CHINA

The friendly and peaceful policy pursued by the Government of the United States towards the empire of China has produced the most satisfactory results. The treaty of Tientsin of the 18th of June 1858, have been faithfully observed by the Chinese authorities. The convention of the 8th November, 1858, supplementary to this treaty, for the adjustment and satisfaction of the claims of our citizens on China, referred to in my last Annual Message, has been already carried into effect, so far as this was practicable.

Under this convention the sum of 500,000 taels, equal to about $700,000, was stipulated to be paid in satisfaction of the claims of American citizens, out of the one-fifth of the receipts for tonnage import, and export duties on American vessels at the ports of Canton, Shanghae, and Fuchau, and it was "agreed that this amount shall be in full liquidation of all claims of American citizens at the various ports to this date." Debentures for this amount to wit: 200,000 taels for Canton, 100,000 for Shanghae, and 100,000 for Fuchau—were delivered according to the terms of the convention by the respective Chinese collectors of the customs of these ports to the agent selected by our minister to receive the same.

Since that time the claims of our citizens have been adjusted by the board of commissioners appointed for that purpose under the act of March 3, 1859, and their awards, which proved satisfactory to the claimants, have been approved by our minister In the aggregate they amount to the sum of $198,601 78. The claimants have already received a large proportion of the sums awarded to them out of the fund provided, and it is confidently expected that the remainder will ere long be entirely paid. After the awards shall have been satisfied, there will remain a surplus of more than $200 000 at the disposition of Congress. As this will in equity belong to the Chinese government, would not justice require its appropriation to some benevolent object in which the Chinese may be specially interested?

Our minister to China, in obedience to his instructions, has remained perfectly neutral in the war between Great Britain and France and the Chinese empire: although, in conjunction with the Russian minister, he was ever ready and willing, had the opportunity offered, to employ his good offices in restoring peace between the parties. It is but an act of simple justice, both to our present minister and his predecessor, to state, that they have proved fully equal to the delicate, trying and responsible positions in which they have on different occasions been placed.

JAPAN.

The ratifications of the treaty with Japan concluded at Yedo, on the 29th of July, 1858, were exchanged at Washington on the 22d May last, and the treaty itself was proclaimed on the succeeding day. There is every reason to expect that, under its protection and influence, our trade and intercourse with that distant and interesting people will rapidly increase.

The ratifications of the treaty were exchanged with unusual solemnity. For this purpose the Tycoon had accredited three of his most distinguished subjects as envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, who were received and treated with marked distinction and kindness both by the Government and people of the United States. There is every reason to believe that they have returned to their native land entirely satisfied with their visit, and inspired by the most friendly feelings for our country. Let us ardently hope, in the language of the treaty itself, that "there shall henceforth be perpetual peace and friendship between the United States of America and his Majesty the Tycoon of Japan and his successors."

BRAZIL

With the wise, conservative and liberal government of the empire of Brazil our relations continue to be of the most amicable character.

NEW GRANADA.

The exchange of the ratifications of the convention with the republic of New Granada, signed at Washington on the 10th September, 1857, has been long delayed from accidental causes, for which neither party is censurable. These ratifications were duly exchanged in this city on the 5th of November last. Thus ~~a~~ which had become so serious at the period of my inauguration, as to require me, on the 17th April, 1857, to direct our minister to demand his passports and return to the United States.

Under this convention the government of New Granada has specially acknowledged itself to be responsible to our citizens "for damages which were caused by the riot at Panama on the 15th April, 1856." These claims, together with other claims of our citizens which had been long urged in vain, are referred for adjustment to a board of commissioners. I submit a copy of the convention to Congress, and recommend the legislation necessary to carry it into effect.

COSTA RICA AND NICARAGUA.

Perseverring efforts have been made for the adjustment of the claims of American citizens against the government of Costa Rica, and I am happy to inform you that these have finally prevailed. A convention was signed at the city of San José, on the 23d of July last, between the minister resident of the United States in Costa Rica and the plenipotentiaries of that republic, referring these claims to a Board of Commissioners, and providing for the payment of their awards. This convention will be submitted immediately to the Senate for their constitutional action.

The claims of our citizens upon the republic of Nicaragua have not yet been provided for by treaty, although diligent efforts for this purpose have been made by our minister resident to that republic. These are still continued, with a fair prospect of success.

MEXICO.

Our relations with Mexico remain in a most unsatisfactory condition. In my last two annual messages I discussed extensively the subject of these relations, and do not now propose to repeat at length the facts and arguments then presented. They proved conclusively that our citizens residing in Mexico, and our merchants trading thereto, had suffered a series of wrongs and outrages such as we have never patiently borne from any other nation. For these our successive ministers, invoking the faith of treaties, had, in the name of their country, persistently demanded redress and indemnification, but without the slightest effect. Indeed, so confident had the Mexican authorities become of our patient endurance, that they universally believed they might commit these outrages upon American citizens with absolute impunity. Thus wrote our minister in 1856, and expressed the opinion that "nothing but a manifestation of the power of the Government, and of its purpose to punish these wrongs, will avail."

