EASTERN-SHORE WHIG AND PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE,

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS PERPETUAL VIGILANCE."

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TUESDAY MORNING

BY

GEO. W. SHERWOOD

(PUBLISHER OF THE LAWS OF THE UNION.)

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☞ All communications to insure attention, should be *post paid*.

POETRY.

From the Chicago American.

THE FARMER'S CHOICE.

"A little house well filled,
A little wife well willed,
A little land well tilled."

Our ancestors were fed on bread and broth,
And wog'd their healthy wives in home-spun cloth,
Our mothers, natured at the nodding reel,
Gave all their daughters lessons on the wheel,
Though spinning did not much reduce the waist,
It made the food much sweeter to the taste;
They plied with honest zeal the mop and broom,
And drove the shuttle through the noisy loom.
They never once complained as we do now,
"We have no girl to cook and milk the cow."
Each mother taught her red cheek son and daughter,
To bake, to brew, and draw a pail of water;
No damsel shun'd the wash tub, broom or pail,
To keep unsoiled a long grown finger nail
They sought no gaudy dress, no wasp-like form,
But as to live, and work'd to keep them warm.
No idle youth—no tight laced, mincing fair,
Became a laced corpse, for want of air—
No fidgets, faintings, fits or frightful blues,
No pinched corns, from wearing Chinese shoes.

From the Balt. Post of the 13th instant.

GREAT SNOW STORM.—A storm of snow commenced on Saturday night, and continued without intermission during that night and the whole of yesterday. The storm commenced with a fine snow, after which the weather moderated and the snow fell in increased quantity. Yesterday evening there was a slight rain, and since then the snow has continued to fall slightly with only short intermissions up to the present time. The snow is now more than a foot deep.

Travelling on the Railroads is completely blocked up. The Philadelphia train of cars, with passengers, due here yesterday at 3 o'clock have not yet (1 o'clock) arrived. We learn that the train succeeded in making its way to within 18 miles of the city, where both wood and water had become exhausted, it was compelled to stop. The cars were full of passengers who must have suffered a great deal in reaching a house through the snow, which was two miles distant from the place where the train was compelled to stop. An extra locomotive with snow-ploughs was sent on this morning to aid in bringing up the train.

The Washington train of cars was unable to reach the city yesterday morning, and has not yet been able to make its way through. The mail was brought on by other conveyance. The southern mails due last evening and this morning, however, have not yet arrived.

The train of cars on the Susquehanna Rail Road which should have reached the city yesterday evening has not arrived. Persons were employed in clearing the track, which filled up almost as fast as opened.

There are now due two mails from the South; the great Eastern mail, and the mail on the York route. No mails were sent away from the Baltimore Post Office yesterday, or this morning.

POLITICAL

From the New York (Whig) Herald.

GENERAL SCOTT CHEATED BY THE POLITICIANS—NOMINATION OF GEN. HARRISON—BREAKING UP OF THE WHIG PARTY—VAN BUREN'S RE-ELECTION CERTAIN.

On Saturday evening about 10 o'clock a great sensation was created among the various circles that lounge around the hotels, by the announcement, on the authority of Chandler Starr, one of the New York delegates, direct from Harrisburg, that the National Convention had put in nomination General Wm. H. Harrison, of Ohio, as the Whig candidate for the next Presidency. It was doubted, and ridiculed, and talked of, and sworn about, all Saturday night, Sunday morning, and up to the period of yesterday when the letters were received from Harrisburg, confirming the curious and interesting fact.

