THE VILLAGE HERALD.

BY JOHN S. ZIEBER. PRINCESS-ANNE, SOMERSET COUNTY, MARYLAND.

VOL. V. TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 13, 1831. NO. 37.

From Bell's Weekly Messenger.

DISTRESSES AND DIFFICULTIES IN GENERAL TRADE, AND THE CAUSES EXPLAINED.

It is impossible to look around us, and not perceive that great distress exists in every branch of trade, commerce and manufacture. From the year 1821 to 1824 agriculture labored under the heaviest pressure. It has partially revived, though it experienced a slight relapse last year, but trade and commerce, since the fatal blow which they experienced in 1826, has never recovered, fresh embarrassments have arisen, and new ones every day thickening over them.

We have been accustomed of late to see names in the Gazette, which every man deemed as firmly fixed in their counting-houses as our native oaks in their forests — further tempest has torn them up, and many of them now lie prostrate on the highways, whose names have been long emblazoned in the first walls of commerce and opulence. — It has been with great regret that we have seen such names as those of Nanning, Palmer, and others, formerly East India and Bank Directors, added to the list of bankrupts.

If we seek the causes of this extensive misfortunes, we find many of them sufficiently apparent. The Bank circulation has shunned two millions within little more than a year. If we take the period of the late revolution in France, we find that its circulation was been contracted within that time from 29,200,000 to 17,250,000. The funds with a the same period have declined from 82 to 51. All the great staples of the country have been diminished in the same proportion — Wool and woollen yarn notwithstanding their gain the beginning of the year, much owing, as we believe to the speculation of American dealers, have fallen back in their usual quotations. Cotton was scarce ever lower, and this cannot be ascribed to the excessive importation. Iron, both in Wales and Staffordshire, is at most ruinous prices — coal is so low in our own market, and so depressed abroad by the competition of the Scotch mines, — where it is picked up upon the surface of the soil, and requires little more than smelting, — as to afford no remunerating price. Colonial produce not excepting that which is grown by the monopoly of the East India Company, is reduced to an unparalled extent.

The state of things which we have above sketched depends upon documents which we cannot alter, viz. the Price Currents, and therefore we cannot be suspected of exaggeration. But these disasters, confined in the beginning to the wholesale dealer, have at length passed into the retail trade.

It was observed by Sir R. Peel, in his speech on the Reform Bill, that, notwithstanding the largest season ever known in London, the pressure on all shops keepers had been most severe, and retail trade had been cut to the quick; and at a late interview between Lord Grey and a deputation from Birmingham, Lord G. admitted that manufactured goods had fallen fifty per cent. since the alteration of the currency.

But there is further evidence of the appalling distress of the times in the number of writs issued during the last two years and a half. By the report of the Law Commissioners, it appears that seventy thousand writs have been filed for holding debtors to bail within that period. In all manufacturing districts, at this moment, legal processes are send out to a frightful extent, and more particularly in the potteries and hardware districts.

Having made this short and melancholy statement, and with no purpose of inducing gloom, where it is our duty to prompt to energy and exertion, we proceed shortly to point out the two main causes of the present stagnation and distress, in addition to what we have above detailed. They appear to be these:—First, the political state of Europe. Secondly, the fluctuating system of finance pursued by Ministers.

The uncertain condition of public affairs has unhinged all the markets of the Continent, and the revolution of the dreadful pestilence of the cholera has augmented the evils arising from public agitation. The great markets of Germany have been thronged during the spring, the summer, and autumn, than was ever known. The large dealers who used to arrive from Bohemia and Hungary, are kept at home from the apprehensions of the plague, while the civil war in Poland has not only interrupted the dealings of the provinces on the banks of the Vistula and Niemen, but has shut out from the markets of Europe the numerous Russian merchants who come from the extreme banks of the Wolga and the Don. The rich provinces of Gallicia and Dalmatia have been deterred, by the same causes, from the German mart; and though our trade with Italy and the Archipelago has not suffered to the same extent, it has still been detained in a great degree by the like disturbing effects.

It is not to be doubted, therefore, that the agitated state of Europe, in addition to the evils of that dreadful pestilence which swells by day, and whose arrow flieth by night, have produced the most disastrous consequences to our general trade and commerce.

Our large trade with America has not indeed failed us, but the Southern States are in a condition so wasted and unsafe, that their custom no has been more than nominal since the late change of the government of the Brazils, the commerce with that part of the globe has been almost stagnant, and the merchants' thinks himself fortunate if he can get his goods back without expecting any sale or a remittance.

