

tho' I discovered an evident change in their countenances which led me to suppose there were something wrong in agitation, and under that impression, had all the muskets, ammunition and small arms of every description, taken to the Greenwich, (the ship I lived on board of, from the other ships, as a necessary precaution, against a surprize from my own men.

On the 7th May, while on board the Seringapatam, on duty which required my being present, a mutiny took place, in which I was wounded, and the mutineers succeeded in getting the Seringapatam out of bay—two days after, while making the necessary preparations to depart for Valparaiso, we were attacked by the savages, and I have, with the deepest regret to inform you, sir, midshipman William Felters, John Thomas, Thomas Gibbs, & William Bradine were massacred, and Peter Coddington (Marine) dangerously wounded. After bending the jib and spanker, we cut our moorings and fortunately had a light breeze that carried the ship clear off the bay, with 6 cartridges remaining, out of the only barrel left us by the mutineers.

After getting out of the bay, we found our situation most distressing. In attempting to run the boat up, it broke in two parts, and we were compelled to cut away from the bows the only anchor not being able to cut it. We mustered altogether 8 souls, out of which there was one cripple, one dangerously wounded, one sick, one just recovering from the scurvy, and myself confined to the bed with a high fever, produced by my wound.

In that state, destitute of charts, and almost of every means of navigating the ship I reached the Sandwich Island, after a passage of 17 days, and suffered much from fatigue and hardships. I was there unfortunately captured by the English ship Cherub, remained a prisoner on board of her 7 months; during which time my men were treated in a most shameful manner. We were then put on shore at Rio de Janeiro, without the possibility of getting away until after hearing of peace. I then by the advice of the physician who attended me, embarked on board a Swedish ship bound to Havre de Grace (there being no other means of my getting away at that time) leaving behind active midshipman Clapp and five men, having lost one soon after my arrival in that place, with small pox.

On the 1st inst lat. 47 N. long. 18 W. we fell in with the American ship Oliver Ellsworth from Havre, bound to this port. I took a passage on board of her, and arrived here 2 days since, after being upwards of 100 days at sea. I am at present unable to travel, and shall therefore await either your orders, or the orders of the commandant of the marine corps at this place.

I have the honor to remain, with the highest respect and esteem, sir, your obedient servant.

JOHN M. GAMBLE.

PAYMENT ON SPECIE.

The Union Bank of the city of New-York, has given public notice of its intention to pay its own notes in gold and silver, after the 1st of February, 1816, and all de-

posits since the suspension of specie payments. We hope this is the daybreak of another golden age.

The house of the Virginia Bank at Richmond, was lately distrained by the sheriff of Henrico county at the suit of a Mr. Fisher, for 1,000 dollars in specie: The key was turned by the sheriff, and the Bank locked up for one day; but it was opened the succeeding one by some unknown manouvre. The officer returned the distrain upon the house, and there the matter rested.

Volcano at Java.

A letter from the Island of Java, dated the 20th of May last says, "A few days since a dreadful volcanic eruption took place in the Island of Saumbatoa to the eastward which has been attended with the most destructive consequences.—At Soerabaya the atmosphere was in entire darkness for 2 days, so as to give the appearance of midnight. At this place, which is at a considerable distance, the ashes discharged from the crater, fell in heaps. The noise produced from this awful visitation is beyond description, and caused a sensation among the inhabitants peculiarly afflicting. The sea rose 6 feet above its ordinary level, almost instantaneously, causing the destruction of many lives and vessels. In short the damage sustained has been exceedingly great, and many who were in affluence before this dreadful catastrophe took place, are reduced to the greatest distress.

An Extraordinary Gazette of Mexico, of the 9th November, gives an official statement of the defeat and capture of the Patriot chieftain, Morelas, on the 4th of that month. Two pieces of cannon many muskets and sabres, and all his booty and equipage, fell into the hands of the royalists, together with a considerable number of prisoners.

The Java, Com. Perry, has sailed from New-York. She is to be joined by the Macedonian, and will proceed to the Mediterranean to relieve Com. Shaw. The U. States and Confidellation will return home. Com. Chauncy has received orders to have his ship, Washington 74 in readiness for immediate service.

