

by us they are to this day enjoying many important commercial advantages.

It is time that this unequal position of affairs should cease, and that Legislative action should be brought to sustain Executive exertion in such measures as the case requires. While France persists in her refusal to comply with the terms of a treaty, the object of which was, by removing all causes of mutual complaint, to renew ancient feelings of friendship, and to unite the two nations in the bonds of amity, and of a mutually beneficial commerce, she cannot justly complain if we adopt such peaceful remedies as the law of nations and the circumstances of the case may authorize and demand. Of the nature of these remedies, I have heretofore had occasion to speak; and, in reference to a particular contingency, to express my conviction that reprisals would be best adapted to the emergency then contemplated. Since that period, France, by all the departments of her Government, has acknowledged the validity of our claims, and the obligations of the treaty, and has appropriated the moneys which are necessary to its execution; and though payment is withheld on grounds vitally important to our existence as an independent nation, it is not to be believed that she can have determined permanently to retain a position so utterly indefensible. In the altered state of the questions in controversy, and under all existing circumstances, it appears to me, that, until such a determination shall have become evident, it will be proper and sufficient to retaliate her present refusal to comply with her engagements, by prohibiting the introduction of French products and the entry of French vessels into our ports. Between this and the interdiction of all commercial intercourse, or other remedies, you, as the representatives of the people, must determine. I recommend the former, in the present posture of our affairs, as being the least injurious to our commerce, and as attended with the least difficulty of returning to the usual state of friendly intercourse, if the Government of France shall render us the justice that is due, and also as a proper preliminary step to stronger measures, should their adoption be rendered necessary by subsequent events.

The return of our Charge d'Affaires is attended with public notices of naval preparations on the part of France, destined for our seas. Of the cause and intent of these armaments, I have no authentic information, nor any other means of judging, except such as are common to yourselves and to the public; but whatever may be their object, we are not at liberty to regard them as unconnected with the measures which hostile movements on the part of France may compel us to pursue. They at least deserve to be met by adequate preparation on our part, and I therefore strongly urge large and speedy appropriations for the increase of the navy, and the completion of our coast defenses. If this array of military force be really designed to affect the action of the Government and people of the United States, on the questions now pending between the two nations, then indeed would it be dishonorable to pause a moment on the alternative which such a state of things would present to us. Come what may, the explanation which France demands can never be accorded; and no armament, however powerful and imposing, at a distance, or on our coast, will I trust, deter us from discharging the high duties which we owe to our constituents, to our national character, and to the world.

The House of Representatives, at the close of the last session of Congress, unanimously resolved, that the treaty of the 17th of July, 1831, should be maintained, and its execution insisted on by the United States. It is due to the welfare of the human race, no less than to our own interests and honor, that this resolution should, at all hazards, be adhered to. If, after so signal an example as that given by the American people, during their long protracted difficulties with France, of forbearance under accumulated wrongs, and of generous confidence in her ultimate return to justice, she shall now be permitted to withhold from us the tardy and imperfect indemnification, which, after years of remonstrance and discussion, had at length been solemnly agreed on by the treaty of 1831, and to set at naught the obligation it imposes, the United States will not be the only sufferers. The efforts of humanity and religion, to substitute the appeals of justice, and the arbitrament of reason, for the coercive measures usually resorted to by injured nations, will receive little encouragement from such an issue. By the selection and enforcement of such lawful and expedient measures as may be necessary to ourselves, and so fatal to the hopes of the philanthropist, we shall therefore not only preserve the pecuniary interests of our citizens, the independence of our Government, and the honor of our country, but do much, it may be hoped, to vindicate the faith of treaties, and to promote the general interests of peace, civilization, and improvement.

ANDREW JACKSON.

WASHINGTON, January 15, 1838.

From the National Intelligencer.

Our readers will have heard, with great interest, the rumor that despatches lately brought to the British Charge d'Affaires by a Special Messenger, in a Government vessel, contain instructions to offer the mediation of the Government of Great Britain between the United States and France, in the existing dispute between them. It gives us pleasure to believe that this rumor is not without foundation, and that an opening has been made, by a magisterial interposition on the part of the British Government, which pro-

vides a certain and happy adjustment of the controversy which unhappily exists between the United States and France.

