

## Communications.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

**Mr. Howard:** Your paper of the 3d of March was recently handed me by a friend, and in perusing it, I discovered the publication of a request of the Virginia Conference of Itinerant Preachers, recently held in Petersburg, that the Preachers within the bounds of their district, do make a collection on the 4th of July next, in aid of the Colonization Society. And I think it not inconsistent with my situation, as a grey-headed Minister of the M. E. Church, to make a few remarks upon so extraordinary a request. Extraordinary indeed! that an assembly of Divines, a Conference of Ministers, should leave the word of God, and serve Tables, or what amounts to something worse, form an alliance with partizan politicians; and invite their brethren to engage in the unhallowed work of polluting their numerous Chapels, by making them places of money-gathering for secular objects. "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and said unto them, It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them." To collect money in the temple for the blind, and the lame, or any other objects or purposes of pure Christian charity, is lawful and right, and a praise-worthy deed: but to collect money in the Church of God, to aid the ignis fatuus views of the Colonization Society, is in my estimation a sacrilegious act; and I for one, cannot comply with a clear conscience. And I would fain hope that none of my clerical brethren in this State, will so far forget the dignity of their office, and the respect due to the civil institutions of our country, and the domestic peace of society, as to harangue an audience, on so delicate a subject: especially on that eventful day, the return of which teaches an important lesson, not only to tyrannical governments, but to disorganizing conspirators. I am aware, that some of my itinerant brethren will deem me an advocate for slavery: but are those of the Virginia Conference the friends of universal emancipation? Are they the friends of ecclesiastical liberty? If they are, why have they assumed the exercise of all the legislative authority in the Church? Why have they recently excluded a number of brethren in the vicinity of the Plank Chapel, in the Tar River Circuit, for contending for the right of suffrage in the Church? Why all this sympathy for people of colour, and at the same time regardless of the rights of others? "Who made the massacre of San Domingo? Was it not the Society of *Les Amis des Nours*," in Paris? And who composed that Society? I answer, every thing human, in the shape of virtue or vice, from Lafayette and

\*The Friends of the Blacks.

the Abbe Gregoire, down to Marat and Anacharsis Klotz. The speeches, the writings, and the doctrines of this Society, carried to San Domingo by emissaries with "Religion in their mouths, hell in their hearts, and torches in their hands," produced that revolt, the horrors of which yet harrow up the soul, and freeze the blood; that revolt, in which the sleeping babe was massacred in the cradle—in which the husband and the father, tied to his own gate, beheaded, by the light of his burning house, the violation of his wife—saw his daughters led off—and received, as a relief from his horrors, the blow of the axe which scattered his brains upon the ground!!! And how was the news of these scenes received at Paris, by the authors of so much mischief? Very differently; by the different members of the Society. The hearts of the good were rent with anguish; but the wicked rejoiced with an exceeding joy.—Their dens, smeared with human blood, resounded with acclamations—"Perish the colonies—save the principal!!!" was the cry of the infernal monsters!!!

## Foreign.

**From New-York.**—By arrivals at New-York, accounts from England and France to the 16th February have been received. We observe nothing new; but we have a confirmation of different articles of intelligence previously received. In the South of Europe, the prospect of war had entirely disappeared; but in the East, the brave Greeks had certainly gained advantages over their cruel taskmasters the Turks. In England, Mr. Secretary Canning being too unwell to attend to business, every thing, even the "machine of government" itself seemed to stand still—Parliament had been once prorogued on his account; and when the Lords and Commons again assembled, the most important questions were postponed from day to day, in order that he might have "further time to recruit his health." Yet Mr. Canning is not one of the Royal Family, nor does he belong to the aristocracy—but his claims to consideration are based on the sure foundation of his merits as a Patriot and his talents as a Statesman. In France, the quarrel of the Revolutionary Marshals with the Austrian Ambassador, and the Ministerial project to re-establish the Censorship of the Press, appeared to claim universal attention—and in both cases, the voice of the nation, from every indication, was decidedly against the course of the government. As respects the Markets, the Commercial Letters of latest dates, mention no changes of importance.—*Pct. Int.*

**Constantinople, Jan. 12.**—The Government has just detected another conspiracy, by intercepting the correspondence of the malcontents here, with the Janissaries of Asia. The chiefs of it were immediately seized and executed, some few only escaping. The news from Greece is so disastrous

for the Porte, that it was at first treated as incredible. But it seems certain, that several districts of northern Greece revolted anew, after the victory of Karaiskaki, over a portion of Redschid Pacha's army. The Greek plan of operations were traced by European officers—it succeeded, and the Seraskier has been reduced to act on the defensive. Miaulis has arrived at Egina, with the Hellas, to receive the orders of the government. The people are in insurrection as far as Thermopylae and Volo. Lord Cochrane was expected.