Afterwards, in 1857, came the adoption of a new constitution for Mexico, the election of a President and Congress under its provisions, and the inauguration of the President. Within one short month, however, this President was expelled from the capital by a rebellion in the army, and the supreme power of the republic was assigned to General Zuloaga. This usurper was in his turn soon compelled to retire and give place to General Miramon.

Under the constitution which had thus been adopted, Señor Juarez, as chief justice of the Supreme Court, became the lawful President of the Republic; and it was for the maintenance of the constitution and his authority derived from it that the civil war commenced, and still continues to be prosecuted.

Throughout the year 1858 the constitutional party grew stronger and stronger. In the previous history of Mexico a successful military revolution at the capital had almost universally been the signal for submission throughout the republic. Not so on the present occasion. A majority of the citizens persistently sustained the constitutional government. When this was recognized in April, 1859, by the Government of the United States, its authority extended over a large majority of the Mexican States and people, including Vera Cruz and all the other important sea ports of the republic. From that period our commerce with Mexico began to revive, and the constitutional government has afforded it all the protection in their power.

Meanwhile, the government of Miramon at all hazards at the capital and over the surrounding country, and continued its outrages against the few American citizens who still had the courage to remain within its power—To cap the climax: After the battle of Tacubaya, in April, 1859, Gen. Marquez ordered three citizens of the United States, two of them physicians, to be seized in the hospital at that place taken out and shot, without crime and without trial. This was done, notwithstanding our unfortunate countrymen were at the moment engaged in the holy office of affording relief to the sick and wounded of both parties who had been wounded in the battle, without making any distinction between them.

The time had arrived, in my opinion, when the Government was bound to exert its power to avenge and redress the wrongs of our citizens and to afford them protection in Mexico. The interposing obstacle was that the port on of the country under the sway of Miramon could not be reached without passing over territory under the jurisdiction of the constitutional government. Under these circumstances, I deemed it my duty to recommend to Congress, in my last annual message, the employment of a sufficient military force to penetrate into the interior, where the government of Miramon was to be found, with, or, if need be, without the consent of the Juarez government, though it was not doubted that this consent could be obtained. Never have I had a clearer conviction on any subject than of the justice as well as wisdom of such a policy. No other alternative was left, except the entire abandonment of our fellow-citizens who had gone to Mexico, under the faith of treaties, to the systematic injustice, cruelty and oppression of Miramon's government. Indeed it is almost certain that the simple authority to employ the force would of itself have accomplished all our objects without striking a single blow. The constitutional government would then ere this have been established at the city of Mexico, and would have been ready and willing, to the extent of its ability, to do us justice.

In addition—and I deem this a most important consideration—European governments would have been deprived of all pretext to interfere in the territorial and domestic concerns in Mexico. We should thus have been relieved from the obligation of resisting, even by force, should this become necessary, any attempt by these governments to deprive our neighboring republic of portions of her territory; a duty from which we could not shrink without abandoning the traditional and established policy of the American people. I am happy to observe, that, firmly relying upon the justice and good faith of these governments, there is no present danger that such a contingency will happen.

Having discovered that my recommendation would not be sustained by Congress, the next alternative was to accomplish, in some degree, if possible, the same objects by treaty stipulations with the constitutional government

Such treaties were accordingly concluded by our late able and excellent minister to Mexico, and on the 4th of January last were submitted to the Senate for ratification. As these have not yet received the final action of that body, it would be improper for me to present a detailed statement of their provisions. Still I may be permitted to express the opinion in advance that they are calculated to promote the agricultural, the manufacturing and commercial interests of the country, and to secure our just influence with an adjoining republic as to whose fortunes and fate we can never feel indifferent; whilst at the same time they provide for the payment of a considerable amount towards the satisfaction of the claims of our injured fellow-citizens.

KANSAS AND UTAH.

At the period of my inauguration I was confronted in Kansas by a revolutionary government, existing under what is called the Topeka constitution. Its avowed object was to subdue the territorial government by force, and to inaugurate what was called the Topeka government in its stead. To accomplish this object an extensive military organization was formed, and its command entrusted to the most violent revolutionary leaders. Under these circumstances it became my imperative duty to exert the whole constitutional power of the Executive to prevent the flames of civil war from again raging in Kansas, which, in the excited state of the public mind both north and south, might have extended into the neighboring States.

The hostile parties in Kansas had been infused against each other by emissaries both from the north and the south, to a degree of malignity without parallel in our history. To prevent actual conflict, and to assist the civil magistrates in enforcing the laws, a strong detachment of the army was stationed in the Territory ready to aid the marshal and his deputies, when lawfully called upon, as a posse comitatus in the execution of civil and criminal process.