That the mediation will be accepted, if it has been offered, we will not permit ourselves to doubt. To do so, would be to impute to our Ministry a determination to force a quarrel, and not with a view to either the honor or interest of the country, both of which would undoubtedly be consulted by an amicable termination of the dispute. Every Power, says the most popular writer on the Law of Nations, in treating of mediation in general, owes so much respect to the happiness of human society, as to appear open to every method of reconciliation, when it relates to interests that are not essential. No essential interest, certainly, is involved in the dispute between the United States and France; nothing which can be inflamed to a quarrel unless there is a predetermination towards that climax. If ever there was a case in which mediation, offered by a common friend ought to be accepted by two nations, the controversy between the United States and France is pre-eminently of that character.

"A nation," says Vattel, "is under many obligations, of duty towards itself, towards other nations, and towards the whole human society. We know that, in general, the duties towards ourselves have the advantage over those we owe to others; but we cannot refuse, in some degree, to forget ourselves with respect to interests that are not essential, to make some sacrifices in order to assist other persons, and especially for the greater benefit of the human society; and let us even remark, that we are invited by our own advantage, by our own safety, to make these generous sacrifices; for the private good of each is intimately connected with the general happiness. What ideas should we have of a prince or a nation, who should refuse to give up the smallest advantage to procure the world the inestimable blessing of peace!"

From an authority so justly respected, from reasoning so comprehensive and yet so conclusive, we will detract nothing of the strength by diluting it with any commendations of our own. We await with pleased anticipation the announcement of the acceptance of the proffered mediation of the British Government, and shall not be behind the warmest political friend of the Administration in applauding a course which will prove the sincerity of the professions of a desire for peace which have been made on all public occasions by the Chief Magistrate.

#### COMMENCEMENT OF INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN GEORGIA.

From the Columbus Enquirer of Jan. 29.

An unusual degree of excitement, and probably much alarm too, has been experienced by our citizens within the week past, in consequence of the numberless rumors that have reached them respecting the hostile attitude assumed by the Indians on our south-western frontier, near this place. It would be impossible to sum up in an editorial column, the twentieth part of the tales of intended bloodshed that have reached our ears. One or two of the most prominent are these.—First, that the whole of the lower Creeks had joined the Seminoles, in the Florida war, and were to return upon us, for battle, as soon as they had accomplished a certain object below, which had been done, and they were now on their return march.—Second, that from three to five hundred warriors had crossed our river, 15 miles below Columbus, and had commenced war upon the settlers.—Third, that large assemblages of Indians were being held throughout the nation, and that the subject of talk was the destruction of the whites.—Fourth, that the burning of our city and the massacre of its inhabitants was settled upon by the Indians as the first blow towards a bloody warfare against the whites.

The various stories, with all the exaggeration usual upon such occasions, have been repeated in our streets, our counting houses and around our firesides, until the excitement has become almost unendurable. The whole city and neighborhood have taken up arms, and our streets for three or four days and nights past have presented the appearance of a confused and agitated military camp.—All, with the exception of a few individuals, (who will probably be remembered for their patriotism,) have abandoned their business, shouldered arms, and stand ready to defend the city. Whether we shall have occasion to spill blood is unknown to us. Many of those whose acquaintance and intercourse with the Indians entitle their opinions to respect, think it highly important that we stand by our arms, ready to do battle at a moment's warning. Whether this city is in danger or not, one thing is certain, that the lives and property of the citizens in the settlements on the river below are not secure against the depredations of the merciless Hittites, who have been permitted so long to pursue their lawless outrages, that they have become bold in their hostile movements. We believe the voice of sobriety when we say, that unless immediate steps be taken to chastise, or exterminate this handful of hostile savages, we may expect them to pursue the footsteps of the Seminoles. They have given evidence sufficient of their hostility to the whites, and they have it in their power to do much mischief unless speedily cut off.

#### MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.

During the excitement on Tuesday last, an express arrived in town, informing the commander at this place, that five hundred armed Indians had crossed the river a few miles below Columbus. A small detachment, commanded by Mr. John Watson, was imme-

diately despatched to the spot to ascertain the particulars. When they arrived at Bryant's ferry, 15 miles from this place, they learned that 40 or 50 Indians with rifles had crossed that morning.—about noon the Indians were discovered retiring towards the ferry, and were pursued by the company, composed of about 22 men, who had assembled during the day—only half of whom were armed. When the Indians discovered them they fled to a ravine, from which they commenced a regular fire, which was returned with spirit by the little company.—During the action Mr. M'Byrde, and Mr. Josiah Johnson, both highly respectable young men of this County were killed, and Col. Anderson Spear, and one other gentleman severely wounded. The whites were compelled to quit the field in disorder, leaving their dead upon the ground.—Mr. Watson received several balls through his clothes, and others of the company had their hats pierced in several places. On Tuesday night a volunteer company of 40 men, commanded by Col. Bates, descended the river on the Steam Boat Anna Calhoun, to the place of action, and returned on Wednesday, bringing the bodies of Mr. Johnson and Mr. M'Byrde, which were horridly mangled and bruised by the savages, after the whites quit the field.

The Indians had dispersed, and probably returned to their homes when Col. Bates' Company arrived at the ferry, but so great was the consternation of the settlers that many of them had abandoned their farms to seek a safe retreat at a distance from the river. On Wednesday Evening the bodies of the two unfortunate young men who fell in the battle at Bryant's ferry, were interred with Military honors in the Grave-yard at Columbus.

The Major General of this Division, after consultation with Gen. Bailey of the 10th Division has determined to place the frontier near this place in a state of defence against the further depredations of the Indians.—The following companies have been ordered to repair to the ground where the engagement took place last Tuesday between a party of whites and Indians.

- From Muscogee, four companies
- " Harris, five companies.
- " Talbot, four companies.
- " Stewart, four companies

The only additional news we have received from Florida, is contained in the following P. S. to a letter dated Tallahassee Jan. 17.

P. S. A despatch has this moment arrived, giving information of a skirmish by the company under the command of Capt. Alton, and about forty Indians. Nine Indians killed and wounded—two whites wounded, one slightly, the other dangerously.

#### THE NEW YORK PLOT.

The Richmond Whig lately published a curious correspondence between Messrs. Griffin, Cleveland, and Campbell, Counsellors at Law, 44 Wall St., New York, and Mr. Joseph Mayo, a respectable lawyer of this City. Three very worthy Counsellors applied to Mr. Mayo, for his assistance in establishing a system of espionage in this City, &c. "It seems," we quote the synopsis of the Frederickburg Arena, "from the circular of instructions, and the specimens of returns expected, that this firm is sustained by a portion of the Merchants of New York, by the payment of an annual subscription; that it has established agents, members of the Bar, throughout the United States—that all collections for the subscribers are made by these agents, who, in return for the patronage of the firm of 44 Wall St., are bound to make a semi-annual report of the standing of the merchants in their respective Towns and districts. The circular is very minute in its directions as to the best means of obtaining information. Intimacy with Bank officers and deputy sheriffs is recommended; and every information, in relation to the fortune, connections, habits, &c. &c. of the Merchant, is earnestly solicited."

But they caught a Tartar. Mr. Mayo repelled their infamous proposition with scorn and indignation. He tells them, that "Before one can be admitted to the bar in Virginia, it must be certified of record that he is a man of honesty, probity and good demeanor. To accept your proposition, and voluntarily take upon myself the duties of a foreign commission of espionage upon my fellow citizens, is inconsistent with my notions of probity and good demeanor. I should thereby falsify a record made in my own behalf; nor could I, indeed, after such an act of turpitude, confide in my own honesty. The very preliminary requisition made of me, to furnish such testimonials as will ensure the confidence of the New York merchants, is a draft upon perfidy. From whom and for what purpose are these recommendations to be furnished? From my neighbors, to ensure confidence in my semi-annual reports to you of my treachery to them. In technical language, which mercantile lawyers understand, (though all may not be able to appreciate the nature,) you will pardon the non-acceptance and protest of this draft, for want of funds; and if any damage is sustained, I have only to say it is the fault of the drawers."

So far, so well.—But in these days, every thing must be turned into the kennels of party. It would appear, that the genius of party, is as busy in extracting nourishment from every thing, as the poor Mouse of Shenstone was when he found his way into a library:

In books of geography,  
He made the maps to flutter,  
A river or a sea,  
Was to him a dish of tea.