In another column will be found a full history of the steps which had led to this droll termination—this last act of the farce enacting during the last four year's elections. William H. Harrison is now the only legitimate antagonist of Martin Van Buren, General Scott having been abandoned and cheated by the rascally politicians. At the last election Van Buren carried this State against Harrison by 23,000 majority, and what is to prevent him from again carrying it by as many? Nothing, except it be the position which we may assume in the coming contest. And on this point we find great difficulty in making up a judgment. In the last campaign, General Harrison was called the "old woman"—"the petticoat candidate"—"the granny of Ohio," and the opinion was confirmed by a very respectable majority, which elected Mr. Van Buren by twenty-six electoral votes. Now if all the wisdom and patriotism, and talents which the Harrisburg Convention boasted so much of possessing, must, after having been three mortal days in the straw, bring forth nothing better to support for the next Presidency than a "petticoat," they might have given us a young petticoat, and not an old greasy flannel garment. With a fine, fresh, tall, beautiful, engaging, ripe young woman as a candidate for President, we could have raised the very devil with Van Buren at the polls and no doubt elected by acclamation such a fair young Presidentess for this glorious land. But what can we do with an "old woman," but supply her with snuff, and see her buried decently? Mrs. Harrison of Ohio, is undoubtedly a very excellent matron in her line, but as we must take a woman for next President let's have youth and beauty, and not age and imbecility.

Yet in spite of this untoward accident, I am so much under the influence of the petticoat—the interesting petticoat—the divine petticoat; that I should not at all be surprised if I go for Harrison against Van Buren. There is only one thing that may prevent me, and otherwise occupy my genius and talents. Having been deceived in selecting a President for this country, I am so much cast down in spirit, that like any man in misfortune, I must turn round and select somebody for something. I must keep moving. Go ahead is my principle.

Seriously, however, the nomination of Harrison, after such an expenditure of talent and wisdom and eloquence and patriotism, by the Convention, looks very much like a large—a miserable farce. There has been in the whig party for ten years past, a railing against all "military Chieftains" by the lump. They would not—could not—should not touch such articles! No, not they. Well what of it?—The very first chance they have, they have not only selected a "military chieftain," but select one of the weakest, oldest, and most superannuated of the lot. All those military chieftains, now before the nation, who possess talent, energy, freshness, vigor of body and mind, are passed over, and the very one whose right foot is in the grave, and the other hard behind, is the cream of their choice. Oh! most lame and impotent conclusion of whig wisdom!

The whole history of the intrigue, from beginning to end, with the manner in which the real original friends of General Scott and Mr. Clay have been out-generaled, out-witted, outvoted, and most cruelly cheated, we shall give at length in a few days. Mr. Clay is finished, but General Scott though cheated by the politicians, the people themselves will yet rise in all their majesty, and do him justice. Meantime he will withdraw from the contest—go out to grass for one year—and be ready to enter the field at the close of the general elections of 1840 for the Presidential contest of 1844. He will be the successor of Mr. Van Buren, and no mistake. We rejoice, therefore, that the result of the convention is nothing worse. We never expected any thing of such a body of blockheads, nor have we been disappointed. Between this time and 1840, I shall have time to look about me, and see what I can do with General Scott again in the field.

FOR SALT RIVER.—The great steam ship called the WHIG PARTY, measuring 52,000 tons, 1000 jackass power, commanded by Mrs. Harrison, an old lady from Ohio, is now taking in coals and "coal wittals" at Harrisburg, and will sail from thence this week up to the highest cataract of Salt River. Thurlow Weed, James Watson Webb, M. N. Noah, and Charles King have all taken berths. A loafer called Bennett, who had one of the smuggest berths gave it up, because, as he falsely alleged, she is leaky and the old lady from Ohio knew nothing of steering. A guarantee on United States Bank stock against all leaks. The vessel was built by one Philip Hone, and has been eight years in the service. No second class passengers taken; none but military and fashionable people.

☞ For freight or passage apply to

THURLOW WEED, Chief Cook.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.—The Central Committee for the State of New Hampshire have issued a circular recommending that the National Convention of the Democratic Republican party, for nominating candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency of the United States, be held at Baltimore on Tuesday, the fifth day of May next. We approve the recommendation of the New Hampshire Committee, and doubt not it will meet with the hearty co-operation of the party thro' the country. Although there is no diversity of opinion in regard to the candidate for the first office, a general consultation and interchange of opinion of delegates from the selection of such a candidate for the second office as shall unite the whole strength of the democracy of the country.

