

PUBLIC LEGER.

—“Friendly to the best pursuits of man,
“Friendly to Thought, to Freedom, and to Peace.”

PRESIDENTIAL.

Extract of a letter from a member of the House of Delegates, to the editor of the Baltimore Patriot, dated

“ANNAPOLIS, (Md.) Feb. 22.

“You will be pleased to pardon the seeming neglect or inattention from having thus long deferred an answer to your letter of the 12th inst. It has entirely proceeded from a wish to ascertain, by enquiry among the members, of the Legislature, the actual number in favor of each of the candidates. The result is, that of the two branches of the legislature 50 are in favor of Mr. Adams, 13 for Mr. Calhoun, 11 for Mr. Crawford, 10 for Gen. Jackson, and 7 for Mr. Clay. The sentiments of four not known. The Governor and Council stand four for Mr. Adams, one for Calhoun, one for Mr. Crawford.”

Fredericksburg, (Va.) March 13.

You will no doubt be gratified to learn the result of the “Adams’ Meeting.” It was adjourned over from Thursday to this evening, to act on the report of a committee then appointed. The result is, that ADAMS was nominated as President; and JACKSON as Vice-President, by a majority of six over Mr. Calhoun. Corresponding committees are appointed, and other suitable measures for organizing an opposition to the caucus nomination at Richmond.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.—The Editor of the Cheraw (South Carolina) Intelligencer, has declared himself in favor of JOHN QUINCY ADAMS. After taking an able view of the state of public sentiment, in which he demonstrates the utter hopelessness of raising the South Carolina candidate to the Presidential chair, the Editor appeals to the patriotism and the good sense of the State, to throw aside personal friendship and sectional prejudice, and take up that man who most eminently combines the requisite qualifications of talents, and experience and character.

In Alabama, and Mississippi, also, public opinion seems to be gradually but certainly settling down upon the same candidate, and before the end of another six months, we shall not be surprised to see that eighteen of the twenty-four States, have expressed a decided preference of Mr. ADAMS. This is the natural course of things. Though the people may for a time suffer personal considerations to influence their judgments of public men and measures, the higher duty which they owe their country will in the end always prevail, and individual partialities and prejudices will vanish before the sober dictates of reason and truth.—NAT. JOURNAL.

(From the Boston Recorder.)

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

Lord Wellington’s Statement.—At a conference of the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia held at Verona, on the 24th Nov. 1822, on the subject of the deplorable continuance of mischief, in spite of the declarations, the laws, and the treaties which have interdicted and condemned it since the year 1815, the Duke of Wellington brought forward a memoir, containing observations, as to what he considered to be the causes of the evil, and pointing out different measures calculated to put an end to it. In the memoir Lord Wellington states, that he has the means of proving that this traffic has been since the year 1815, and is at this moment carried on to a greater extent than it has been at any former period—that, in seven months of the year 1821, not less than 38,000 human beings had been carried off from the coast of Africa into hopeless & irremediable slavery—and that not less than 352 vessels entered the rivers and ports of Africa, north of the Equator, to purchase slaves, between July 1820, and Oct. 1821, each of which was calculated to carry off from 5 to 600 slaves.

He further states, that the traffic does not assume the usual secrecy of a contraband trade, but is carried on generally under the protection of the flag of France.—And that it cannot be denied, that all attempts at prevention, imperfect as they have been found to be, have tended to increase the aggregate human of suffering & the waste of human life, in the transport of slaves from the coast of Africa to the colonies, in a ratio far exceeding the increase of positive numbers carried off in slavery. The dread of detection suggests expedients of concealment productive of the most dreadful sufferings to the cargo, with respect to which it hardly ever seems to occur to its remorseless owners that it consists of sentient beings.

Declaration of the Allied Powers.—The Plenipotentiaries of Austria, of France, of Great Britain, of Prussia, and of Russia, assembled in Congress at Verona, declare, in the name of their august sovereigns, that they continue firm in the principles and sentiments manifested by those sovereigns, in the Declaration of the 8th Feb. 1815; and that they have never ceased, nor never will cease, to consider the Slave Trade as “A scourge which has too long desolated Africa, degraded Europe, and afflicted humanity”—and that they are ready to concur in every thing that may secure and accelerate the complete and final abolition of that traffic.