And a kingdom, bread and butter!

The Whig gave one touch at the political views of New York, while he denounced this scheme of commercial espionage—and the Evening Star, always "true to his rotation," redoubled the blow. The N. Y. Times then takes up the matter, and gives us the following information:—"The Evening Star, in its anxiety to cross the Old Dominion at the expense of the State of New York, has overreached itself. It has shot its arrow over the house and wounded one of the best of its Whig brethren. The Mr. Cleveland whom it accuses of an attempt to put the merchants of Virginia under a commercial collar, is the Whig Assistant Alderman of the second ward. The transaction referred to is this: that Mr. Cleveland, the political friend of the Star, has, in conjunction with his partners, addressed a letter to a counsellor at law in Richmond, requesting his services as *chef de police*, in giving information of the pecuniary condition, and moral standing and habits of the merchants and traders of every city, town and village in Virginia. This the Star pronounces a disgraceful demand. Well, Mr. Star, if the cap which you have made for your Whig friends fits them, let them wear it, and thank you for the gift. We join with you in your just indignation. The Star compares the conduct of its Whig brother, to the worst part of the inquisitorial French police.

The editor of the Richmond Whig says of the whole affair:

"It is but one ramifications of the plot to render the whole country tributary, politically and commercially, to the aggrandizement of the 'Empire State.'"

"Well said, Mr. Richmond Whig.—You may now learn who are the agents in this matter. The man, whom you denounce is a Whig office-holder in this city, and a political brother of the Fat-staff of the Star"—*Richmond Eq.*

#### AN ACT.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same,* That any person hereafter appointed by the Legislature or the Board, a Commissioner of Free Schools, who refuses to serve shall be fined the sum of twenty dollars, to be recovered for the use of the Free Schools of the District or parish, before any Justice of the peace; provided however, that no person shall be compelled to serve more than three years in six.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That any Commissioner of Free Schools, who, being notified thereof shall neglect, without a sufficient excuse, to be allowed by the Board, to attend a regular or special meeting of the Board, shall be fined the sum of five dollars, which shall be recovered and applied in the manner expressed in the first section.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That on or before the first day of March next, the Commissioners of Free Schools, in their respective districts and parishes, shall divide the district or parish into as many school divisions as in their discretion they may deem best; provided that the number of school divisions shall not be less than the number of schools, if there be as many schools as Commissioners in the district or parish.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That one Commissioner shall be appointed by the Board, to superintend each of said school divisions, who shall be liable to the penalties hereinafter imposed for neglect of duty in respect to the schools under his charge.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That the Board of Commissioners in any district or parish, shall not employ any Teacher, until he shall have been first examined by the Board, and found qualified for that duty.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That each Board of Commissioners shall nominate and appoint three Trustees to each school in their respective districts and parishes, whose duty it shall be, with the commissioner of the school division, to supervise the school submitted to their care and recommend applicants for admission.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That the Commissioner of each School division for neglect or abuse of powers and duties entrusted to him by law, shall be liable to indictment, and on conviction shall be fined an amount not less than twenty dollars, nor more than fifty dollars. And that for neglect of the powers and duties entrusted by law to the Board of Commissioners, they shall be liable to indictment; and on conviction of one or more of said Commissioners, he or they shall be severally fined a sum not less than twenty, nor more than fifty dollars.

#### NOTICE.

THE assignee of James R. Carter, will divide the funds in his hands, among the creditors who have accepted under the deed of assignment, and will pay the same over on the 10th of February next, at the office of J. M. DESAUSURE, Esq.

Feb. 6-2:11

#### ATTENTION TROOPERS!

IN pursuance of Regimental orders, you will parade in Camden, on Monday the 21st day of March next, at 8 o'clock precisely, properly armed and equipped for drill and inspection, to attend an encampment.

Each member will be required to provide for himself and horse. By order of Captain Boykin.

J. F. BRYANT, O. S.

Feb. 6-2:11

#### THE JOURNAL

CAMDEN, FEBRUARY 6, 1838.

#### PUBLIC MEETING.

We have been requested to invite the citizens of Kershaw District, to meet at the Court House on Monday next, at 12 o'clock M. for the purpose of taking measures to furnish horses to such of the volunteers for the Florida service, as may stand in need of them.