As the New Hampshire Patriot well observes, even if all the States were unanimous in regard to the candidates for both offices, no step could be taken so well calculated to arouse the Democracy of the nation as a Convention of Delegates from all the States. "It would infuse an excellent spirit throughout the country; and when the Democracy with one consent shall hereafter rally under the great principle of the Constitution which forbids legislation of the General Goverment on the rights "reserved to the States and to the people," such a National Convention will be found to promote that good feeling which shall respect virtue and patriotism in whatever State it may be found, and make the best local interest of one the general interes of all.—Baltimore. Post."

The bill for the relief of the Virginia Banks, which has passed both branches of the Legislature of State, contains a clause requiring the bank to pay to persons replying for the purposes of change, ten dollars in specie. They are also required to pay the intrest of the States in Specie.

HOW TO SHAVE IN A SMALL WAY. "I say Dick, why don't you spend that levy?" said a small urchin to another, who was rattling two fips with a gratified leer on his countenance.

"Cause this is specie, by-moby they're goin to issue shinneys, and then I'll get fourteen cents for em."—[Ledger.

The capital of Iowa Territory, which has only been laid out about three months, already contains twenty dwelling and two good tayerns.

MRS. DECATUR, wife of the late Commodore Stephen Decatur, died very suddenly at her residence in Georgetown, D. C. on the night of the 18th inst.

From a correspondent of the Baltimore Post.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1839.

I have been looking around me, since first day of my visit to this city with the acuity of curiosity, which characterises the ments of a stranger attracted by novelty; intended to give you my first impressions all their freshness, on all that I heard and that I saw. Among other matters, I thought, that a sketch of the members of Maryland, in the first place, with an account of some of the leaders in debate from states, might not be communications I planned to make during my short sojourn the capital, I had arranged for my third fourth chapter; but recent circumstances duce me to reverse the order of my The motive of my change is based on an cle which appeared in your paper, and which has been copied into the Richmond Enquirer. I have been induced to hasten the writing my letter by reading in the Chronicle of to-day triumphant statement of the condemnatory language said to be used with respect to Mr. F. THOMAS & Mr. P. F. THOMAS of State, and to others from different States. I get exceedingly that without any knowledge of their motives, a sentence of condemnation should have been passed upon their Though I have been able to establish cordiale sociability of intercourse with the members of Baltimore city and county, with the gentlemen I am as yet slightly acquainted. But I was present at all the ballots for the election of Speaker; I thought I perceived the movements of the underplot, which retarded the final choice, and resulted at last in the selection of Mr. Hunter; nor did I perceive any thing in the conduct of Mr. Thomas and of those that acted with him, but what was fair, honorable, and consistent. The blame the delay and the issue, I thought attributable to quite another set of members on the floor.

I have, since your article appeared, endeavored to make myself acquainted with the motives and circumstances under which Mr. Thomas acted, and though delicacy required me to apply to either, than what is deemed direct authority, I am confident you may rely on the accuracy of my statements. I rejoice I can show, that the imputations made against one of the most firm, consistent, and talented democrats of the State, are wholly unfounded. When I speak of Mr. Thomas, I of course include in my vindication, those gentlemen who acted with him. I have used his name alone because it seems to have been brought forward most prominently in the attack; and because the defence of his course comprehends equally the defence of his colleague Mr. P. F. Thomas. So far from deserving inculpation from the democrats of Maryland, they merit the highest applause.

What are the facts? You are aware, that the administration party now in the house is composed of two divisions: the old democrats who supported General Jackson, and the Jackson officers, who were opposed to him. This last division, with the friends of Mr. Clay, constitute a majority of the house. Some difficulty appearing before the session of Congress, in procuring harmonious in the selection of a candidate for the Speakership, it was resolved that a convention should be called to effect a harmony in the conflicting opinions. To influence the decision of the convention, some of the friends of Mr. Pickens and Mr. Lewis declared publicly, that some five or six of the Nulligers would not vote for the candidate nominated by the convention, unless one of the above mentioned gentlemen were chosen. Here was an assumption, on the part of five or six persons, of a right to dictate, to more than a hundred, the choice of a high public functionary—an assumption which any consistent democrat would naturally resist.

Mr. Lewis received in the convention a large number of votes from members who unquestionably would have preferred another to him. Notwithstanding the ungenerous restraint put on the freedom of the convention, Mr Jones received a majority, and became fairly the candidate of the party. He is undeniably well qualified for the duties of the chair; and being the selected candidate, was entitled to the whole vote of the party.