This unlooked for turn of affairs, has produced great sensation here, and may facilitate the negotiations of Mr. S. Canning and M. Ribaupierre. Ibrahim Pacha remains near Gastiny, incapable of any enterprise. The Bavarian officers lately arrived, have been occupied since the 15th Dec. in organizing a Frank corps at Napoli.

**Spain and Portugal.**—The following is an extract of a letter, dated Gibraltar, Feb. 10:

"In public affairs there is no particular novelty. The British troops are to be stationed for the present at from 40 to 50 miles from Lisbon, while a Spanish force is placed towards the frontiers of Portugal, where the rebels (as they appear to be now called by King Ferdinand) have been dispersed, and all seems to be quiet for the present, though with no good will towards each other. The French troops which were at Madrid have left that capital, but full 7,000 soldiers of that nation remain in full military possession of Cadiz and that neighborhood, and where it is generally believed they will remain. We have no idea that the peace of the Peninsula can be further disturbed at present."

**France.**—The following extract of a letter from Mr. Carter, one of the Editors of the New-York Statesman, for sometime travelling in Europe, will be found peculiarly interesting.

"You will see that the French papers are filled with discussions and memorials on the subject of the restrictions upon the liberty of the press. The sensation appears to reach the inmost recesses of society, and institutions which have hitherto kept aloof from politics, and confined their pursuits to abstract principles, are coming forward in the great cause of freedom. You will see that a meeting of the National Institute is to be held. My own opinion is, that should the project of the law in question be adopted, it will go far towards creating another Revolution, for which many of the people are ripe. The impolicy and rashness of the royal party in regard to this bold measure surprise me. It is calculated to awaken all the angry passions. At any period, the experiment would be dangerous—at present, it looks like madness. His Majesty is like a man seated upon an avalanche, which a breath may loosen and bring down ruin. Under such circumstances, wisdom would prompt him and his partisans to

hold their breaths and keep perfectly still. But the Jesuits are clamorous, and with all their characteristic cunning, appear to have but a moderate share of an enlightened prudence. The Ministry are supposed to be divided, to as great a degree as are the chamber of Deputies, and all of them at present seem to be lying on their oars, for the purpose of watching the development of popular sentiment. In a word, whether the project is adopted or not, the aspect of political affairs in France looks squally. If the law passes, it may only serve to arouse instead of smothering popular opinion—if it should not pass, its defeat will be ascribed to fear, and the press will become more clamorous than ever. Such are the two horns of the dilemma, from which the government are to choose. Public opinion and the influence of the press have become so omnipotent in France, that the King cannot play with censorships, establishing and revoking them at pleasure. But I have no time for speculations."

**South-America.**—By advices direct from Lagaira, the resignation of Bolivar is fully authenticated. We perceive his official communication to the President of the Congress, wherein he says, that the nation must receive his abdication as irrevocable. He speaks like a patriot, and we trust honestly; but we are not without our doubts. He confesses himself ambitious, and seems to insinuate that an abdication of power is necessary to his purity. If so, he can never rank with Washington, nor can his present retirement save him. Indeed it is boldly asserted, in the Caraccas papers, that his resignation is only intended to pave the way for a higher step. It is predicted that four months will not elapse, before there will be a union of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia, and Bolivar appointed *President for life*. The conjecture is rendered more likely, by the circumstance that the papers friendly to Bolivar, highly applaud the proposed union of the three States. Should they unite, and Bolivar accept the Presidency for life, the liberties of South America will soon find a grave.

**Canada.**—A Buffalo paper of the 12th instant says:—For several days past, there have been alarming reports in circulation of commotions in our neighboring province of Upper Canada. A vast number of the inhabitants of the province will come within the operation of the alien law. It would appear that they are resolved not to submit to it; and it is reported that liberty poles, on which were displayed the American flag, had been raised in several places. In York, a liberty pole was raised and the American flag waved on it, within a few rods of the Capitol. It was promptly put down by the government party. A large force was then collected, from the neighboring country, and the pole and the flag were again raised. These may be exaggerated reports, but we think there is something to make them out of."