#### FLORIDA SERVICE.

Orders were received here yesterday, from the Commander-in-Chief, by Brigadier General James W. Canley, directing him to levy immediately, from his Brigade, three companies, to act as mounted riflemen or infantry, and to proceed forthwith to Puryburg above Savannah, and report themselves to an officer of the United States army, who will be in waiting there to muster them into service.

In pursuance of these orders, the Brigadier Gen. has ordered the companies wanted, to be raised from the Regiments commanded by Colonels CHERRY, LIGHTNER and REYNOLDS. Col. CHERRY'S Regiment will parade in Camden on Monday next, for the purpose of meeting this call of the Commander in Chief.

#### THE SEMINOLE WAR.

We have nothing new, from the scene of action, in relation to these depredations of the savages. In deed, since the arrival of the Volunteers, in Florida, from Charleston, Savannah and Augusta, the Indians, have not as we have learned, made any regular attack, at any particular point. They continue, as opportunity offers to commit depredations on the property of those, who have been compelled to leave their possessions exposed.

General SCOTT, who is by this time, in that Territory, with instructions to reduce the Indians to unconditional submission, will no doubt carry on the campaign vigorously. Hitherto, the whites have acted mostly on the defensive.

In relation to the rumored hostilities of some of the Creek Indians, the latest information from that quarter will be found in an article from the Columbus (Geo.) paper, in another column. We are indebted, for this extract, to the office of the Times and Gazette.

#### THE SPECIAL MESSAGE.

We are rather late to venture, in laying this document before our readers, owing however, to circumstances, beyond our control. It is no less important now though, than it was a week ago, and we do not hesitate therefore, late as it is, to give it a place in our columns. It is a document which will be read by all, with that deep interest which the importance of the subject on which it treats demands. Our readers will find it much more mild in its tone and recommendations than they anticipated, particularly if they have estimated the character of the President, and his wishes on the subject, by the representations of his opponents. They represent him as signing, in every thing connected with this matter, to involve the country in war, with how much justice, we leave those to judge, who have before them, the mild and temperate, but firm and dignified suggestions of the message which will be found in another part of this paper. All must admit that it was necessary, in the present state of our controversy with France, that something should be done, and there are certainly none deserving the name of American, who will contend that the President could have done less. A qualified non-intercourse, was the mildest and most pacific course he could have recommended. Notwithstanding however the great moderation which characterized, as well the message at the opening of the present session of Congress, as the one now under consideration, we cannot like some of our brethren of the Press, being ourselves to the belief, that this question is to be amicably, peacefully adjusted. We cannot divest ourselves of the opinion that war is to be the result. The question has assumed such a character, that this result appears to us unavoidable, if France, continue to maintain the position she has taken, without an absolute and unqualified abandonment on our part, of all pretensions to National dignity and honor. We regret that there should be found any, but there are a few, and some even in the Councils of the Nation, who, it would seem are willing to go even thus far, rather than support the honor and dignity of the country, if by doing so, they found themselves sustaining the means of the administration.

Some, and not a few of the editorial corps, seem to entertain the opinion, that no action should be had on the recommendations of the President until it shall be seen what effect the Annual Message will have on the French Ministry, supposing that the declarations in that document will perhaps convey the desired explanations, and that the money will be paid. With these we differ entirely; France will find in that Message a promise, that in a certain contingency a Special Message is to be sent, and she will not act, until she sees the nature of that, and then we must again wait for the effect of the Special Message, and thus we may continue to wait, without preparation, until our supineness shall become a by word and a reproach.

The Legislature of Pennsylvania have appointed a committee, for the purpose of enquiring into the evils of Free Masonry, and some dozen or two of the fraternity summoned before them to give evidence on the points in question. They all however, protested against the authority of the Committee, and refused to be sworn, were brought before the bar of the House to answer for a contempt, and finally discharged. We extract the following from the protest of JONAS RANDALL, Esquire.

"During the time the undersigned has been a mason he has never known a political vote give in committee caucus, convention, at the polls, or elsewhere that was governed by masonic considerations; nor did he ever know any selection or appointment to office either popular, legislative, executive or judicial, which he had any reason to believe was influenced by such considerations. He has also, during the same period, been chosen