

Congress of Venezuela, in the city of San Thomas de Angostura, on the 17th day of December, A. D. 1819, and in the 9th year of our independence.

FRANCISCO ANTONIO ZEA,
President of Congress.
Juan German Roscio, &c. &c.
Palace of the Sovereign Congress
of Venezuela, at Angostura,
the 17th Dec. 1819.

The Sovereign Congress decree that the present fundamental law for the Republic of Columbia, shall be communicated to the supreme executive power, for a limitation for the publicity and establishment thereof.

FRANCISCO ANTONIO ZEA,
President of Congress.
Diego Vallentilla,
Deputy Secretary.

Palace of the Government
at Angostura, 17th Dec.
1819.

Ordered to be printed, proclaimed, authenticated, and sealed with the arms of the state.

SIMON BOLIVAR,
For his excellency the president
of the Republic.
DIEGO B. URBANEA,
Minister of the interior of Justice.

THE SLAVE QUESTION
Is thus spoken of in the London Times of December 3rd.

We have inserted from the American papers some documents relative to the state of domestic slavery in the North American republic, which are equally interesting to the sound statesman and to the christian moralist. The existence of slavery in a free republic may plead the example of antiquity, but it was the heathens who furnished that example; and among them it may have been justified by its efficacy in restraining the savage practices of ancient warfare, when the captive if not enslaved, would necessarily have been butchered. But in a community which boasts at once of being free and christian, "the most moral and enlightened" people on earth, as they call themselves, how the toleration of domestic slavery can be palliated; how it can be explained we must leave to those who insist on the continuance of that blessing as one of their most valuable rights and enjoyments.—The negro slavery of the United States and of the West Indies, is the disgrace of the christian world. The slave population of North America, however, is confined to certain states and we do not apprehend its acknowledged influence on the morals, happiness and prosperity of their white inhabitants, has been such as to make the congress very anxious to extend the guilty privilege of slave ownership beyond its actual limits.—The principal document which we have extracted from the American Journal is a sketch of the address addressed by Mr. Rufus King to the senate of the U. States on that is called the Missouri bill tending to show that congress, if it cannot extinguish the evil in the old states, will stipulated originally for its continuance as the price of their accession to the union, can at least restrain all later states, who may be admitted by the authority of the supreme legislature to a partnership in the national sovereignty, from indulging in this odious and criminal traffic. We are happy to find that meeting, in furtherance of the same views, has been held in the city of Philadelphia, and attended by persons of the highest respectability, who declared that they were bound by all the dictates of reason, benevolence, and religion, to oppose with their best efforts the extension of states hereafter to be admitted into the union. A committee of correspondence, consisting of 25, was then appointed to circulate the proceedings of the meeting and to support by its publications the opinions of its members if not wholly eradicated therefrom, the moral position, there is room for hoping will be speedily and severely checked.

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS!

ALEXANDRIA LOU, Dec 24.

The Juniper has returned to Galveston after a short cruise, with a valuable cargo, principally specie. She is the first vessel that sailed under the authority of Texas. She sailed again on the 1st inst. The three remaining prizes who robbed Mr. Lion were taken into custody by order of Gen. Walker, while in the Trinity, and are sent to New Orleans for trial.

GALVESTON, NOV 7.
To the commander of the American cruiser off the port of Galveston.

Sir: I am convinced that you are a cruiser of the navy ordered by your government. I have therefore deemed it proper to enquire into the cause of your lying before this port without communicating your intention I shall by this message inform you, that the port of Galveston belongs to me, is in the possession of the republic of Texas, and was made a port of entry the 9th of Oct. last. And whereas the Supreme Congress of said Republic

has thought proper to appoint me as governor of this place, in consequence of which, if you have any demands on said government, or persons belonging to, or residing in, the same, you will please to send an officer with such demands—whom, you may be assured will be treated with the greatest politeness, and receive every satisfaction required. But if you are ordered, or should attempt to enter this port in a hostile manner, my oath and duty to the government compels me to rebuff your intentions at the expense of my life.

To prove you my intentions towards the welfare and harmony of your government, I send, enclosed, the declaration of several prisoners, who were taken in custody yesterday, and, by a court of inquiry appointed for that purpose, were found to be guilty of robbing the inhabitants of the United States of a number of slaves and other property.

The gentleman bearing this message will give you any other reasonable information relating to this place that may be required.