Well, what was the conduct of Mr. F. Thomas, and Mr. P. F. Thomas, and of others which has been held up to censure?—Why they properly and consistently voted for Mr. Jones, the nominated candidate. This gentleman received 113 votes, and five more would have elected him Speaker. Seven more votes were cast by members, who rank as friends of the Administration, two of which were given to Mr. Lewis and five to Mr Pickens. In consequence of this secession, the election of Mr. Jones for the present appeared impracticable. His name was withdrawn, and every member was left unpledged to nomination. The two members from Maryland did not vote for Mr. Lewis because they would not be *forced* out of what they deemed a straight forward and conscientious, course, by a diminutive faction; and because they hoped that, the election of Mr. Lewis appearing impossible, the few persons who were, from personal or sectional motives, anxious for his success, would, perceiving the fallacy of their hopes, revert to the nominated candidate; and that the votes of the party would be concentrated on Mr. Jones. Such are the acts and the motives, as I understand them. Can any thing objectionable be found now in the course of Mr. Thomas and others, whose firm adherance to the great principles of the Democratic party has never been doubted? Were they to give their sanction to the doctrine that a minority should imperatively dictate to a majority? that one hundred should submit to six? They have treated the small division that separated from them, with all the liberality that could be reasonably claimed, and and that liberality ought to have been fairly reciprocated.

But it is said, Mr. THOMAS was ambitious of the Speakership himself; and recklessly sacrificed, to the promptings of individual interests, the great principles of his party. So the charge is put, but where is that proof that such were the motives, by which Mr. Thomas was actuated. Has he told any one that such were the views under which, he resisted the election of Mr. Lewis? Has any one been near him, to catch the spoken words of dreams betraying such motives? Is there any one circumstance in his conduct, to manifest their existence? No! All evidence demonstrates the contrary. Mr. Thomas must have been very careless of his own interests, were he desirous of the Speakership; for the whole question of selecting candidate, was virtually settled before he arrived at Washington. Had he been so so fervently desirous of promotion to the Speaker's Chair, he would have been at the capital in time to enforce his pretensions among the members assembled; whereas he did not arrive here till Sunday—the day before the commencement of the session. Again I have the authority of several of his colleagues and of his other friends for the statement; that when several votes had been given him, he told them not to vote for him; because he would not accept the office, if elected under existing circumstances. There was a difference of opinion existing between him and others of the party as to the course to be pursued, when Mr. Jones failed in getting the full majority of the votes cast; but if they claim the merit of acting under honesty of conviction, it is no more than just, to allow him the same merit. To attribute corruption of motive without full evidence of its existence, is the extreme of injustice. That the charge against him is wholly unfounded, I have, I think given evidence sufficient.

JUSTITIA.

CONGRESSIONAL.

SATURDAY'S PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

Correspondence of the Baltimore American.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Cave Johnson, of Tenn. attempted to introduce a resolution for the appointment of a Committee to wait upon the Senate and President of the United States, informing them of the organization of the House by the appointment of a Speaker.

The Speaker said that the resolution was not in order [a resolution to adopt the rules and orders with the exception of the eleventh rule; which requires that the officers of the House be elected by a *viva voce* vote, was then before the House.]

Mr. Hunt, of New York, addressed the House briefly in favor of the ballot system.

Mr. Tillinghast spoke of the rules and orders and the motion immediately before the House.

Mr. Saltonstall of Mass. defended the ballot system, upon Constitutional grounds. It had been an established system, tried and proved good, and he was opposed to making any innovation upon it; or if an innovation had been made he was in favor of restoring it to the good old practice. It had been tried in New England and proved a good system.

Mr. Cushing followed in the debate, and defended the *viva voce* system of voting. His reasons were that it was a question which immediately represented the constituents of a member. He argued the question at some length, and examined the speeches of the several members opposed to it. Nothing was to be gained from it, he thought, either in results or upon party grounds. Mr. C. also contended that the vote was a Constitutional vote.

