

Bradford Aeporter.

Towanda, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1846.

Democratic County Nominations.

FRANCIS R. SHUNK.

FRANCIS SMITH, of Troy Borough [To fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Joun L. Webs Esq.—The day of election yet to be designated.]

Wood and Brain, Wanted at this Office. On Accounts six years old.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

In resuming your labors in the service of the per In resuming your labors in the service of the peo-ple it is a subject of congratulation that there has been no period in our past his ory, when all the ele-ments of national prosperity have been so fully de-veloped. Since your last session no afflicting dis-pensation has visited our country; general good health has prevailed; abundance has growned the toil of the husbandman; and labor in all its branches is receiving an ample reward, while edu-cation science and the arts are rapidly enlarging cation, ecience and the arts are rapidly enlarging the means of social happiness. The progress of our country in her career of greatness, not only in the vast extension of our territorial limits and the rapid increase of our population, but in resources the vast extension of our termonar mans and marapid increase of our population, but in resources and wealth, and in the happy condition of our people, is without example in the history of na-

As the wisdom, strength, and beneficence of our free institutions are unfolded, every day adds fresh motives to contentment, and fresh incentives to

Our devout and sincere acknowledgments due to the gracious Giver of all good, for the numberless blessings which our beloved country

enjoys.

It is a source of high satisfaction to know that the It is a source of high satisfaction to know that the relations of the United States with all other nations, with a single exception, are of the most amiable character. Sincerely attached to the policy of peace, early adopted and steadily pursued by this government, I have anxiously desired to cultivate and cherish friendship and commerce with every Foreign Power. The spirit and habits of the American resolutions can people are favorable to the maintenance of such

iternational harmony.

In adhering to this wise policy, a preliminary and paramount duty obviously consists in the pro-tection of our national interests from encroachment or sacrifice, and our national honor from reproach. Inese must be maintained at any hazard. They admit of no compromise or neglect, and must be scrupulously and constantly guarded. In their vigilant vindication, collision and conflict with foreign Powers may cometimes because gilant vindication, collision and conflict with for-eign Powers may sometimes become unavoidable. Such has been our scruppious adherence to the dic-tates of justice, in all our foreign intercourse, that, though steadily and rapidly advancing in prosperity and power, we have given no just cause of complaint to any nation, and have enjoyed the bles sings of peace for more than thirty years. From a policy so sacred to humanity, and so salutary, in its effects upon our political system, we should never

bo induced voluntarily to depart. The existing war with Mexico was neither desired nor provoked by the United States. On the contrary, all honorable means were resorted to to aventic. After years of endurance of aggravated and unredressed wrongs on our part, Mexico, in violation of solema treaty stipulations, and of every principle of justice recognized by civilized nations, commenced hostilities; and thus, by her own act, forced the war upon us. Long before the advance of our army to the left bank of the Rio Grande, we had ample cause of war against Mexico; and had the United States resorted to this extremity, we might have appealed to the whole civilized world for the justice of our cause.

I deem it to be my duty to present to you, on

the present occasion, a condensed review of the injuries we had sustained, of the causes which led to the war, and of its progress since its commence-ment. This is rendered the more necessary be-cause of the misapprehensions which have to some extent prevailed as to its origin and true character. ment. This is rendered the more necessary because of the misapprehensions which have to some extent prevailed as to its origin and title character. The war has been represented as unjust and unnecessary, and as one of aggression on our part upon the United States by the Mexican minister at Washhave been devised to encourage the enemy and protract the war than to advocate and adhere to their cause, and thus "give them " aid and com-

It is a source of national pride and exuttation, that the great body of our people have thrown no such obstacles in the way of the government in prosecuting the war successfully, but have shown themselves to be eminently pairiotic, and ready to vindicate their country's honor and interests at any sacrifice. The alacrity and promptness with which our volunteer forces rushed to the field on their country's call, prove not only their patriotism, but their

deep-conviction that our cause is just.