Still, the troubles in Kansas could not have been permanently tided without an election by the people. The ballot box is the surest arbiter of disputes among freemen. Under this conviction, every proper effort was employed to induce the hostile parties to vote at the election of delegates to frame a State constitution, and afterwards at the election to decide whether Kansas should be a slave or a free State. The insurgent party refused to vote at either. Yet this might be considered a recognition of their act of the territorial government established by Congress. A better spirit, however, seemed soon after to prevail, and the two parties met face to face at the third election, held on the first Monday of January, 1858, for members of the legislature and State officers under the Lecompton constitution. The result was the triumph of the anti-slavery party at the polls. This decision of the ballot box proved clearly that this party were in the majority, and removed the danger of civil war. From that time we have heard little or nothing of the Topeka government; and all serious danger of revolutionary troubles in Kansas was then at an end.

The Lecompton constitution which had been thus recognized at this State election by the votes of both political parties in Kansas, was transmitted to me with the request that I should present it to Congress. This I could not have refused to do without violating my clearest and strongest convictions of duty. The constitution, and all the proceedings which preceded and followed its formation, were fair and regular on their face. I then believed, and experience has proved, that the intention of the framers of the Lecompton constitution, especially as the majority, within a brief period, could have amended the constitution according to their will and pleasure. If fraud existed in all or any of these proceedings, it was not for the President, but for Congress, to investigate and determine the question of fraud, and what ought to be its consequences. If, at the two first elections, the majority refused to vote, it cannot be pretended that this refusal to exercise the elective franchise could invalidate an election fairly held under lawful authority, even if they had not subsequently voted at the third election. It is true that the whole constitution had not been submitted to the people, as I always desired; but the precedents are numerous of the admission of States into the Union without such submission.

It would not comport with my present purpose to review the proceedings of Congress upon the Lecompton constitution. It is sufficient to observe that their final action has removed the last vestige of sectional or revolutionary troubles. The desperate band recently assembled, under a notorious outlaw, in the southern portion of the Territory, to resist the execution of the laws and to plunder peaceable citizens, will, I doubt not, be speedily subdued and brought to justice.

Had I treated the Lecompton constitution as a nullity and refused to transmit it to Congress, it is not difficult to imagine, whilst recalling the position of the country at that moment, what would have been the disastrous consequences, both in and out of the Territory, from such a dereliction of duty on the part of the Executive.

Peace has also been restored within the Territory of Utah, which at the commencement of my administration, was in a state of open rebellion. This was far more dangerous, as the people, animated by a fanatical spirit and entrenched within their distant mountain fastnesses, might have made a long and formidable resistance. Cost what it might, it was necessary to bring them into subjection to the Constitution and the laws. Sound policy, therefore, as well as humanity, required that this object should, if possible, be accomplished without the effusion of blood. This could only be effected by sending a military force into the Territory sufficiently strong to convince the people that resistance would be hopeless, and at the same time to offer them a pardon for past offences on condition of immediate submission to the Government. This policy was pursued with eminent success: and the only cause for regret is the heavy expenditure required to march a large detachment of the army to that remote region and to furnish it subsistence. Utah is now comparatively peaceful and quiet, and the military force has been withdrawn, except that portion of it necessary to keep the Indians in check and to protect the emigrant trains on their way to our Pacific possessions.

FINANCES

In my first annual message I promised to employ my best exertions, in co-operation with Congress, to reduce the expenditures of the Government within the limits of a wise and judicious economy. An overflowing treasury had produced habits of prodigality and extravagance which could only be gradually corrected. The work required both time and patience I applied myself diligently to this task from the beginning, and was aided by the able and energetic efforts of the Heads of the different Executive Departments. The result of our labors in this good cause did not appear in the sum total of our expenditures for the first two years, mainly in consequence of the extraordinary expenditure necessarily incurred in the Utah expedition, and the very large amount of the contingent expenses of Congress during this period. These greatly exceeded the pay and mileage of the members. For the year ending 30th June, 1858, whilst the pay and mileage amounted to $1,409,214, the contingent expenses rose to $2,003,309 79, and for the year ending 30th June, 1859, whilst the pay and mileage amounted to $859,002 46, the contingent expenses amounted to $1,431,565 78 I am happy, however, to be able to inform you that during the last fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1860, the total expenditures of the Government in all its branches—legislative, executive and judicial—exclusive of the public debt, were reduced to the sum of $55,402,465 40. This conclusively appears from the books of the Treasury. In the year ending on the 30th June, 1858, the total expenditures, exclusive of the public debt, amounted to $71,001,129 77, and that for the year ending 30th June, 1859, to $66,346,229 13. Whilst the books of the Treasury show an actual expenditure of $59,358,474 72 for the year ending on the 30th June, 1860, including $1,000,607 71 for the contingent expenses of Congress, there must be deducted from this amount the sum of $1,296,009 26, with the interest upon it of $150,000, appropriated by the act of 18th February, 1860, "for the purpose of supplying the deficiency in the revenues and defraying the expenses of the Post Office Department for the year ending the thirtieth of June, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine." This sum, therefore, justly chargeable to the year 1859, must be deducted from the sum of $59,358,474 72, in order to ascertain the expenditure for the year ending on the 30th June, 1860, which leaves a balance for the expenditures of that year of $55,402,465 40. The interest on the public debt, including Treasury notes for the same fiscal year ending on the 30th June, 1860, amounted to $3,177,314 62, which, added to the above sum of $55,402,465 40, makes the aggregate of $58,579,780 02.