If such have been the effects upon the trade and commerce from the political relations of Europe, candor requires us to add, that the pecuniary system of finance pursued by the Ministers has been the second disturbing cause.

We do not blame Lord Althorp for those elements which he could not see — [illegible] to the state of the House of Com- [illegible] he first brought forward his budget. But the Canada Timber Bill has been productive of great embarrassment in that large branch of our trade. Our own opinions upon this Bill have been before expressed; but the plan of equalizing, or nearly equalizing, the duties upon Baltic and Canada timbers, should not have been openly abandoned during the present session, or otherwise firmly maintained. Lord Allthorp has pursued neither of these courses. He has tampered with the timber trade, and has thereby struck a blow at the most active branch of industry, which is connected with the large subject matter both of our navigation and imports, and domestic labor and building.

It has been nearly the same as regards the wine trade. It is now nearly 18 months since these alterations in those duties were first proposed, and strictly proposed. The Bill is not yet passed, and the stagnation of trade, which commenced from the first notoriety of the new finance measure, has still continued. If we look into the Gazette we shall find that nearly *one hundred* wine merchants have become bankrupts since Lord Althorp's Bill was first launched in the House of Commons.

Another large class of commercial men has also suffered from the uncertainty of our financial system — the West India merchants. A promise, as sacred almost as any public pledge could be, had been given to them, to relieve their produce from some parts of its taxation; this is at least from the old war duties. — They were completely unprovided in the last budget, and the consequence has been, — the most severe and appalling failures amongst the merchants connected with the West India trade.

VILLAGE HERALD.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Three Dollars a year, to be satisfied by $2 00 *if paid in advance*; or $2 50 if paid within six months.

☞ Subscriptions will be taken for less than one year.

No paper will be discontinued, unless at the editor's discretion, until all arrearages are paid up, and at least twenty additional numbers, previous to the expiration of the term subscribed for, will be invariably considered as a new engagement.

☞ Papers sent by mail will be subject to postage, to be paid by the subscribers.

Any person procuring six responsible names will be entered three times — or 13 and 78 cents for every subsequent insertion; those exceeding a square in like proportion.

☞ Persons advertising a set limit the number of insertions, otherwise their advertisements will be continued till forbid, and charged accordingly.

☞ All communications must be post paid to insure attention.

Dissolution of Partnership.

BY mutual consent of parties a dissolution of co partnership has taken place in the firm of

Curtis & Langsdale.

For the future the concern will be conducted by Edward W. Curtis, alone, who continues to solicit public patronage, and pledges himself to give general satisfaction. All arrears in relation to the firm will be settled by said Curtis, by consent of parties

EDWARD W. CURTIS,
JOHN LANGSDALE.

Princess-Anne, Dec. 1, 1831.

Public Sale.

BY virtue of an order of the Orphans Court, the subscriber will offer at Public Sale, on WEDNESDAY the 21st of DECEMBER next, at the late residence of Tubman Cox, deceased, as the

PERSONAL PROPERTY

of said deceased, (negroes excepted) consisting of *Horses, Cattle, Farming Utensils, Corn, Fodder, Household and Kitchen Furniture*, and other articles. Terms to be made known on the day of sale. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M.

ANN COX, Admr.
Nov. 29, 1831. of T. Cox, dec'd.

NOTICE.

THE creditors of the undersigned, a petitioner for the benefit of the insolvent laws of Maryland, are hereby notified to be and appear at Somerset County Court, on the first Tuesday in the next May Term thereof, to make objections, if any they have, why he should not be finally discharged.

ROBERT COLBOURNE.

Nov. 29, 1831.

State of Maryland, sc.

SOMERSET COUNTY ORPHANS COURT.

November 25, 1831.

On application to Wilson H. Dennis Ayworth, Administrator of Isaac Horne, late of Somerset County, deceased, it is ordered by the Court that the said Administrator give the notice required by law, for creditors to exhibit their claims against the estate of the said deceased, and that the same be published once a week, for three successive weeks in a paper printed in Princess-Anne.

True Copy. Test,
JAMES POLK, Reg. W. S. C.

In compliance with the above Order

Notice is hereby given.

That the subscriber, of Somerset County, hath obtained from the Orphans' Court of said County, in Maryland, letters of administration on the personal estate of Isaac Harris, late of said county, deceased. All persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, on or before the 25th day of June next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. Given under my hand this 22d day of November, A. D. 1831.

