reasons for the removal, should be stated, because if good, they would certainly be approved, and if bad they would be condemned, as they ought to be, by a virtuous intelligent people.—Without such control, the exercise of Executive discretion, might become as wanton and capricious, as hidden, and unaccountable as the behests of a Spanish Inquisition. No free people can, or will submit to the exercise of a power, which requires concealment; because they know that "if deeds are not evil, darkness will not be sought for rather than light."

The war with the Seminole Indians has been attended with considerable loss of life, and much suffering, on the part of the people in that quarter: Whether it could have been avoided or not, the government is obliged to defend the people of the frontiers, in all such cases. Besides the destruction of many valuable lives, the expenses of the war before it is ended, will probably amount to as much as the whole of Florida cost, in the first instance. Such expenses show the manifest propriety of preserving peace, as long as possible, both with savage and civilized nations. The greatest triumphs are dearly paid for, even by the victors themselves. A bill is before Congress, to modify the Pension laws, and to extend their benefits to some persons, for whom no provision is made at present. It is to be hoped this will be done; for with a redundant treasury, with a surplus of thirty-five millions, with a sharp conflict of opinion, as to the best mode for disposing of it, I am satisfied nothing would meet with more general approbation, than to make a further bestowment on the old soldiers of the Revolution, to whom we are indebted for all the blessings we enjoy.

I have thus submitted to you, fellow citizens, my views touching some of the most important subjects which have engaged the attention of Congress. Many other subjects of a public and private nature, amounting to several hundred, have also been presented. In every instance, I shall endeavor to act so as to promote your welfare, and that of our common country. All persons are liable to err; but my knowledge of your enlightened views, and generous feelings, inspires a confident hope that forgiveness for unintentional errors will be awarded to me.

Your Friend, and Fellow citizen,
LEWIS WILLIAMS.

LIST OF TERRIBLES.

New York, April 26.

George Bates was instantly killed at Quincy, Massachusetts, on Tuesday afternoon, by the fall of shears used for the rail wharf.—The turpentine factory of Henshaw & Co., at South Boston, was burnt for the sixth time on the same day.—Samuel Logan, merchant, who was wounded in an affray, in which he was not an actor, on the 28th ult., at Lexington, Kentucky, is dead of his wounds; he was a young man of most excellent character.—George Hamilton, of Shelby county, Kentucky, a man of property, and heretofore of respectable standing, has been committed at Louisville, for the murder of Michael Fontain.—William H. N. Drake, a respectable lawyer in Pendleton county, Kentucky, has been found dead in the woods, under circumstances which leave little doubt that he was cruelly murdered and robbed.—John Burd, convicted of the murder of Harvey, was suspended by a rope from a gallows erected for that purpose, at New Orleans on the 8th instant. Before suspension he said that a man (named Kelly) stood before him, who ought to change places with him.—A lad about 10 years of age, son of Levi Fry, of Boston, was capsized with his wheelbarrow over a wharf into the river at Boston last week, and was drowned.—Yesterday afternoon, (so says the Courier,) as the locomotive engine and cars, with passengers, were on their way from Jamaica to Brooklyn, a spark from the engine set fire to a barn situated near the railroad, and the wind being high, the whole in a short time was in flames, which communicating to another barn and dwelling house, belonging to Mr. Suydam, entirely destroyed them, together with their contents, and three valuable horses and two cows; and the fire soon communicated to the adjacent woods, which were fiercely burning when our informant came away.

A young gentleman of Philadelphia made an unsuccessful attempt at suicide on Friday last, in one of the hotels of that city, by mixing poison in his liquors.—Messrs. E. & S. Smith, of Bangor, have lost two saw mills at Shad-rip-falls, by fire, valued at 3,000 dollars, and the worst of it is, they forgot to get insurances (some people suffer amazingly from bad memories.)—A scow laden with flour and whiskey, with five men on board, went over Allenstown dam, near Mauch Chunk, recently, and two of the men were drowned.—On Friday morning, on opening St. Mary's (Roman Catholic) church in Barclay street, it was found that the centre part of the ceiling outside the arches over the galleries, which was flat, had fallen from its place, together with the centre beam, and the cross pieces for the support of the plaster; leaving a perfectly clear space, from the floor to the roof, at least thirty feet square. The weight of the timbers, which with the plaster fell all of 40 feet, smashed down several of the pews, and broke through to the basement.—Mr. Schureman, coroner, on Friday held an inquest on the body of a man about 50 years of age, found floating in Coenties slip; and another on a man about 50 years of age, found in the North river, at the foot of Hoboken. Verdict in both cases, death by drowning. Also on the body of Jeremiah McGauraghan, a native of Ireland, found floating in the water at pier No. 4 North river; Verdict, death by drowning. Next