It ought in justice to be observed that several of the estimates from the departments for the year ending 30th June, 1860, was reduced by Congress below what was and still is deemed compatible with the public interest Allowing a liberal margin of $2,500,000 for this reduction, and for other causes, it may be safely asserted that the sum of $61,000,000, or at the most $62,000,000, is amply sufficient to administer the Government and to pay the interest on the public debt, unless contingent events should hereafter render extraordinary expenditures necessary

This result has been attained in a considerable degree by the care exercised by the appropriate departments in entering into public contracts. I have myself never interfered with the award of any such contract except in a single case with the Colonization Society, deeming it advisable to cast the whole responsibility in each case on the proper head of the department, with the general instruction that these contracts should always be given to the lowest and best bidder. It has ever been my opinion that public contracts are not a legitimate source of patronage to be conferred upon personal or political favorites; but that in all such cases a public officer is bound to act for the Government as a prudent individual would act for himself.

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE, &C.

It is with great satisfaction I communicate the fact, that, since the date of my last Annual Message, not a single slave has been imported into the United States in violation of the laws prohibiting the African slave trade. This statement is founded upon a thorough examination and investigation of the subject. Indeed, the spirit which prevailed some time since among a portion of our fellow-citizens in favor of this trade seems to have entirely subsided.

I also congratulate you upon the public sentiment which now exists against the crime of setting on foot military expeditions within the limits of the United States, to proceed from thence and make war upon the people of unoffending States, with whom we are at peace. In this respect a happy change has been effected since the commencement of my Administration. It surely ought to be the prayer of every Christian and patriot, that such expeditions may never again receive countenance in our country or depart from our shores.

It would be a useless repetition to do more than refer, with earnest commendation, to my former recommendations in favor of the Pacific railroad—of the grant of power to the President to employ the naval force in the vicinity, for the protection of the lives and property of our fellow-citizens passing in transit over the different Central American routes, against sudden and lawless outbreaks and depredations; and also to protect American merchant vessels, their crews and cargoes, against violent and unlawful seizure and confiscation in the ports of Mexico and the South American republics, when these may be in a disturbed and revolutionary condition. It is my settled conviction, that without such a power we do not afford that protection to those engaged in the commerce of the country which they have a right to demand.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

I again recommend to Congress the passage of a law in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution, appointing a day certain, previous to the 4th March, in each year of an odd number, for the election of representatives throughout all the States. A similar power has already been exercised, with general approbation, in the appointment of the same day throughout the Union for holding the election of electors for President and Vice President of the United States. My attention was eminently directed to this subject from the fact that the 36th Congress terminated on the 3d March, 1859, without making the necessary appropriation for the service of the Post Office Department. I was then forced to consider the best remedy for this omission, and an immediate call of the present Congress was the natural resort. Upon inquiry, however, I ascertained that fifteen out of the thirty-three States, composing the Confederacy were without representatives, and that, consequently, these fifteen States would be disfranchised by such a call. These fifteen States will be in the same condition on the 4th March next. Ten of them cannot elect representatives, according to existing State laws, until different periods, extending from the beginning of August next until the month of October and November.

In my last message I gave warning that, in a time of sudden and alarming danger, the salvation of our institutions might depend upon the power of the President immediately to assemble a full Congress, to meet the emergency.

TARIFF

It is now quite evident that the financial necessities of the Government will require a modification of the tariff during the present session for the purpose of increasing the revenue. In this aspect, I desire to reiterate the recommendation contained in my last two annual messages, in favor of imposing specific instead of ad valorem duties on all imported articles to which these can be properly applied. From long observation and experience, I am convinced that specific duties are necessary, both to protect the revenue and to secure to our manufacturing interests that amount of incidental encouragement which unavoidably results from a revenue tariff

As an abstract proposition it may be admitted that ad valorem duties would, in theory, be the most just and equal. But if the experience of this and of all other commercial nations has demonstrated that such duties cannot be assessed and collected without great frauds upon the revenue, then it is the part of wisdom to resort to specific duties. Indeed from the very nature of an ad valorem duty, this must be the result. Under it the inevitable consequence is, that foreign goods will be entered at less than their true value. The treasury will, therefore, lose the duty on the difference between their real and fictitious value, and to this extent we are defrauded.