The wrongs which we have suffered from Mexico almost ever since she became an independent those formerly presented, and carnestly pressed, Power, and the patient endurance with which we have as yet been decided upon by the Mexican gohave borne them, are without a parallel in the history of modern civilized nations. There is reaso believe that if these wrongs had been resented and resisted in the first instance, the present war might have been avoided. One outrage, however, permitted to pase with impunity, almost necessarily nncouraged the perpetration of another, until at las Mexico seemed to attribute to weak ess and indecision ou our part a forbearance which was the offspring of magnanimity, and of a sincere desire to preserve friendly relations with a sister republic

Starrely had Mexico achieved her independence. which the United States were the first among the nations to acknowledge, when she commenced the system of insult and spoilation, which she has ever since pursued. Our citizens engaged in lawful rce were imprisoned, their vessels seized. and our flag insulted in her ports. It money was wanted, the lawless seizure and confiscation of our merchant vessels and their cargoes was a ready resource; and if to accomplish their purposes it be came necessary to imprison the owners, captains, and crews, it was done. Rulers superseded rulers in Mexico in rapid succession; but still there was no change in this system of depredation. The government of the United States made repeated reclamations on behalf of its citizens, but these were answered by new outrages. Promises of redre made by Mexico in the most solemn forms were postponed or evaded. The files and records of the Department of State contain conclusive proofs of numerous lawless acts perpetrated upon the pro-perty and persons of our citizens by Mexico, and wanton insults to our national flag. The inter-sition of our government to obtain redress was again and again invoked, under circumstances

which no nation ought to disregard.

It was hoped that these outrages would cease and that Maxico would be restrained by the law which regulate the conduct of civilized nations in their intercourse with each other after the treaty of bear still longer. amity, commerce and navigation of the fifth of April, 1831, was concluded between the two re-April, 1831, was concluded between the two republics; but this hope soon proved to be vain.—
The course of seizure and confiscation of the property of our citizens; the violation of their persons
and the insults to our flag pursued by Mexico previous to that firms were scarcely suspended for even
a brief period, alimough the treaty so clearly defines

the rights and duties of the respective parties that it is impossible to misunderstand or mistake them. In less than seven years after the conclusion of that treaty our grievances had become so intolerable that, in the opinion of President Jackson, they should no longer be endured.

In his message to Congress, in February, 1837, he presented them to the consideration of that body, and declared that a The length of time since some id or mistake them

of the injuries have been committed, the repeated and unavailing applications for redress, the wanton character of some of the outrages upon the propercharacter of some or the our ages a data the paper y and persons of our citizens, upon the officers and flag of the United States, independent of recent insulate this government and people by the late extraordinary Mexican minister, would justify in the eyes or all nations immediate war." In a spirit of kindness and forbearance, however, he recommend-

ed reprisals as a milder mode of redress.

He declared that war should not be used as a remedy "by just and generous nations confiding in their strength for injuries committed, if it can be honorably avoided,", and added, "it has occurred to me that, considering the present embarrassed condition of that country, we should act with both wisdom and moderation, by giving to Mexico one more opportunity to atone for the past, before we take redress into our own hands. To avoid all misconcep ion on the part of Mexico, as well as to protect our own national character from reproach. this opportunity should be given with the avowed design and full preparation to take immediate satisfaction, if it should not be obtained on a repetition

of the demand for it.

"To this end, I recommend that a law be passed authorizing reprisals, and the use of the naval force of the United States, by the Executive, against Mexico, to enforce them, in the event of a refusal by the Mexican government to come to an amica ole adjustment of the matters in controversy be tween us, upon another demand thereof, made from on board one of our vessels of war on the

made before authorizing war or reprisals.