J. LAFITTE.

U. S. Schooner Lynx,
Off Galveston, Nov. 8, 1819.

Sir: Your note of yesterday has been received; stating the execution of William Brown, the chief of the boats; and your having sent in pursuit of John Hale, William Thompson, and Charles Slater, who had been previously sent from Galveston. From the disposition evinced by you to bring to justice all those who have committed direct acts of piracy on the citizens of the United States, I am induced to believe, that should they or John Kelly, John Lightner, and George Kerth, who appear to be the only survivors not at present in custody, come at any future period in your power, that they will be detained in confinement until they can be sent to the United States for trial. I have returned the passage boat belonging to you, which was taken by my boats on the 5th inst. You will excuse me for not accepting your kind and polite invitation to visit Galveston: the weather will not admit my leaving the vessel at sea, but any communication delivered to the officer who has charge of this, will be duly received.

I am, sir, your's, &c.
J. R. MADISON,
Commanding United States' schooner Lynx.
To the Commander of the forces at Galveston.

NOVEMBER 10.
Sir: It is with pleasure I have to inform you, by the request of Mr. Lafitte, commander of the forces at this place, that, on the 8th inst. I was despatched with the communication to him from Lieutenant Commandant J. R. Madison of the U. S. Navy, and commander of the U. S. schooner Lynx, having been blown off by boisterous and disagreeable weather—that the treatment I have received from him has been the most friendly, generous, and hospitable, and every possible means extended in making the situation of myself and the crew agreeable and comfortable—and every assistance given in securing the persons which had been delivered to me during my stay.

I am, sir, your obedient friend,
J. MINTOSH.
General James Long, President, &c.

The act which has passed the Parliament of England, for the suppression of libellous publications, take in at a sweep all small papers, whether pamphlets, weekly journals, trial reports, or of any description which will not afford a duty of about seven cents on each. There are three ways in which it is to operate: In the first place, every printer must give security to the amount of 500*l.* sterling for the purity of the matter he shall print, then the publisher or printer must pay the stamp duty of 4*d.* English, on each copy; and for the second offence he is to suffer banishment. Sir V. De Crespigne garvly observed upon the bill, just as it was about to be passed, that if the noble Lord Castlereagh should happen to be cut off by the hands of the law, the world would be deprived by the bill of his Lordship's dying speech and confession.—*Phil. Union.*

As frequent mention is made in the public papers, of the reported declaration of the First Teller of the Branch Bank of the U. States at Richmond, we avail ourselves of the information of a correspondent to announce, that the whole amount said to have been drawn from the Bank, has been recovered or satisfactorily secured. The source from whence we derive this fact, leaves no room to doubt of its truth.

Gen. Jackson.—A memorial was

yesterday presented to the Senate, by Mr. King, of New York, from Major General Andrew Jackson, on the subject of the Report made in the Senate of the United States, at the close of the last session of Congress, on the subject of the Seminole War, and the incidents connected with it. Mr. King moved, on account of the length of this paper, that its reading might be dispensed with, and that it might be printed for the use of the members: what further disposition, if any, should be made of it, he had not decided in his own mind. The reading of the memorial, or remonstrance, was required by Mr. Roberts; and part of it was read—after which it was ordered to lie on the table, to give those who chose an opportunity of running their eyes over it, before the question should be taken on ordering it to be printed. The Memorial is couched in strong terms, and contains pointed allusions towards the committee of the last session, &c. We shall not speak further of its contents now, intending, if put into our power, to give to our readers an opportunity of judging of it for themselves. *Nat. Int.*

United States Armory.—The Public Journal, printed at Springfield, (Mass.) contains a particular description of the U. States' works at that town. It appears from the statement, that there are from 240 to 250 men employed at this armory, who manufacture about 45 muskets daily.—The Armory was established by an act of Congress in 1794 and 1795. At the end of December, 1819, there had been completed 152,559 new muskets, 1202 carbines, and 46,414 muskets repaired. The expenses for erection of buildings, and &c. is stated at \$166,136.—The other expenses, exclusive of stock and works on hand 1,906,440 dollars. Total amount of expenditure from the commencement of the works, 2,072,676 dollars.
N. Y. D. Adv.

From the Norfolk Herald.