The temptations which ad valorem duties present to a dishonest importer are irresistible. His object is to pass his goods through the custom house at the very lowest valuation necessary to save them from confiscation. In this he too often succeeds in spite of the vigilance of the officers of the custom house, and to other expedients to defraud the government. The honest importer produces his invoice to the collector, stating the actual price at which he purchased the articles abroad. Not so the dishonest importer and the agent of the foreign manufacturer. And here it may be observed that a very large proportion of the manufactures imported from abroad are consigned for sale to commission merchants, who are mere agents employed by the manufacturers. In such cases no actual sale has been made to fix their value. The foreign manufacturer, if he be dishonest, prepares an invoice of the goods, not at their actual value, but at the very lowest rate necessary to escape detection. In this manner the dishonest importer and the foreign manufacturer enjoy a decided advantage over the honest merchant. They are thus enabled to undersell their fair competitor, and drive him from the market. In fact, the operation of this system has already driven from the pursuits of honorable commerce many of that class of regular and conscientious merchants whose character throughout the world is the pride of our country.

The remedy for these evils is to be found in specific duties, so far as this may be practicable. They dispense with any inquiry at the custom-house into the actual cost or value of the article, and it pays the precise amount of duty previously fixed by law. They present no temptations to the appraisers of foreign goods "to receive but small salaries, and might, by undervaluation in a few cases, render themselves independent

Besides, specific duties best conform to the requisition in the Constitution that "no preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one State over those of another." Under our ad valorem system such preferences are to some extent inevitable, and complaints have often been made that the spirit of this provision has been violated by a lower appraisement of the same articles at one port than at another.

An impression strangely enough prevails, to some extent, that specific duties are necessarily protective duties. Nothing can be more fallacious. Great Britain glories in free trade, and yet her whole revenue from imports is at the present moment collected under a system of specific duties. It is a striking fact in this connection that, in the commercial treaty of 23d January, 1860, between France and England, one of the articles provides that the ad valorem duties which it imposes shall be converted into specific duties within six months from its date, and these are to be ascertained by taking an average of the prices for six months previous to that time. The revenue of the proposition would be nearer would be collected by merely converting the ad valorem duties of a tariff into equivalent specific duties. To this extent the revenue would be increased, and in the same proportion the specific duty might be diminished.

Specific duties would secure to the American manufacturer the incidental protection to which he is fairly entitled under a revenue tariff, and to this surely no person would object. The framers of the existing tariff have gone further, and in a liberal spirit have discriminated in favor of large and useful branches of our manufactures, not by raising the rate of duty upon the importation of similar articles from abroad, but what is the same in effect, by admitting articles free of duty which enter into the composition of their fabrics.

Under the present system it has been often truly remarked that this incidental protection decreases when the manufacturer needs it most, and increases when he needs it least, and constitutes a sliding scale which always operates against him. The revenues of the country are subject to similar fluctuation. Instead of approaching a steady standard, as would be the case under a system of specific duties, they sink and rise with the It would not be difficult for Congress to arrange a system of specific duties which would afford additional stability both to our revenue and our manufactures, and without injury or injustice to any interest of the country. This might be accomplished by ascertaining the average value of any given article for a series of years at the place of exportation, and by simply converting the rate of ad valorem duty upon it which might be deemed necessary for revenue purposes, into the form of a specific duty. Such an arrangement could not injure the consumer. If he should pay a greater amount of duty one year, this would be counterbalanced by a lesser amount the next, and in the end the aggregate would be the same.

I desire to call your immediate attention to the present condition of the Treasury, so ably and clearly presented by the Secretary in his report to Congress; and to recommend that measures be promptly adopted, to enable it to discharge its pressing obligations. The other recommendations of the report are well worthy of your favorable consideration.

I herewith transmit to Congress the reports of the Secretaries of War, of the Navy, of the Interior and of the Postmaster General. The recommendations and suggestions which they contain are highly valuable and deserve your careful attention.

The report of the Postmaster General details the circumstances under which Cornelius Vanderbilt, on my request, agreed, in the month of July last, to carry the ocean mails between our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. Had he not thus acted, this important intercommunication must have been suspended, at least for a season. The Postmaster General had no power to make him any other compensation than the postage on the mail matter which he might carry. It was known, at the time, that these postages would fall far short of an adequate compensation, as well as of the sum which the same service had previously cost the Government. Mr. Vanderbilt, in a commendable spirit, was willing to rely upon the justice of Congress to make up the deficiency; and I, therefore, recommend that an appropriation may be granted for this purpose.

I should do great injustice to the Attorney General, were I to omit the mention of his distinguished services in the measures adopted and prosecuted by him for the defense of the Government against numerous and unfounded claims to land in California, purporting to have

n made by the Mexican Government previous to the treaty of cession. The successful opposition to these claims has saved to the United States public property worth many millions of dollars, and to individuals holding title under them to at least an equal amount.

It has been represented to me, from sources which I deem reliable, that the inhabitants in several portions of the Union have been reduced nearly to a state of starvation, on account of the almost total failure of their crops, while the harvests in every other portion of the country have been abundant The prospect before them for the approaching winter is well calculated to enlist the sympathies of every heart. The destitution appears to be so general that it cannot be relieved by private contributions, and they are in such indigent circumstances as to be unable to purchase the necessaries of life for themselves. I refer the subject to Congress. If any constitutional measure for their relief can be devised I would recommend its adoption.