WM. H. ACWORTH, Admr.
Nov 29, 1831 of Isaac Harris, dec'd

NOTICE.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber on store accounts, or for other dealings, are respectfully requested to come forward and make payment, on or before the 25th day of December next. After that date I shall proceed to warrant those who may neglect this notice, without respect to persons.

WM. H. ACWORTH.

Nov 29, 1831

N. B. I will attend at Upper Fairmount on the several public days, viz. on the 24th and the 26th of December.

NOTICE.

THE creditors of Thomas South, are hereby notified that he has applied for the benefit of the insolvent laws of Maryland, and that the first Tuesday in the next May term of Somerset county court is the day appointed for his appearance before the judges of said court to answer such interrogatories as may then and there be propounded to him relative to his said application.

Nov. 29, 1831.

George W. Griffith.

TAILOR

And Ladies' Habit Maker.

Respectfully informs the citizens of Princess-Anne and its vicinity, that he has taken the room formerly occupied by Mr. Thomas C. Dashiell, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its various branches in the neatest and most fashionable manner. He will receive from London, Philadelphia and New York, the first publications, for all kinds of fashions, as soon as they are published.

Also the last improved Patent Seat from the London and Paris fashions, for an Amazon Ladies' Riding Dress, which, when finished, are cut and made in a style and form that is equally easy and supported by none. He pledges himself to do his work decidedly cheaper than any other workman in the place, and hopes by unremitting attention to business, and punctuality in all engagements to please and to merit a liberal share of public patronage.

Oct 18, 1831

Public Vendue.

BY virtue of an order of the Orphans Court of Somerset County, will be exposed to Public Sale on WEDNESDAY the 28th instant, at the late residence of Isaiah Horsman, late of Somerset county, dec'd. all the

Personal Property

Of said deceased, consisting of

Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Farming Utensils, Household & Kitchen Furniture, Corn and Fodder—also, one half of the Schooner Eaborius, and one Scow.

On a credit of six months for all purchases over five dollars, the purchaser or purchasers giving bond with approved security, bearing interest from the day of sale. For all sums of, and under five dollars, the cash will be required, and no property to be removed until the terms of sale are complied with. The sale to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M.

MARGARET HAYMAN, Ex'x
of Isaiah Hayman, dec'd.

Dec. 6, 1831.

$50 REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, in Westover, in this county, on Wednesday the 30th inst.

A NEGRO BOY NAMED ISAAC,

aged about 18 years, about 5 feet and 6 or 7 inches high, of a light brown or chestnut color, and has dark yellow teeth, probably from the use of tobacco. Had on when he left two suits of pantaloons and two jackets, of white Virginia cloth, which were made for him last summer, and are pretty much worn. He also wore an old round hat, and shoes some what worn. Any person securing said boy so that I can get him, and in formation so I can get him, shall receive the above reward, or if the negro be secured so that I can get him, and in formation where I can get him, I will give the above reward, payable if the negro be delivered to me. Any person harboring him will be dealt with as the law directs.

I also hereby forewarn all persons from harboring him without my knowledge.

DANIEL J. DASHIELL

Dec. 6, 1831.

Public Vendue.

BY virtue of an order of the Orphans Court of Somerset County, the subscriber will offer at Public Vendue, on WEDNESDAY the 28th of DECEMBER next, at the late residence of Abraham Hayman, late of Somerset county, dec'd. all the

Personal Estate

of said deceased, consisting of

Negroes, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Corn, Fodder, Farming Utensils, Household & Kitchen Furniture, and various other articles.

The terms to sale will be a credit of six months on all sums of and over five dollars, the purchasers giving bond with approved security, on all purchases for dollars, the cash will be required, and no property to be removed until the terms of sale are complied with. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock, A. M. on said day, and continue from day to day till all the property is sold.

WM. H. ACWORTH, Admr
of Abel Harris, dec'd

Nov. 29, 1831

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

IN pursuance of an order of Somerset County Court, passed in November term, 1831, on the case of Wm. Jones, Administrator of Thomas Jones, against the Executors, and devisees of Charles Jones, deceased, the creditors of the said Charles Jones are notified to exhibit and file their claims, with the vouchers thereof, with the Clerk of the said Court, on or before the second day of May Term next.

L. K. WILLIAMS, Trustee.

December 6, 1831

Public Vendue.