The number of piracies committed of late both by land and water, as well as the black catalogue of crimes of other descriptions which is daily increasing, tho' they warn us of the innate depravity of human nature, are more the result of artificial than moral causes. During the late wars in Europe, when Commerce and Navigation were the high roads to wealth, the more steady and laborious occupations of life were too often rejected as servile and mean. Parents who could afford to give their boys something of an education, therefore never thought of binding them out to trades: O. No; that was too low—they must be placed behind counters or in counting houses, to learn to be merchants; which, in other words was understood to be to make their fortunes at once. Every body in short, in those days, thought they could live by their wits, better than by the labor of hands—and not only our principal towns but every little village throughout the country, had its merchants and its traders, and the land swarmed with pedlars as Egypt did with locusts.—As for mechanics they were of no consequence, indeed rather an evil, inasmuch as those of them who were in the manufacturing way, such as shoemakers, hatters, saddlers, &c. only served to hurt the sale of similar imported articles. For a while the British manufactures and the Banks together, propped up this system of wit working—but since the peace, these supports have given way and left no other dependence but steady industry and patient toil. The numerous fungi therefore, who hung on the commercial body while there was any sap left have been dispersed and scattered abroad without a trade or profession by which to gain their bread, and without an opportunity of subsisting any longer by their wits—too proud to beg—too lazy to dig.—Hence the numerous swarms of gamblers, swindlers, and robbers which infest the country and fill the newspapers with their exploits. Let us not however despair—If crimes are more numerous than in former times, it is not because the world is growing worse.—The cause of the evil is visible to every reflecting mind, and the effect necessarily incident to the peculiar state of the world, over which human wisdom could have no control.—The next generation will be more pure and irreproachable.

It is a matter of congratulation that the Commissioners of the states of Kentucky and Tennessee have at length agreed upon a Treaty for the settlement of the Boundary Line between them, which has been so long a subject of controversy. We hope this compact will be duly ratified and consented to by all parties.

CHARLESTON, FEB. 12.
Military.—Colonel Bankhead, with

a number of other officers, a detachment of troops, and the elegant Italian band attached to his command, sailed yesterday, on board the U. S. schr. Tartar, Lieut. Com. Paine, for Amelia-Island. The Tartar, we understand, is to touch at Savannah, for the purpose of receiving a further reinforcement of soldiers.

BOSTON, FEB. 18.
In a case, Hopkins versus Norton in the court of Common Pleas, yesterday, for damages sustained by the plaintiff, a black woman, from a dog owned by the defendant, the whole amount of damages 100 dollars, was given; the foreman of the jury observing that damages to double the sum would have been awarded if laid.

From the Alabama Republican of March 4.

We are glad to see that Mr. Lindsley, an agent attached to the Post Office department, between Nashville and St. Louis, Mi has thought proper to visit our town, to inspect the post offices in this vicinity. His timely interference will no doubt correct many of the evils of which we have so often complained. Notwithstanding the numerous representations of abuses in that department, the P. M. General, it seems, has not thought proper to give them his attention; perhaps because they were not communicated to him officially. For the first time we are now informed, that there is an agent, whose duty it is to inspect the offices in this State, and who receives an ample salary for his services. If every officer in that department should be equally vigilant in detecting impositions or abuses, and making the necessary representations to the P. M. General, we should not have had so frequent cause of complaints on account of the irregularities of the mails. We trust that such arrangements will be made previous to Mr. Lindsley's leaving town as will prevent future disappointments in that way.

Editor Alabama Republican,
SIR,

On my arrival at Nashville (Ten) the other day from the north, one of your papers of the 12th February was handed me, in which I observed a paragraph on the subject of the irregularity of the Mails in this vicinity; it also mentioned that a large accumulation of Mails, for the southern part of the State, was detained at the Huntsville office.

It was not my intention to have proceeded far or south than Nashville, which correctly speaking may, perhaps, be considered as the southern boundary of my agency, except in cases of emergency. I felt some delicacy on the subject too, as the Post Master General has an agent at Port Gibson, (Miss) within whose jurisdiction the State of Alabama is particularly included. I concluded the remarks were editorial, and must be correct, at least as to the mails said to be detained here. I thought the subject imperiously called for immediate investigation—and having written to the Post Master General and his agent in Mississippi the particulars of the case, I started for this place. At Fayetteville (Ten.) I found about three bushels of detained Mails: I waited the arrival of the carrier, procured an extra horse of the Post Master and insisted on the transportation of all the mail to Huntsville.

I regret to find, on my arrival, your report as to the detention of the mails here verified.