I cordially commend to your favorable regard the interests of the people of this District. They are emphatically entitled to your consideration, especially since, unlike the people of the States, they can appeal to no Government except that of the Union.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, December 6, 1860.

THE TOMB OF THE WASHINGTON FAMILY IN ENGLAND.

LETTER FROM CHARLES SUMNER TO JARED SPARKS.

[From the Boston Advertiser, November 26.]

We take pleasure in printing the following interesting letter from Mr. Sumner to Mr. Sparks, describing the "memorial stones" of the Washington family, received from the Earl of Spencer. The letter describes the parish church of Brington, near Althorp, (the home of the Spencers,) and the magnificent park at Althorp: and exhibits the associations between the Spencer family and Washington:

BOSTON, 22d November, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR: Since our last conversation the Earl Spencer has kindly sent to me precise copies of the two "Memorial Stones" of the English family of George Washington, which I have already described to you as harmonizing exactly with the pedigree which has the sanction of your authority. These are of the same stone and of the same size with the originals—and have the original inscriptions, being in all respects *fac similes*. They will, therefore, give you an exact idea of these most interesting memorials in the parish church of Brington, near Althorp, in Northamptonshire.

The largest is of Lawrence Washington, the father of John Washington, who emigrated to America. It is a slab of blush gray sandstone and measures five feet and nine inches long, and two feet and seven inches broad.

Here is the inscription:

HERE LIETH THE BODI OF LAWRENCE
WASHINGTON SONNE AND HEIRE OF
ROBERT WASHINGTON OF SOULGRAVE
IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHTON
ESQUIER WHO MARRIED MARGARET
THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM
BUTLER OF TERS IN THE COUNTIE
OF SUSSENE ESQUIER, WHO HAD ISSU
BY HER 3 SONS AND 3 DAUGHTERS
WHICH LAVRENCE DECESSED THE 13
OF DECEMBER A. DNI 1616
THOSE THAT BY CHANCE OR CHOICE
OF THIS HAST SIGHT
KNOW LIFE TO DEATH RESIGNES
AS DAYE TO NIGHT;
BUT AS THE SUNNS RETORNE
REVIVE THE DAY
SO CHRIST SHALL US
THOUGH TURNDE TO DUST & CLAY.

Above the inscription, carved in the stone, are the arms of the Washingtons with, an additional quartering of another family.

The other is of Elizabeth Washington, daughter of Lawrence Washington, and sister of the emigrant. This is a slab of the same sandstone. and measures three feet and five inches long and two feet and six inches broad. The inscription is on a small brass plate set into the stone and is as follows:

HERE LIES INTERRED YE BODIES OF ELIZAB.
WASHINGTON WIDDOWE WHO CHANGED THIS
LIFE FOR IMMORTALITY YE 19TH OF MARCH 1622.
AS ALSO YE BODY OF ROBERT WASHINGTON
GENT. HER LATE HUSBAND SECOND SONNE
OF ROBERT WASHINGTON OF SOULGRAVE IN YE
COUNTY OF NORTH. WHO DEPARTED THIS
LIFE YE 10TH OF MARCH 1622. AFTER THEY LIVED
LOVINGLY TOGETHER MANY YEARS IN THIS
PARISH.

On a separate brass, beneath the inscription, are the arms of the Washingtons without any addition. These, as you are well aware, have sometimes supposed to have suggested our national flag. In heraldic language there are bars of gules and argent, with three mullets or stars.

In the interesting chapter on the origin and genealogy of the Washington family, which you give in the appendix to your Life of Washington, it appears that Lawrence, the father of the emigrant, died 13th December, and was buried at Brington 15th December, 1616. But the genealogical tables which you followed gave no indication of the locality of this church. Had it appeared that it was in the immediate vicinity of Spencer family in Northamptonshire, the locality, which I believe has not been heretofore known in our country, would have been precisely fixed.

In point of fact, the slab which covers Lawrence Washington is in the chancel of the church, by the side of the monuments of the Spencer family. These are all in admirable preservation, with full length effigies, busts or other sculptural work, and form a very interesting and connected series of sepulchral memorials from the reign of Henry VIII. to the present time. Among them is a monument by the early English sculptor, Nicholas Stone; another by Stephen Gabriel, the pupil of Bernini; and another by Flaxman, with exquisitely beautiful personifications of Faith and Charity. Beneath repose the successive representatives of this illustrious family which has added to its aristocratic claims by services to the state, and also by the unique and world-famous library collected by one of its members. In this companionship will be found the last English ancestor of our Washington.

The other to bearing Elizabeth, the sister of the emigrant, is in one of the aisles of the nave where it is scraped by the feet of all who pass.