[From the New-England Galaxy.]
FROM THE EDITOR.

Washington, January 28.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday Mr. McLane of Delaware, presented a very strong and sensible argument, in committee of the whole, on Mr. Hemphill’s “Road and Canal bill.” He is a speaker of considerable powers of eloquence, and a prominent member of the House. The gossips of the capital says he is a Crawfordite, though a federalist, and in case of Mr. Crawford’s accession to the Presidency, will certainly be Secretary of State.—Others, equally well-informed, say that Mr. C. has promised the same office to forty other friends. Mr. Archer, of Va. is now (2 o’clock) speaking on the same bill. He is likely to out-talk all his competitors and opponents. He has a manifest advantage over them all, in the possession of two voices, one of which is *G sharp*, in which he speaks with unspeakable volubility—the other is *B flat*, and is used when he aims to be peculiarly impressive. He reminds me of the story of the Indian, who split his dog in two parts longitudinally from head to tail, and put him together again, with two legs up and two down, that he might run the longer, by changing legs. Mr. Archer is celebrated for manufacturing long yarns. At the last session, he spoke three times on the bankrupt bill. While he was making his third speech, Mr. Herrick, of Maine, was met, going out of the hall in a state of some little agitation, and to the question, *What is the matter?* replied,

“Insatiate ARCHER! could not once suffice? Thrice flew the shaft, & thrice my peace was slain.”

It is expected that Mr. Randolph will speak on this bill to-morrow. I feel some solicitude to hear this gentleman, of whom I have already heard so much. A member, who stands near me, informs me, in reply to an interrogatory, that it is always unnecessary to ask which side of a proposition Mr. Randolph espouses—it is his uniform practice to oppose every thing.

A discussion of considerable interest took place in the Senate to-day, on an amendment to the Constitution, proposed by Mr. Dickerson, of New-Jersey, providing that no person should be eligible to the office of President of the U. S. more than 8 years. Mr. Barbour, of Va. proposed to amend the amendment, by substituting a proposition that no person shall be elected President three times successively. The substitute was opposed by Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Holmes of Maine, and Mr. Macon, of N. Carolina. Mr. Barbour supported it with some very eloquent remarks. If not the best, he is one of the best speakers in the Senate. His language flows with ease and rapidity; his illustrations are applicable and happy. During the discussion, there was a little wit-pelting. Mr. Dickerson opposed, with some warmth, the substitute proposed by Mr. Barbour, and advocated his original proposition with great earnestness. In reply, Mr. Barbour excused Mr. D. for his solicitude, and very pleasantly expressed the sympathy he felt in the parental affection which Mr. D. indicated for his progeny; commending him for the exercise of parental fondness, in which no one could more naturally indulge to excess [Mr. D. is a bachelor.] Mr. Dickerson retorted, and endeavoured to account for Mr. Barbour’s sympathy by reminding him that he (Mr. B.) had not been able to bring up any of his children to maturity [alluding to the circumstance of Mr. B. having made several unsuccessful propositions in the Senate.]

Mr. Stevenson, of Va. made a long and promising speech in the House in opposition to the road-and-canal bill. His style of speaking is admired by some; but it would not be thought much of in New-England. He is too vehement to be listened to with pleasure—“filled with fury,” but neither “rapt” nor “inspired.” The original curse must have been entailed upon him, for “in the sweat of his brow” he earns his bread—that part of it, at least, which he earns by making speeches in Congress. He is, unquestionably, a nervous speaker. His gesticulation is painful to the spectator. He throws himself into the positions of a puglist, and belabours the harmless and unoffending mahogany desks, with all the rage and violence of a maniac. The members sit like “dejected Pity at his side;” but he, nothing moved, “still keeps his wild, unalter’d mein, While each strain’d ball of sight seems bursting from his head.”

From the London Courier.