For the WESTERN SUN.

Farmers & Patriots Rights.

NO. IV.

Mr. Stout,

IF unfortunately I am so like some folks as to be unable to inflict, yet I can assure my fellow citizens I have too much pride, and am too much unlike such folks either to write or speak on the subject of this proclamation for any other purpose.

If there be a silly knave, or an honest man who will say that my writing on the subject can have no good effect, that it will rouse settlers on the public land to opposition, that it may cause them really to imagine they have a right to continue on it so long as they please,—I will reply to such stuff, that whether I have ability to expose error so as to produce a salutary effect, it does not become me to say—but this I will assert, that such men as would stir enquiry into the justice or policy of public measures, by any unworthy insinuations against the motive of the enquirer, should be viewed by all good men with jealousy and contempt, such a flatter must be corrupt to the very core. That my fellow citizens are so stupid, or so blind as to pay implicit obedience to an illegal mandate, or that they are so unreasonably stubborn, as to view my condemnation of it as a reason for claiming that as a right, which is only a tolerated privilege, is, I hope, a libel upon their good sense, as it certainly is upon my obvious intentions. The writer of "Farmers & Pa-

triot Rights" scorns the man who entertains sentiments which he fears to express, and none such will he ever imitate.—He aims at neither fame nor office, he is a stranger to knavish subserviency, and his sole & only object is the public good—he always has, and always shall inculcate opposition in a legal way, to such measures as he views to be unjust or improper, and the man who will not do so, is no friend to our government—the man who will not do so, should be some cringing, pliable mendicant, seeking the favor of men who may help him to office.

I will contend, that the durability of our government must depend upon its purity, and the man who does not seek to preserve it pure, the man who would stir enquiry into the correctness of executive acts, is, and always must be an enemy to liberty and truth. These essays have been written for no other purpose than the propagation of truth, and if I have erred, I will willingly kiss the rod of correction—but while I can confine myself within such bounds as will enable me to express what I think, I will never give up the right. So much for that—now for the impolicy of this proclamation.

I have already shewed that the law of 1807, cannot be fairly construed but to apply to such tracts of land in this territory, as were possessed by the state of Virginia, and by her ceded to the U. States—that inasmuch as that law has laid inactive for nine years, and been knowingly violated, (if it can by any forced construction apply to the land purchased of Indians) with the tacit sanction of the president, and the avowed sanction of both houses of congress, jointly with his, it is unjust to bring it now to "the striking point," and that too, without legal notice. I would keep these points in view, and notice the authority the president conveys to his marshals, to call on such part of the army of the U. States as they may deem requisite to carry this proclamation into effect at the point of the bayonet, and I apprehend it will be no difficult task afterwards, to satisfy all good citizens that it is, what I have declared it to be. I must however acknowledge there was a time, when the president might in purity & good faith, invited congress to enact a law giving him power by proclamation, over all public land—such power as I contend he now assumes. And if he had done so before any pre-emption rights were allowed, he might have exercised his authority I will admit in some cases, beneficially. At that period it would have produced little injury to the public, and no misery to individuals—but unfortunately at that time the "popular favor of the West" had to be courted and secured, and he would not have exercised such authority had he been invested with it—he now thinks the popular favor of the West may be dispensed with, and I trust the people in the clear exercise of their judgment, will correct the delusion. If they do not of what avail is the pride and pleasure with which every genuine American boasts of the noble deeds and achievements of our countrymen—of what avail is the heartfelt joy we discover at the immediate influence of a Divine interposition guiding those noble deeds and achievements to the haven of peace and independence?—Although I am willing to bow to him who can renounce what he has publicly taught, when convicted of his error—although I am willing to applaud to admiration, the magnanimity of him who embraces truth, though with the sacrifice of favorite opinions—yet of what avail is all this, when there is nothing but veering and changing—when under the weakness and human frailties of men in office, a proclamation is issued, that most in its execution, embitter the happiness of a great number of our citizens?