WILL be offered at public sale, on Wednesday the 21st day of December next, at the late residence of *Levin Daniel*, dec'd. all the

Personal Property

Of said deceased, as grows excepted consisting of

Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Household and Kitchen Furniture, Corn and Fodder, Farming and Wood.

Terms of sale and other conditions to be made known on the day of sale. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.

NANCY McDORMAN, Admx
of L. McDorman, dec'd

Nov 29 1831

Overseer Wanted.

A sober, steady man, of experience, and well recommended, can hear of a situation immediately by applying at the Village Herald Office.

Railway.

[illegible]

THE PUBLIC [illegible]

SALE

[illegible]

And that I [illegible]

A GENERAL [illegible]

ENDORSE [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[

PRO PATRIÆ LIBERTATIS.

VILLAGE HERALD.

Princess-Anne, Md.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1831.

Congress met on Monday the 5th inst. Mr. Smith, of Md. in the absence of the Vice President, took the chair of the Senate, and Andrew Stevenson, of Virginia, was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. After the usual routine of business, both Houses adjourned to meet on Tuesday at 12 o'clock. On that day a committee waited on the President of the United States to receive any communication he might be pleased to make to Congress, when he sent in the following

MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate, and House of Representatives:

The representation of the People has been renewed for the 22nd time since the Constitution they formed has been in force. For near half a century the Chief Magistrates who have been successively chosen have made their annual communications of the state of the nation to its representatives. Generally, these communications have been of the most gratifying nature, testifying an advance in all the requirements of social, and all the securities of political life. But frequently, and justly, as you have been called on to be grateful for the bounties of Heaven, for the full yearly odds have they been more abundantly or extensively bestowed than at the present; rarely, if ever, have we had greater reason to congratulate each other on the continued and increasing prosperity of our beloved country.

Agriculture, the first and most important occupation of man, has unquestioned the labors of the husbandman will plentiful crops of all the varied products of our extensive country. Manufactures have been established, in which the funds of the capitalist find a profitable investment, and which give employment and subsistance to a numerous and increasing body of industrious and dexterous mechanics. The laborer is rewarded by high wages, in the construction of works of internal improvement, which are extending with unprecedented rapidity. Science is steadily penetrating the recesses of nature, and disclosing her secrets, while the ingenuity of free minds is subjecting the elements to the power of man, and making them our conquest auxiliary to his comfort. By our mails, whose speed is regularly increased, and whose routes are every year extended, the communication of public intelligence and private business is rendered frequent and safe—the intercourse between distant cities, which it formerly required weeks to accomplish, is now effected in a few days; and in the construction of railroads, and application of steam-power, we have a reasonable prospect that the extreme parts of our country will be so much approximated, and those most isolated by the obstacles of nature, rendered so accessible as to remove an apprehension, sometimes entertained, that the great extent of the Union would endanger its permanent existence.

If, from the satisfactory view of our agriculture, manufactures, and internal improvements, we turn to the state of our foreign relations and trade with foreign Nations, all between the States, we shall scarcely find a less cause for gratulation. A beneficial [illegible] has [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] engagement, an extensive [illegible] by capacious bays, noble [illegible] seas, with a country productive of every material for ship building, every commodity for [illegible] and filled with a population, active, enterprising, well informed and fearless of danger. These advantages are not neglected: and an impulse has lately been given to commercial enterprise, which fills our shipyards with new constructions, encourages all the arts and branches of industry connected with them, crowds the wharves of our cities with vessels, and covers the most distant seas with our canvas.

For a grateful sense of these blessings to the beneficent Being who has conferred them, and who secures us to indulge a reasonable hope of their continuance and extension, while we neglect not the means by which they may be preserved, it is necessary due to judge of His future designs by the manner in which His past favors have been bestowed. He has made our national prosperity to depend on the preservation of our national liberties—and our liberties on our federal union—and our union on mutual forbearance and concession, and a watchful jealousy of encroachments on our state rights and local institutions. If we are prosperous at home, respected abroad, it is because we are free, united, and virtuous, and obedient to the laws. While we continue so, we shall, by the blessing of Heaven, go on in the happy career we have begun, and which has brought us, in the short period of our political existence, from a population of three to thirteen millions—from thirteen separate Colonies to twenty-four United States—from weakness to strength—from a rank scarcely marked in the scale of Nations to a high place in their respect.