Mr. Alford of Georgia, made some remarks and moved the Previous Question.

Mr. Stanley made some remarks also, but rather of a personal character, in reply to Mr. Pickens, of S. C. and certain friends of the administration.

Mr. Hoffman of N. Y. then got the floor.

Some one remarked that he had not a right to the floor.

Then I have it by consent said Mr. Hoffman. Mr. H. remarked that for himself he was not very particular about this system. He thought it the most Democratic and the best, and believed that its adoption would do much to diminish Executive Power in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Stanley of N. C. then gave notice that as opportunity offered he would present a resolution that the Public Printing be done by contract in the City of Washinton, and given to the lowest bidder who shall give good security &c.

By a recorded vote, the resolution to adopt the Rules and Orders of the last Congress was carried, and the *viva voce* system was sustained, 142 to 87.

Mr. Bynum then offered a Resolution that this House will now proceed to the election of a Clerk, Public Printer, Sergeant at Arms, Door Keeper, &c.

Mr. Proffit moved to strike out Public Printer.

A member moved the Previous Question, which was carried.

FIVE O'CLOCK, P. M.

A CLERK ELECTED—THE ORGANIZATION COMPLETE.

The Speaker has just announced the election of HUGH A. GARLAND, as Clerk of the House by the following vote:

Whole number of votes,	231
Necessary to a choice,	116
M. St. Clair Clarke,	105
Richard C. Mason,	8

Mr. Garland was nominated by Mr. Dromgoole, of Va. Mr. Clarke, by Mr. Corwin, of Ohio, and Mr. Mason by Mr. Hopkins, of Va.

The Speaker swore in Mr. Garland, and the House proceeded to the election of Sergeant at Arms.

Roderick Dorsey and Dr. Wm. Jones were nominated. The tellers at 6 o'clock declared the whole number of votes to be 217—necessary to a choice 109.

Mr. Dorsey had	141
Mr. Jones,	76

Mr. Dorsey was declared duly elected and was sworn in accordingly.

Mr. Everett of Vt. here moved that the election of the Public Printer, Door Keeper and Assistant Door Keeper, be postponed until Monday next—the motion was carried, and then

Mr. Everett submitted another, that the Speaker appoint a committee to unite with the committee of the Senate to wait upon the President and inform him of the readiness of the two Houses to receive the President's Message.

The motion was sustained, and the House adjourned at six o'clock.

FATAL DUEL.—A duel was fought near Tallahassee, on the 12th inst. between Gen. L. Reed, and Col. Augustus Alston, in which the latter was killed. The weapons were rifles, distance 20 paces. Col. Alston was shot through the heart at the first fire.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

I regret that I cannot on this occasion congratulate you that the past year has been one of unalloyed prosperity. The ravages of fire and disease have painfully afflicted otherwise flourishing portions of our country, and serious embarrassments yet derange the trade of many of our cities. But notwithstanding these adverse circumstances, that general prosperity which has been heretofore so bountifully bestowed upon us by the Author of all good, still continues to call for our warmest gratitude.—Especially have we reason to rejoice in the exuberant harvests which have lavishly recompensed well directed industry, and given to it that sure reward which is vainly sought in visionary speculations. I cannot indeed view without peculiar satisfaction, the evidences afforded by the past season of the benefits that spring from the steady devotion of the husbandman to this honorable pursuit. No means of individual comfort is more certain, & no source of national prosperity is so sure. Nothing can compensate a people for a dependence upon others for the bread they eat; and that cheerful abundance on which the happiness of every one so much depends, is to be looked for nowhere with such sure reliance as in the industry of the agriculturist and the beauties of the earth.

With foreign countries, our relations exhibit the same favorable aspect which was presented in my last annual message, and afford continued proof of the wisdom of the pacific, just, and forbearing policy accepted by the first Administration of the Federal Government, and pursued by its successors. The extraordinary powers vested in me by an act of Congress, for the defence of the country in an emergency, considered so far probable as to require that the Executive should possess ample means to meet it, have not been exerted. They have, therefore, been attended with no other result than to increase, by the confidence thus reposed in me, my obligations to maintain, with religious exactness, the cardinal principles that govern our intercourse with other nations. Happily, in our pending questions with Great Britain, out of which this unusual grant of authority arose, nothing has occurred to require its exertion—and as it is about to return to the Legislature, I trust that no future necessity may call for its exercise by them, or its delegation to another department of the Government.