The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen

ate, in their report, say: "After such a demand, should prompt justice be refused by the Mexican government, we may appeal to all nations not only for the equity and moderation with which we shall have acted towards a sister republic, but for the necessity which will then compel us to seek redress for our wrongs, either by actual war or by reprisals. The subject will then be presented before Congress, at the commencement of the next session, in a clear and distinct form; and the com-mittee cannot doubt but that such measures will be immediately adopted as may be necessary to vindi-cate the honor of the country, and ensure ample reparation to our injured citizens."

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House

of Representatives made a similar recommendation. In their report, they say that they "fully concur with the President that ample cause exists for takwith the President that ample cause exists for taxing redress into our own hands, and believe that we should be justified in the opinion of other nations for taking such a step. But they are willing to try the experiment of another demand, made in the most solemn form, upon the justice of the Mexican government, before any further proceedings are adopted."

No difference of opinion upon the subject is believed to have existed in Congress at that time.— The Executive and Legislative department con curred; and yet such has been our forbearance, and curred; and yet such has been our forbearance, and desire to preserve peace with Mexico, that the wrongs of which we then complained, and which gave rise to these solemn proceedings, not only remain unredressed to this day, but additional causes

since been accumulating.

Shortly after these proceedings, a special messenger was despatched to Mexico, to make a final demand for redress; and on the twentieth of July, 1837, the demand was made. The reply of the Mexican group ment bere date on the 30th of since Mexican government bore date on the 29th month, and contained assurances of the "anxious wish" of the Mexican government "not to delay the moment of that final and equitable adjustment which is to terminate the existing difficulties between the two governments;" that "nothing should be left undone which may contribute to the most ever reason and justice may dictate respecting each case, will be done."

The assurance was further given, that the decis-

redress, and "many of them aggravated cases of personal wrongs, have been now for years before the Mexican government, and some of the causes of national complaint, and those of the most offenadmitted of immediate, simple and sive character, satisfactory replies, it is only within a few days past that any specific communication in answer to our last demand, made five months ago, has been received from the Mexican minister," and that "for not one of our public complaints has satisfaction been given or offered; that but one of the cases of ersonal wrong has been favorably considered, and that but four cases of both descriptions, out of all remment

President Van Buren, believing that it would be vain to make any further attempt to obtain redress by the ordinary means within the power of the Executive, communicated this opinion to Congress, in the message referred to, in which he said—"On careful and deliberate examination of the con Government, "and considering the spirit manifested by the Mexican government, it has become my painful duty to return the subject as it now stands, o Congress, to whom it belongs, to decide 'upon the time, the mode, and the measure of redress." Had the U. States at that time adopted compulsory measures, and taken redress into their own hands, all our difficulties with Mexico would probably have been long since adjusted, and the existing war have

Magnanimity and moderation on our part only Magnanimity and moderation on our part only had the effect to complicate these difficulties, and render an amicable seutement of them the more embarrassing. That such measures of redress under similar provocations, combined by any of the powerful mations of Europe, would have been promptly resorted to by the United States, cannot be doubted. The national honor, and the preservation of the national character throughout the world, as well as our own self-respect, and the proworld, as well as our own self-respect, and the proworld, as well as our own citizens, would have rentection due to our own citizens, and the citizens are considered as a second due to our own citizens are considere civilized nation in modern times has presented within so brief a period so many wanton attacks upon the honor of its flag, and upon the property and persons of its citizens, as had at that time been borne by the United States from the Mexican au-thorities and people. But Mexico was a sister re-public, on the North American continent, occupy-ing a territory contiguous to our own, and was in a feeble and distracted condition; and these considerations, it is presumed, induced Congress to for-

Instead of taking redress into our own hands, a new negotiation was entered upon, with fair pro-mises on the part of Mexico, but with the real pur-

ment of claims of citizens of the United States of

ment of claims of citizens of the United States of America upon the government of the Mexican republic. The joint board of commissioners created by this convention to examine and decide upon these claims was not organized until the month of August 1840, and under the term of the convention they were to terminate their duties within eighteen months from that time.