Mr. Webster’s Resolution.—We dare say Mr. Webster was quite sincere in the wish he expressed, that the U. States’ Government should not commit itself in any European contest; but we know of no way so likely to lead to that which it deprecated, as a proneness to meddle and interfere with European questions. It is very true that the “U. S. have divers interests in the Mediterranean,” but there are other powers, too, who have divers, and more immediate, and more important interests there, and who may reasonably be expected to look

with a jealous eye upon the creating of conflicting interests. Our radical politicians are very fond of reproaching the old Monarchical Governments of Europe, with ambition and interference. Let them look at the young Republican Government across the Atlantic, and note its policy. The whole New World is too limited for its movement already. To Europe, it says, here you shall colonize no more—here you shall interfere not—while, in the same breath almost, it betrays a disposition to proclaim its own right of being heard, and recognized upon a matter of purely European interest. We know not what may be the fate of Mr. Webster’s motion, but, in our opinion, it would be wisdom to reject it. The adoption would only excite the suspicion that interference of some kind or other was meant to follow. If Agents or Commissioners be sent to inquire into the actual state of affairs in Greece, it may be supposed their inquiries will not lead, like the poet’s “long passages,” to nothing. Commissioners, we remember, were sent to Buenos Ayres, Colombia, and we believe to Chili; and the recognition of their independence by the U. S. followed. We do not say that an exactly similar course is to be expected with regard to Greece; but we do think, as a matter of propriety and good taste merely, that it will be as well, while the U. States’ Government prohibits European interference with N. and South America, if it abstain from all shadow of interference with regard to Greece.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, February 23.
WAR WITH ALGIERS.

The following notification of hostilities having commenced against the Regency of Algiers, appeared in the Gazette of Saturday night:

“Admiralty-Office, Feb. 21, 1824.

“Despatches, dated the 31st of last month and 1st inst. have this morning been received at this office from the Hon. Capt. Spencer, of his Majesty’s ship Naiad, (who had been directed to Algiers, to make, in conjunction with his Majesty’s Consul at that Regency, a remonstrance against some late proceedings of the Dey,) stating that his negotiation had ended unsatisfactorily, and that the Consul was obliged to strike the British flag, and embark on board his Majesty’s ship.

“Capt. Spencer further reports, that having met an Algerine corvette, he felt it under his instructions, his duty to attack her, and that she was laid on board and captured in the most handsome manner by his Majesty’s brig Chameleon, when Capt. Spencer had the satisfaction to find, that he had rescued 17 Spaniards, whom the Algerine was carrying into slavery.”

Admiralty-Office, Feb. 21, 1824.

“This is to give notice, that the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty will immediately appoint convoys to afford protection to the trade through the Straits of Gibraltar, and within the Mediterranean, until the differences with the Regency of Algiers shall be arranged.

“J. W. CROCKER.”

The causes of this warlike declaration, on our part, are, it appears, two fold—one, the refusal on the part of the Dey, to make reparation for an insult offered to the British Consular flag, of what nature does not appear; the other, a declaration, that he was resolved no longer to observe the terms of a treaty made with him, not to retain any christian captive, of any nation, in a state of slavery. Capt. Spencer’s exploit, recorded above, was the immediate consequence of the latter determination.

We subjoin, from the royal Cornwall Gazette, some further particulars of the occurrences that preceded and followed the commencement of hostilities with Algiers:

“On Thursday evening, (the 19th inst.) the Chameleon brig of war, Lieut. Burton arrived at Falmouth from Gibraltar, with despatches for Government, which were forwarded express to London, by Lieut. Church, of his Majesty’s ship Asfrea, the Chameleon having been put under quarantine. The Chameleon left Portsmouth with secret orders, a short time since, and joined the Naiad frigate, Hon. Captain Spencer, at Gibraltar. They proceeded in company to Algiers, where they arrived on the 24th ult. to demand restitution of some christian captives.