For the settlement of our Northeastern boundary, the proposition promised by Great Britain for a commission of exploration and survey, has been received, and a counter project, including also a provision for the certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute, is now before the British Government for its consideration. A just regard to the delicate state of this question, and a proper respect for the natural impatience of the State of Maine, not less than a conviction that the negotiation has been already protracted longer than is prudent do the believe that the present favorable moment should on no account be suffered to pass without putting the question forever at rest. I feel confident that the Government of Her Britannic Majesty will take the same view of this subject, as I am persuaded it is governed by desires equally strong and sincere for the amicable termination of the controversy.

To the intrinsic difficulties of questions of boundary lines, especially those described in regions unoccupied, and but partially known, is to be added in our country the embarrassment necessarily arising out of our Constitution, by which the General Government is made the organ of negotiating, and deciding upon the particular interests of the States on whose frontiers these lines are to be traced.—To avoid another controversy in which a State Government might rightfully claim to have her wishes consulted, previously to the conclusion of conventional arrangements concerning her rights of jurisdiction or territory, I have thought it necessary to call the attention of the Government of Great Britain to another portion of our conterminous dominion, of which the division still remains to be adjusted. I refer to the line from the entrance of Lake Superior to the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods, stipulations for the settlement of which are to be found in the seventh article of the treaty of Ghent. The commissioners appointed under that article by the two Governments have differed in their opinions, made separate reports, according to its stipulations, upon the points of disagreement, and these differences are now to be submitted to the arbitration of some friendly sovereign of State. The disputed points should be settled, and the line designated, before the Territorial Government of which it is one of the boundaries, takes its place in the Union as a State; and I rely upon the cordial co-operation of the British Government to effect that object.

There is every reason to believe that disturbances like those which lately agitated the neighboring British Provinces will not again prove the source of border contentions, or interpose obstacles to the continuance of that good understanding which it is the mutual interests of Great Britain and the United States to preserve and maintain.

Within the Provinces themselves tranquility is restored, and our frontier that misguided sympathy in favor of what was presumed to be a general effort in behalf of popular rights, and which in some instances misled a few of our more inexperienced citizens, has subsided into a rational conviction strongly opposed to all intermeddling with the internal affairs of our neighbors. The people of the United States feel, as it is hoped they always will, a warm solicitude for the success of all who are sincerely endeavoring to improve the political condition of mankind. This generous feeling they cherish towards the most distant nations; and it was natural therefore, that it should be awakened with more than common warmth in behalf of their immediate neighbors. But it does not belong to their character, as a community, to seek the gratification of those feelings in acts which violate their duty as citizens, endanger the peace of their country, and tend to bring upon it the stain of a violated faith towards foreign nations. If zealous to confer benefits on others, they appear for a moment to lose sight of the permanent obligations imposed upon them as citizens, they are seldom long misled. From all the information I receive, confirmed to some extent by personal observation. I am satisfied that no one can now hope to engage in such enterprises without encountering public indignation, in addition to the severest penalties of the law.

Recent information also leads me to hope that the emigrants from her Majesty's Provinces, who have sought refuge within our boundaries, are disposed to become peaceable residents, and to abstain from all attempts to endanger the peace of that country which has afforded them an asylum. On a review of the occurrences on both sides of the line, it is satisfactory to reflect, that in almost every complaint against our country, the offence may be traced to emigrants from the Provinces who have sought refuge here. In the few instances in which they were aided by citizens of the United States, the acts of these misguided men were not only in direct contravention of the laws and well known wishes of their own Government, but met with the decided disapprobation of the people of the United States.

I regret to state the appearance of a different spirit among her Majesty's subjects in the Canadas. The sentiments of hostility to our people and institutions, which have been so frequently expressed there, and the disregard of our rights which have been manifested on some occasions, have, I am sorry to say, been applauded and encouraged by the people, and even by some of the subordinate local authorities, of the Provinces. The chief officers in Canada fortunately have not entertained the same feeling, and have probably prevented excesses that must have been fatal to the peace of the two countries.