The first advantage is one which has resulted in a great degree from the principles which have guided our intercourse with foreign Powers—there we have secured an equal station among them; and [illegible] the annual account which the Executive renders to the country, of the manner in which that branch of his duties has been fulfilled, proves instructive and salutary.

The pacific and wise policy of our Government kept us in a state of neutrality during the wars that have, at different periods, [illegible] our political existence, been carried on by other Powers: but this policy, while it grew activity and extent to our commerce, exposed it in the same proportion to injuries from the belligerent nations. Hence have arisen claims of indemnity for those injuries. England, France, Spain, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Naples, and lately Portugal, had all, in a greater or less degree, infringed our neutral rights. Demands for reparation were made upon all. They have had in all, a continue to have in some cases, a leading influence on the nature of our relations with the Powers on whom they were made.

Of the claims upon England it is unnecessary to speak, further than to say, that the state of things to which their prosecution and denial gave rise has been at length succeeded by arrangements, productive of mutual good feeling and amicable relations between the two countries, which it is hoped will not be interrupted. One of these is that relating to the colonial trade, which was communicated to Congress at the last session; and although the short period which has since elapsed, has not yet been [illegible] to form an accurate judgment of its operation, there is every reason to believe that it will prove highly beneficial. The trade thereby opened was very soon, and which operated to the 30th September last, upwards of 30,000 tons of American, and 15,000 tons of foreign shipping in the outward voyage, and in the inward, [illegible] the [illegible] amount of American, and 20,000 only of foreign tonnage. Advantages, too, have resulted to our agricultural interests from the state of the trade between Canada and our Territories and States bordering on the St. Lawrence and the Lakes, which may prove more than equivalent to the loss sustained by the discrimination in favor of the trade of the Northern colonies with the West Indies.

After our transition from the state of colonies to that of an independent nation, many points were found necessary to be settled between us and Great Britain. Among them was the demarkation of boundaries, not described with sufficient precision in the Treaty of Peace. Some of the lines that divide the States and Territories of the United States from the British Provinces, have been ultimately fixed. That, however, which separates us from the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick to the North and the East, was still in dispute when I came into office, and will continue [illegible] arrangements made for its settlement, of which I had no control. The Commissioners who had been appointed under the provision of the Treaty of Ghent, having been unable to agree, a convention was made with Great Britain by my immediate predecessor in office, with the advice and consent of the Senate, by which it was agreed, "that the point of difference which they have arisen in the settlement of the boundary line between the American and British dominions, as described in the 5th article of the Treaty of Ghent, shall be referred to some friendly Sovereign or State, who shall be invited to investigate, and make a decision upon the points of difference" And the King of the Netherlands having by the late President and his Britannic Majesty been designated as such friendly Sovereign, it became my duty to carry into good faith the agreement so made into full effect. To this end I caused all the measures to be taken which were necessary to a full exposition of our case before the Sovereign Arbiter; and nominated as Minister Plenipotentiary to his Court a distinguished citizen of the State most interested in the question, and who has been one of the ablest personally employed in settling the controversy. On the part of every fact, the Majesty the King of the Netherlands has acceded to the Plenipotentiaries of the United States, and of Great Britain, his written opinion of the case referred to him. The papers in relation to the subject will be communicated, by a special message, to the proper branch of the Legislature, with the perfect confidence that its wisdom will adopt such measures as will secure an amicable settlement of the controversy, without infringing any constitutional right of the States immediately interested.

It affords me satisfaction to inform you that suggestions, made by my direction to the Charge d' Affaires of His Britannic Majesty, to this Government, have had their desired effect in producing the release of certain American citizens who were imprisoned for setting out the boundary of the State of Maine, at a place in the disputed territory under the actual jurisdiction of his Britannic Majesty. From this, and the friendly manner in which the desire of the local authorities to avoid any cause of collision, I have the best hopes that a good understanding will be kept up until it is confirmed by the final disposition of the subject.

The amicable relations which now subsist between the United States and Great Britain, the increasing intercourse between their citizens, and the fast-multiplying evidences of friendly prejudice in which former events naturally gave rise—concurred to present this as a fit period for renewing our endeavors to provide against the recurrence of causes of enmity of irritation, which in the event of war between G. Britain and any other Power, would inevitably endanger our peace. Animated by the sincerest desire to avoid such a state of things, and perceiving fully to secure, under all possible circumstances, the rights and honor of the country, I have given, and do give, [illegible] to the [illegible] to the Court of London, as will evince that desire, and if met in which that branch of his duties has by a correspondent disposition, which we cannot doubt, will put an end to causes of collision, which without advantage to either, tend to estrange from each other two nations who have every reason to preserve, not only peace, but an intercourse of the most amicable nature.