“The Dey refused to admit Capt. Spencer to private conference, unless he would consent to come without his sword, a condition to which that gallant officer would not submit, having made his propositions he gave the Dey to the 31st to consider them, and in the mean time embarked the British Consul, with his family and merchants on board his ship. When the time expired, and no favorable answer having been returned, the man of war stood out to sea, and at 3 P. M. (in sight of the town) fell in with the Algerine corvette, of 18 guns and 100 men, standing in for the bay.—She was ordered to, but having refused

compliance, a fire was immediately opened upon her, which she returned, and a short time the Chameleon ran on board, and carried her in a gallant style. On board her were found 17 Spaniards, (prisoners) who, with the Algerine Capt. Spencer then suffered the prize to drift on shore, she being too much damaged to bring away. The Chameleon had some men wounded in the action, but the particulars had not yet transpired. The Naiad parted company for Malta on the 1st instant, and the Chameleon, after calling at Gibraltar, sailed from hence on the 6th.”

The decree of the king of Spain, and the comments of the Paris papers thereon, have caused a great panic on the London exchange. They say the British government must now declare whether the South American States are or are not independent.

(From the New York Daily Advertiser.)

LATEST FROM MEXICO.

By the schooner Dolpin, Captain Copeland, from Alvarado, we have received files of papers from that place and from Mexico; and are indebted to a commercial friend for the latest Mexican papers. The latter contain an account of an attempt on the part of the garrison to effect a revolution, which appears to have been averted only by the promptitude of the government.

On the 23d of January, in the evening, Congress held an extraordinary session, having been hastily assembled in consequence of threatening news from the garrison. An official letter was read from the Minister of War, which stated that Brigadier Lobato, had shut himself up in his quarters, with his 5th of Infantry, while General St. Ana also repaired. His intentions were to separate with the Europeans from the present government; that to revive the system of the revolters of Guaymas. It was proposed to arrest Lobato immediately, as seditious meetings had often been held at his house; but it was proved that a picket guard had marched from the palace to join him, and the government were not strong enough. During the discussion, Santa Ana demanded admittance, which, after some dispute, was granted by the Congress. He stated that he had nothing to do with the revolution, although the leaders had urged upon him the chief command, and that he submitted to the orders of Congress and wished to mediate for the forgiveness of Lobato.

After he had retired, an official letter was received from Lobato, containing a protest against the submission offered by Santa Ana; and thus the revoler continued to amuse the Congress, till they attempted to arrest him, when he took a position in the country, and continued in arms. At this time the English residents applied for passports to leave the country.

The Congress were once on the point of removing to the town of Guadalupe, disavowing all acts that might be published in their name, appointing a permanent deputat, and clothing Bravo, or in his place Guerrero, to the general command in case of necessity. A submission was afterwards received from Lobato; and on the morning of the 26th the President proclaimed that public tranquillity was restored. In a few hours, however, it was found that Lobato had no intention of surrendering; and the supreme executive power having remained provisionally with Michelena for President and Dominguez for secretary, and retreated to the National Palace, proclamations and decrees were issued by them.

The last dates we have from Mexico are of the 27th Jan. when the proclamation declare that the public peace is secure.

Don Jose Staboli, commander of a squadron, had been condemned to death for treason, and afterwards pardoned.

Extract of a letter from Mexico, dated, Jan. 28.

“I enclose you a proclamation of the government, by which you will see that we have had a terrible tumult in this city which lasted several days, and only ended yesterday. It was commenced by gen. Lobato, with a view to induce the Congress to change the ministry, and put the Europeans out of the office. He, however, soon found his error, and submitted with the greater part of his officers, when the cages were taken up by others, who obstinately refused to succumb, and were happily made prisoners, to the number of twenty two. Among these were three colonels and as many lieutenant colonels. Several of the prisoners were condemned to death last night, & pardoned to day, when they were on the point of being executed.”

“New Solar Theory.—Dr. HOYER, of Minden, has published a detailed account of his hypothesis, that the nucleus of the Sun consists of molten gold! We shall next hear of a detailed account of an hypothesis that the Moon is made of green cheese—which will be a lunar theory quite as philosophical as that of Dr. Hoyer, having the advantage withal of being some what the elder of the two.