A wise president of the U. States should be extremely careful to adopt his policy to the constitution and laws, and in acting upon that policy to write or speak as becomes his station. If Mr. Madison does so in this proclamation, what is his intention?—He calls upon the regular troops—can he believe that well-disposed citizens who live on the public land, not because they have any exclusive right, but because they think themselves legally privileged, until there be an express law giving the president power by proclamation to the contrary—can he believe I say, that such settlers will require a soldiers sword to be drawn against them—a sword which was only intended to be drawn against the enemies of our country? a soldiers sword which when drenched in the blood of an enemy returns to its scabbard in crimson glory—but if drawn against a friend who may have heretofore fought the same battles, shared in the same danger, would it not be justified by sorrow and regret for the unfortunate, who are made into enemies, but never intentionally became so?—Can Mr. Madison wish to set now that he is yet in power, on the pernicious principle which he avowed before

he or his party acquired it. He spoke against standing armies, he created a jealousy of them in the mind of the people, and as he is commander in chief, and has authorized them to carry what I contend, is an illegal mandate into execution, well knowing they must obey if ordered, can he desire to perpetuate that jealousy? Can he desire really to shew cause for it, when every man knows that our brave and intrepid regular troops have even under his own administration effected the salvation of our country.

It is a question susceptible of proof how far the public land has been benefited by settlers—and how far those settlers have trespassed any known law by thus enriching the public I will not pretend to decide, if what I have already said, and what I may be tempted hereafter to say, will not be viewed as a decision. But I will contend it is injuring the territory, and counteracting the public good to disturb those men at the present time. It is injuring the territory by weakening our frontier, and banishing probably out of it, a great part of its most active and ready defence—it is counteracting public good, by producing private misery, and cutting off half the means of our future greatness. I would hail it as a blessing if it had no other effect than to prevent our going into a state government for at least two years to come. I might if the proclamation were to be put into effect here, and our citizens who are unable to purchase at this moment, be driven off, think that the president, aware of the ambitious views of our busy and blundering legislature, in desiring a state government, has assumed a power he does not legally possess, to counteract this—but of two evils we must choose the least, we'll keep our citizens least they might not again return to us, & ourselves correct the folly of our own legislature. This legislature in every act either of their own or the general government, that effects us, must not be forgotten. The president's conduct by this proclamation, brings their remembrance home to every member of this community. They were at war with all authority but their own, and seldom omitted an opportunity to abuse that—they got into a *wounds* position with our supreme judges because they declared as they ought, and as their duty directed them, that a certain act of the legislature was unconstitutional—intolerant of this control, they then saddled the territory with the expense of a batch of judges of their own making, and afterwards, as if determined to delude the people, or to ruin them, they chartered two banks, either of which may issue more paper than all the active capital now in the territory will amount to! Thus our president deals in causing proclamation law, & our legislature in causing paper money. They're rags—there rags, and if the proclamation of the one, or the paper of the other, can obtain credit, the first will cause justice, as certain as the other will cause silver, to be as scarce as—what is not—I might say now in summer, or swallows in winter, or five other things that cannot be reckoned.—The last legislature has petitioned congress to admit this territory as a state into the Union, contrary to the almost unanimous will & opinion of the people in this neighborhood. In justification of this measure they have blinded the peoples eyes by picturing advantages they will have, as a state, which as a territory they cannot enjoy. But if these men really know, they forget to tell the people, that for some years to come they will not be in a state to benefit by these advantages, and whatever special favors are granted, they will not lessen the burthen of the peoples taxes, but by regulation, be applicable only 'tis believed to certain objects. If this legislature instead of fending forward such a petition, had drawn up one defining congress to prohibit by law, all ignorant and evil disposed persons from the confidence of the present, or any future president of the U. States, and concluded by begging of them to grant pre-emption rights, or rights of occupancy, to our intelligent and well disposed settlers, they would have done their duty, and merited the praise, as they now do the censure of,

Farmers & Patriots Rights.

FOR THE WESTERN SUN.

MR. STOUT.

IT'S an old saying, that 'touch a galled horse, and he will wince,' consequently my being one of the settlers upon the public lands, it ought not to be that presumption in me to say a few words respecting the president's proclamation of the 12th of December last.

In every machine there is a moving cause, and in every public measure there should be a propelling reason—what then I ask, could be the cause or reason existing in the mind or breast of the president, (for it can't be collected from the proclamation, unless we