The parish of Brington is between seven and eight miles from the town of Northampton, not far from the centre of England. It is written in Domesday Book "Brinintone" and also "Brintone." It contains about 2,210 acres, of which about 1,400 acres belong to Earl Spencer, about 326 acres to the rector in right of the church, and about 130 acres to other persons. The soil is in general a dark colored loam with a small trace of clay towards the north. Nearly four-fifths of the whole is pasture and feeding land.

In the village still stands the house, said to have been occupied by the Washingtons when the emigrant brother left them. You will see a vignette of it on the title-page of the recent English work, entitled *The Washingtons*. Over the door is carved the words, "The Lord giveth; the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord" while the parish register gives a pathetic commentary by showing that, in the very year when this house was built a child had been born and another one had died in this family.

The church, originally dedicated to the Virgin, stands at the northeast angle of the village, and consists of an embattled tower with five bells, a nave, north and south aisles, a chancel, a chapel and a modern porch. The tower is flanked by buttresses of two stages. The present fabric goes back in its origin to the beginning of the fourteenth century, nearly two hundred years before the discovery of America. The chancel and chapel, where repose the Spencers and Lawrence Washington, were rebuilt by Sir John Spencer, the purchaser of the estate, at the beginning of the sixteenth century. They afford one of the latest specimens of the Tudor style of architecture. The church is beautifully situated on the summit of the highest ground of Brington, and surrounded by a stone wall flanked on the inside by trees. Dibdin says that a more complete picture of a country churchyard is rarely seen. A well-trimmed walk encircles the whole of the interior, while the fine Gothic windows at the end of the chancel fill the scene with picturesque beauty.

The Register of the Parish, which is still preserved, commences in 1560. From this it appears that William Proctor was the rector from 1601 to 1627, covering the period of the last of the Washingtons there. The following further entries occur relating to this family:

1616 "Mr Lawrence Washington was buried XVth day of December."

1620. Mr Philip Curtis & Mris Amy Washington were married August 8"

1622 "Mr Robert Washington was buried March ye 11th"

—— "Mrs Elizabeth Washington, widow, was buried March ye 20th."

Of one of the ministers in this church we have an interesting glimpse in Evelyn's Memoirs (Vol. I., p. 612,) where the following entry will be found under date of July, 1688: "Dr. Jeffryes, the minister of Althorp, who was my lord's chaplain when ambassador in France, preached the shortest discourse I ever heard; but what was defective in the amplitude of his sermon, he had supplied in the largeness and convenience of the par-onage-house."

At a short distance—less than a mile—is Althorp, the seat of the Spencers, surrounded by a park of five hundred acres, one of whose gates opens near the church. There are oak trees bordering on the churchyard, which were growing at the time of the purchase of the estate in the reign of Henry VII. Evelyn was often here a delighted visitor. On one occasion he speaks of "this noble rural palace at Althorp." (Vol. I., p. 612.) In another place he describes it as "placed in a pretty open bottom, very finely watered and flanked with stately woods and groves in a park." (Vol. I., p. 451.) Let me add that there is an engraving of Althorp at this time, by the younger Vosterman, a Dutch artist.

There is one feature of the park which excited the admiration of Evelyn, and at a later day of Mrs. Jameson, who gives to it some beautiful pages in her Visits and Sketches at Home and Abroad. It is the record of the time when different plantations of trees were begun. While recommending this practice in his *Sylva*, Evelyn remarks: "the only instance I know of the like in our country is in the park at Althorp." There are six of these commemorative stones. The first records a wood planted by Sir John Spencer, in 1567 and 1568; the second, a wood planted by Sir John Spencer, son of the former, in 1589; the third, a wood planted by Robert Lord Spencer, in 1602 and 1603; the fourth, a wood planted by Sir William Spencer, Knight of the Bath, afterwards Lord Spencer, in 1624. The latter stone is ornamented with the arms of the Spencers, and on the back are the words "Let God arise and God will prosper." It was in this scenery and amidst these associations that the Washingtons lived. When the emigrant left in 1657, these woods must have been well-grown. It was not long afterwards that they attracted the attention of Evelyn.

The Household Books at Althorp show that for many years the Washingtons were frequent guests there. The hospitality of this seat has been renowned for many ages. Among the Prince Henry, on their way to London, in 1603, were welcomed there in an entertainment, memorable for a masque from the vigorous muse of Ben Jonson. (Ben Jonson's Works, Vol. V., p. 455.) Charles I. was at Althorp, in 1637, when he received the first intelligence of the approach of those pursuers from whom he never escaped until his life had been laid down upon the scaffold. In 1698 King William was "mightily entertained." (Vol. II. p. 60.) At least one of the members of this family was famous for hospitality of a different character. Evelyn records that he used to dine with the Countess of Sunderland—the title then borne by the Spencers—"when she invited *fire-eaters*, stone-eaters and opera singers, after the fashion of the day." (Vol. I., pp. 458, 480, 579.)