In my communication at the opening of the last session of Congress, I expressed a confident hope that the justice of our claims on France, urged as they were with persevering [illegible] by the Minister there, would finally be acknowledged. This hope has been realized. A Treaty has been signed, which will immediately be laid before the Senate, for its approbation; and which, containing stipulations that require Legislative acts, must have the concurrence of both Houses before it can be carried into effect. By it, the French Government engage to pay a sum which, if not quite equal to that which may be found due to our citizens, will yet, it is believed, under all circumstances, be deemed satisfactory by those interested. The offer of a gross sum, instead of the satisfaction of each individual claim, was accepted, because the only alternatives were to refuse a peremptory examination of those submitted to be due on each claim, which might, in some instances, be exaggerated by design in others overrated through error, and in others [illegible] and unjust to have insisted on, or a settlement by a mixed commission, to which the French Negociator was utterly averse, and which experience in other cases had shown to be dilatory, and often wholly inadequate to the end. A comparatively small sum is stipulated to be paid down; the residue in annual instalments of [illegible] each, after the ratification of the treaty and an arrangement of the time of payment, by the Government, and a reduction of duties on our Cotton and their Wines has been agreed to, as a [illegible] and [illegible] consideration of an important claim for commercial privileges, under the construction they gave to the Treaty for the cession of Louisiana.

Should this Treaty receive the proper sanction, a source of irritation will be stopped, that has, for so many years, interrupted the harmony between the two nations who, from interest as well as the remembrance of early associations, ought to cherish the most friendly relations—and encouragement will be given for perseverance in the demands of justice, by this new proof, that, if steadily pursued, they will be listened to—and ultimately, though tardily, yielded to those Powers, however, which separates us from the Provinces of Canada and New Brunswick to the North and the East, was still in dispute when I came into office, and will continue [illegible] arrangements made for its settlement, of which I had no control. The Commissioners who had been appointed under the provision of the Treaty of Ghent, having been unable to agree, a convention was made with Great Britain by my immediate predecessor in office, with the advice and consent of the Senate, by which it was agreed, "that the point of difference which they have arisen in the settlement of the boundary line between the American and British dominions, as described in the 5th article of the Treaty of Ghent, shall be referred to some friendly Sovereign or State, who shall be invited to investigate, and make a decision upon the points of difference" And the King of the Netherlands having by the late President and his Britannic Majesty been designated as such friendly Sovereign, it became my duty to carry into good faith the agreement so made into full effect. To this end I caused all the measures to be taken which were necessary to a full exposition of our case before the Sovereign Arbiter; and nominated as Minister Plenipotentiary to his Court a distinguished citizen of the State most interested in the question, and who has been one of the ablest personally employed in settling the controversy. On the part of every fact, the Majesty the King of the Netherlands has acceded to the Plenipotentiaries of the United States, and of Great Britain, his written opinion of the case referred to him. The papers in relation to the subject will be communicated, by a special message, to the proper branch of the Legislature, with the perfect confidence that its wisdom will adopt such measures as will secure an amicable settlement of the controversy, without infringing any constitutional right of the States immediately interested.

It affords me satisfaction to inform you that suggestions, made by my direction to the Charge d' Affaires of His Britannic Majesty, to this Government, have had their desired effect in producing the release of certain American citizens who were imprisoned for setting out the boundary of the State of Maine, at a place in the disputed territory under the actual jurisdiction of his Britannic Majesty. From this, and the friendly manner in which the desire of the local authorities to avoid any cause of collision, I have the best hopes that a good understanding will be kept up until it is confirmed by the final disposition of the subject.

The amicable relations which now subsist between the United States and Great Britain, the increasing intercourse between their citizens, and the fast-multiplying evidences of friendly prejudice in which former events naturally gave rise—concurred to present this as a fit period for renewing our endeavors to provide against the recurrence of causes of enmity of irritation, which in the event of war between G. Britain and any other Power, would inevitably endanger our peace. Animated by the sincerest desire to avoid such a state of things, and perceiving fully to secure, under all possible circumstances, the rights and honor of the country, I have given, and do give, [illegible] to the [illegible] to the Court of London, as will evince that desire, and if met in which that branch of his duties has by a correspondent disposition, which we cannot doubt, will put an end to causes of collision, which without advantage to either, tend to estrange from each other two nations who have every reason to preserve, not only peace, but an intercourse of the most amicable nature.