I am told the contractors from Fayetteville to this office, and hence to St. Stephens, seldom carry all their mails on their trips to the south. I shall remedy the evil as much as lies in my power for the present; and I have fully represented the subject to the Post Master General, who will no doubt adopt immediate measures to compel the contractors to perform their duty—which undoubtedly is, to take in due course all the mails for their respective routes; and where they fail so to do, it is the duty of the Post-master at the office where the mails are left, to forward them by special conveyance, if he can do it at a reasonable rate, to their places of destination.

To your timely observations my interference at this period is due.

Respectfully, your obed't.
ABM. B. LINDSLEY.
Agent G. P. O. west of Louisville (Ky.) and north of Nashville, (Ten.)

We request the attention of Postmasters, generally, to the following instructions, issued by the Post-Master General some time ago, but which may be unknown to many who have subsequently come into office.

General Post Office,
Nov. 16, 1816.

The several Post Masters are hereby requested, whenever a person, to

whom a newspaper is addressed, ceases to take it out of the Post Office, to advise the editor of the paper thereof; and to add, if known, whether the person is dead, moved away, or merely refuses. The mail is burdened with many newspapers, which are a loss to the proprietors, as well as the public.

R. J. MEIGS, Jun.
Post-Master General.

We also request the particular attention of Postmasters on the Southern line to the following instructions of the Post Office Department, the neglect of which, somewhere, causes much inconvenience to the citizens of Alabama &c.

General Post Office,
May 7 1819.

All mails sent from the Atlantic States to Alabama, should be sent via Georgia, except to Huntsville, Somerville, Cotton Port, Athens, Marathon and Florence; which, from the states north and east of South Carolina, should be sent in the Tennessee mail, via Knoxville, Ten.

The attention of Postmasters to this notice is particularly invited.

WESTERN SUN.

VINCENNES MARCH 17, 1820.

Mr. LINDSLEY, one of the agents of the general post-office department, has arrived in this borough from Alabama. The vigilance of this gentleman, proves that there is one man in the public service, who feels himself bound to do something more in performing his official duties, than merely to swallow "the leaves and fishes."

We understand Mr. Lindsley will proceed to St. Louis, and we hope to hear no more complaints respecting old flower barrels, meal bags, &c. &c. being the receptacle of our papers and letters.

We are informed that the Rev. S. T. Scott has been so unfortunate as to have his dwelling destroyed by fire.

We are authorised to announce the following gentlemen as candidates for the office of Associate Judge at the ensuing election.

HENRY RUBLE,
MARK BARNETT,
WILLIAM R. MCALL.
We are also authorised to announce **JOHN DECKER,**
and **JAMES NABB,**

as candidates for the office of Sheriff for this county, at the next election.

Sufferers at Savannah.—The dreadful conflagration which recently laid waste the greater part of that hospitable city, has justly excited an almost universal sympathy throughout the inhabitants of our country. They have evidently contributed as liberally as the exigency of the times would permit. Some individual instances of munificence, for the honor of human nature, deserve to be noticed.—Gov. Clarke, of Georgia, drew an order on the contingent funds of the state for 10,000 dollars, on his own responsibility, and to be paid by him, in the event of the Legislature, when convened, not sanctioning the donation. A Mr. Philip Brash, (baker) of Savannah, publicly advertised that all indigent persons, for the space of eight days, applying to his bakery for bread, should be supplied gratis.

Ken. Herald

It is stated that upwards of ten thousand dollars have been collected by contributions in the city, of New York, for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire at Savannah, besides donations in provisions, &c.—*ib.*

The sum of six thousand dollars has been remitted to the Mayor of Savannah, on account of the collection made in this city for the relief of the sufferers by the late fire. When the collections are completed the balance will be immediately forwarded.

Phil. paper.

An article from Curracoa, of Dec. 4, mentions that accounts had reached St. Thomas from Margaritta, of the independent frigate Victory, of 32 guns, Admiral Brion's flag ship, having sunk at Pampatar, while in the act of heaving down, and carried along with her another brig of war, into such a depth of water, that it is thought they cannot be hove up again.

At the opening of the house of Assembly, Jamaica, Dec. 20, the Governor stated that the number of slaves on the poll tax roll, was 326,958

A letter from an officer of the U. S. frigate *Macedonian*, dated at Valparaiso on the 14th October, says—"We have been to the Gulf of California and Guayaquil—Lord Cochrane has become a free booter, and will probably capture every thing that he can get hold of—property is by no means safe, and it is hoped the American government will direct an additional force to this quarter."