The family was early and constantly associated with literature. Spencer, the poet, belonged to this family, and to one of his ancestors he has dedicated his "Tears of the Muses." It was for Alice Spencer that Milton is said to have written his Arcades, and Sir John Harington has celebrated her memory by an epigram.—The Sacharissa of Waller was Lady Dorothy Sydney, wife of the first Earl of Sunderland, the third Lord Spencer, who perished fighting for King Charles I. at Newbury. I do not [illegible] the poetical merit of this latter, as my object is simply to allude to those which existed in the time of the Washingtons.

"The nobility of the Spencers has been illustrated and enriched by the trophies of Marlborough: but I exhort them to consider the Fairy Queen as the most precious jewel of their coronet." Thus wrote Gibbon in his memoirs, and all must feel the beauty of the passage.—It would be superfluous to say that this nobility may claim another illustration from its ties of friendship and neighborhood with the family of Washington. I cannot doubt that hereafter the parish church of Brington will be one of the resorts of American men, who will look with reverence upon a spot so closely associated with American history.

I trust that this little sketch, suggested by what I saw at Althorp during a brief visit last November, will not seem irrelevant. Besides my own personal impressions, and the volumes quoted, I have relied upon Dibdin's *Edes Althorpianæ*, so interesting to all bibliographical students, and especially upon Baker's History of Northamptonshire, one of those magnificent local works which illustrate English history, to which you refer in your Appendix, but which was not completed till some time after the Life of Washington appeared.

Of course, the Memorial Stones, which I have received from Lord Spencer, are of much historic value, and I think that I shall best carry out the generous idea of the giver by taking care that they are permanently placed where they can be seen by the public; perhaps at the State House, near Chantrey's beautiful statue of Washington—if this should be agreeable to the Commonwealth.

Pray pardon this long letter, and believe me, my dear sir, with much regard,

Ever sincerely yours,
CHARLES SUMNER.

Jared Sparks, Esq.

THIEF-TAKING IN LONDON.

From Household Words.

Your wife discovers, on retiring for the night, that her drawers are void: her toilette table is bare: except the ornaments she now wears, her beauty is as unadorned as that of a Quakeress: not a thing is left; all the fond tokens you gave, when her pre-nuptial lover, are gone: your own miniature, with its setting of gold and brilliants; her late mother's diamonds: the bracelet "dear papa" presented her on her last birth-day: the top of every bottle in the dressing case brought from Paris by Uncle John, at the risk of his life, in February 1848, (being of gold,) are off—but the bottles (being of glass) remain. Every valuable is swept away with the most discriminating villainy; for no other thing in the chamber is touched; not a chair has been moved; the costly pendule on the chimney-piece still ticks; the entire apartment is as neat and trim as when it had received the finishing touch of the housemaid's duster. The entire establishment runs frantically up stairs and down stairs, and finally congregates in my lady's chamber. Nobody knows anything whatever about it. The housemaid bursts into tears; the cook declares she is going into hysterics; and at last you suggest sending for the police, which is taken as a suspicion of an insult on the whole assembled household, and they descend into the lower regions of the house in the sulks.

X 40 arrives. His face betrays sheepishness combined with mystery. He turns his bull's eye into every corner of the passage, and upon every countenance on the premises. He examines all the locks, bolts and bars, bestowing extra diligence on those which enclosed the stolen treasure. These he declares have been "violated:" thus concisely intimating, without quoting Pope, that there has been more than one "Rape of the Lock." He then notes the non-disturbance of other valuables: takes you solemnly aside, darkens his lantern, and asks, in a mysterious whisper, if you suspect any of your servants, which implies that *he* does. He then examines the upper bed-rooms, and, in the room of the female servants he discovers the least valuable of the rings and a cast-off silver tooth-pick, between the mattresses: You have every confidence in your maids; but what *can* you think? You suggest their safe custody; but your wife intercedes, and the policeman would prefer speaking to his inspector before he locks anybody up.

Had the whole matter remained in the hands of X 40, it is possible that your whole troubles would have lasted till now. A train of legal proceedings—actions for defamation of character and suits for damages—would have followed, costing more than the value of the jewels, together with the entire execration of all your neighbors and every private friend of your domestics. But, happily, the inspector promptly sends a plain, earnest-looking officer, who announces himself as one of two detectives of the X division. He settles the matter in ten minutes. His examination is ended in five. As a connoisseur can determine a painter of a picture at the first glance, or a wine taster the precise vintage of a sherry by the merest sip, so the detective at once pounces upon the authors of the work of art under consideration, by the styles of performance, if not upon the precise executant, upon the "school" to which he belongs. Having finished the toilette branch of the inquiry, he takes a short view of the parapet of your house, and makes an equally cursory investigation of the attic window fastenings. His mind is made up, and most likely he will address you in these words:

"All right, sir. This is done by one of the 'Dancing School:'"

"Impossible!" exclaims your plundered partner. "Why, our children go to Monsieur Pattitoes, of No. 81, and I assure you he is a highly respectable professor. As to his pupils. I——"

The detective smiles, and interrupts, "Dancers,"