In my communication at the opening of the last session of Congress, I expressed a confident hope that the justice of our claims on France, urged as they were with persevering [illegible] by the Minister there, would finally be acknowledged. This hope has been realized. A Treaty has been signed, which will immediately be laid before the Senate, for its approbation; and which, containing stipulations that require Legislative acts, must have the concurrence of both Houses before it can be carried into effect. By it, the French Government engage to pay a sum which, if not quite equal to that which may be found due to our citizens, will yet, it is believed, under all circumstances, be deemed satisfactory by those interested. The offer of a gross sum, instead of the satisfaction of each individual claim, was accepted, because the only alternatives were to refuse a peremptory examination of those submitted to be due on each claim, which might, in some instances, be exaggerated by design in others overrated through error, and in others [illegible] and unjust to have insisted on, or a settlement by a mixed commission, to which the French Negociator was utterly averse, and which experience in other cases had shown to be dilatory, and often wholly inadequate to the end. A comparatively small sum is stipulated to be paid down; the residue in annual instalments of [illegible] each, after the ratification of the treaty and an arrangement of the time of payment, by the Government, and a reduction of duties on our Cotton and their Wines has been agreed to, as a [illegible] and [illegible] consideration of an important claim for commercial privileges, under the construction they gave to the Treaty for the cession of Louisiana.

Should this Treaty receive the proper sanction, a source of irritation will be stopped, that has, for so many years, interrupted the harmony between the two nations who, from interest as well as the remembrance of early associations, ought to cherish the most friendly relations—and encouragement will be given for perseverance in the demands of justice, by this new proof, that, if steadily pursued, they will be listened to—and ultimately, though tardily, yielded to those Powers, if any, which may be inclined to evade them, that they will never be abandoned.

Above all, a just confidence will be inspired when [illegible] that their Government will exert all the constitutional power with which they have invested it in support of their just claims upon foreign nations, at the same time that their frank acknowledgments and professions for the redress of those which were addressed to our equity, although unsupported by legal proof, affords a practical illustration of our submission to the divine rule of doing to others what we [illegible] they should do unto us.

Sweden and Denmark having made compensation for the irregularities committed by their vessels, or in their condemnation of the property of our citizens found within their ports, in the cases mentioned in the 10th article of the treaty of 1826, and the [illegible] of the Emperor of Russia, as mediator between the two nations, having been [illegible] to the perfect satisfaction of the parties concerned, and having removed the [illegible] which had [illegible] between the two countries, our political and commercial relations with these Powers, continue to be on the most friendly footing.

With respect to our differences up to the 22d February, 1819, were settled by the Treaty of Washington, of that date; but at a subsequent period, our commerce with the States formed by revolutions of Spain, on the continent of America, was occasionally and frequently interrupted by her public and private armed ships. They captured many of our vessels possessing a lawful commerce, and sent them into their ports, and at one time, to our demands for reparation and indemnity, opposed the allegation, that they were taken in the violation of the blockade of the ports of the United States. This blockade was declaratory only, and the inadequacy of the force to maintain it was so manifest, that this allegation was never made a change of trade a contraband of war. This, in return, was also found untenable, and the minister whom I sent with instructions to press for the restitution of the property, and liberty of our fellow-citizens, has transmitted an answer to his demand, by which the captures are declared to have been legal, and are justified by the law of nations. The independence of the States of America was declared by Spain, she had a right to prohibit trade with them under her old colonial laws. This ground of defence was contradictory, not only to those which had been formerly alleged, but to the uniform practice and established laws of nations, and had been abandoned by Spain herself in the contentions which preceded her ability to enforce subjection to her captures, made at the same time, under the same circumstances, and for the same allegations with those of which we complain.

I however indulge the hope that further reflection will lead to other views, and feel confident that when his Catholic Majesty shall be informed of the justice of the claim, his desire to preserve friendly relations between the two countries, which it is my earnest endeavor to maintain, will induce him to make the amicable demand. I have therefore despatched a special messenger with instructions to our minister resident near the court there more to his consideration to the end, that if, which I cannot but regard as the same decision, that cannot but be deemed an unfriendly denial of justice, should be persisted in, the matter may, before your adjournment, be [illegible] you, for your [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]