I look forward anxiously to a period when all the transactions which have grown out of our affairs, and which have been made the subjects of complaint and remonstrance by the two Governments respectively, shall be fully examined, and the proper satisfaction given where it is due from either side.

Nothing has occurred to disturb the harmony of our intercourse with Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Naples, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, or Sweden. The internal state of Spain has sensibly improved, and a well grounded hope exists that the return of peace will restore to the people of that country their former prosperity, and enable the Gavernment to fulfil all its obligations at home and abroad. The Government of Portugal, I have the satisfaction to state, has paid in full the eleventh and last instalment due to our citizens for the claims embraced in the settlement made with it on the third of March, 1837.

I lay before you treaties of commerce negotiated with the Kings of Sardinia and of the Netherlands, the ratifications of which have been exchanged since the adjournment of Congress. The liberal principles of these treaties will recommend them to your approbation. That with Sardinia is the first treaty of commerce formed by that kingdom, and it will, I trust answer the exceptations of the present sovereign, by aiding the developement of the resources of his country, and stimulating the enterprise of his people. That with the Netherlands happily terminates a long existing subject of dispute, and removes from our future commercial intercourse all apprehension of embarrassment. The King of the Netherlands has also, in further illustrations of his character for justice, and of his desire to remove [illegible] satisfaction, made compensation for an American vessel captured in 1800 by a French privateer, and carried into Curacoa, where the proceeds were appropriated to the use of the colony, then, and for a short time after, under the dominion of Holland.

The death of the late Sultan has produced no alteration in our relations with Turkey. Our newly appointed Minister Resident has reached Constantinople, and I have received assurances from the present Ruler that the obligations of our treaty, and those of friendship, will be fulfilled by himself in the same spirit that actuated his illustrious father.

I regret to be obliged to inform you that no convention for the settlement of the claims of our citizens upon Mexico has yet been ratified by the Government of that country. The first convention formed for that purpose was not presented by the President of Mexico for the approbation of its Congress, from a belief that the King of Prussia, the arbitrator in case of disagreement in the joint commission to be appointed by the United States and Mexico, would not consent to take upon himself that friendly office. Although not entirely satisfied with the course pursued by Mexico, I felt no hesitation in receiving in the most conciliatory spirit the explanation offered, and also cheering consented to a new convention, in order to arrearage the payments proposed to be made to our citizens, in a manner which, while equally just to them, was deemed less onerous and inconvenient to the Mexican Government. Relying confidently upon the intentions of that Government, Mr. Ellis was directed to repair to Mexico, and diplomatic intercourse has been resumed between the two counties. The new convention has, he informs us, been recently submitted by the President of that Republic to its Congress, under circumstances which promise a speedy ratification; a result which I cannot allow myself to doubt.

Instructions have been given to the Commissioner of the United States under our Convention with Texas, for the demarcation of the line which separates us from that Republic. The commissioners of both Governments met in New Orleans in August last. The joint commission was organized, and adjourned to convene at the same place on the twelfth of October. It is presumed to be now in the performance of its duties.

The new Government of Texas has shown its desire to cultivate friendly relations with us, by a prompt reparation for injuries complained of in the cases of two vessels of the United States.

With Central America a convention has been concluded for the renewal of its former treaty with the United States. This was not ratified before the departure of our late Charge d'Affaires from that country, and the copy of it brought by him was not received before the adjournment of the Senate at the last session. In the mean while, the period limited for the exchange of ratifications having expired, I deemed it expedient, in consequence of the death of the Charge d'Affairs, to send a special agent to Central America, to close the affairs of our mission there, and to arrange with the Government an extension of the time for the exchange of ratifications.

The commission created by the States which formerly composed the Republic of Columbia, for adjusting the claims against that Government, has, by a very unexpected constitution of the treaty under which it acts, decided that no provision was made for those claims of citizens of the United States which arose from captures by Columbian privateers, and were adjudged against claimants in the judicial tribunals. This decision will compel the United States to apply to the several Go-