Four of the eighteen months were consumed in the conventions on fivelens and dilatory

preliminary discussions on frivolous and dilatory points raised by the Mexican commissioners; and it was not until the month of December, 1840, that they commenced the examination of the claims of our citizens upon Mexico. Fourteen months only remained to examine and decide upon these nu remained to examine and decide upon these nu-merous and complicated cases. In the month of February, 1842, the term of the commission expir-ed, leaving many claims undisposed of for want of tail. The claims which were allowed by the board, and by the umpire authorized by the con-vention to decide in case of disagreement between the Mexican and American commissioners, amount-

ed to \$2,26,139 68.

There were pending before the umpire when the commission expired additional claims which had been examined and awarded by the American commissioners, and had not been allowed by the Mexican commissioners, amounting to \$928,627 88, upon which he did not decide, alloging that his anthority had ceased with the termination of the joint commission. Besides these claims there were others of American citizens amounting to \$3,336,837 05 which had been submitted to the board, and upon which they had not time to decide before their final adjournment.

The sum of \$2,26,139 68 which had been award ed to the claimants, was a liquidated and ascer-tained debt due by Mexico, about which there could be no dispute, and which she was bound to pay according to the terms of the convention. Soon after the final awards for this amount had been made, the Mexican government asked for a post-ponement of the time of making payment; alleging that it would be inconvenient to make the payment at the time stipulated. In the spirit of forbearing thindness towers the sister republic which Mexico. kindness towards a sister republic, which Mexico has so long abused, the U. S.a.es promptly complied

with her request.

A second convention was accordingly concluded between the two governments on the 30th of Jaunary, 1843, which upon its face declares, that "the new arrangement is entered into for the accommo-dation of Mexico." By the terms of this convention, all the interest due on the awards which had been made in favor of the claimants under the convention of the 11th of April, 1839, was to be paid to them on the 30th of April, 1843, and "the prin-cipal of the said awards, and the interest accruing nereon," was stipulated to 'be paid in five years a equal instalments every three months."

Notwithstanding this new convention was enter ed into at the request of Mexico, and for the pur response to the state of the state of the state of the claimants have only received the interest due on the 30th of April, 1843, and three of the twenty instalments. Although the payment of the sum thus liquidated, and contessedly due by Mexico to our citizens as indemnity for acknowledged acts of outside and wrong, was accorded by trepty the obligarage and wrong, was secured by treaty, the obliga-tions of which are ever held sacred by all just na-tions, yet Mexico has violated this solemn ennent by failing and refusing to make the pay

The two instalments due in April and July, 1844 under the peculiar circumstances connected with them, have been assumed by the United States and discharged to the claimants, but they are still due by Mexico. But this is not all of which we have ust cause of complaint. To provide a remedy for the claimants whose cases were not decided by the joint commission under the convention of April the 11th, 1839, it was expressly stipulated by article of the convention of the 30th of Januar 1843, that "a new convention shall be entered in or the settlement of all claims of the government and citizens of the United States against the republic of Mexico which were not finally decided b the late commission, which met in the city of Washington, and of all claims of the government and citizens of Mexico against the United States, In conformity with this stipulation, a third con rention was concluded and signed at the city of Mexico on the 20th of November, 1843, by plenipotentiaries of the two governments, by which provision was made for ascertaining and paying be left undone which may contribute to the most speedy and equitable determination of the subjects which have so seriously engaged the attention of the American government;" that the "Mexican government would adopt, as the only guides for its conduct, the plainest principles of public right, the sacred obligations imposed by international law, and the religious faith of treaties;" and that "whatever reason and justice may dictate respecting each as not yet even decided whether it would or would not accede to them, would not accede to them, although the subject has been repeatedly pressed upon its consideration. Mexico has thus violated a second time the faith

of treaties, by failing or refusing to carry into effect the sixth article of the convention of January, 1843. Such is the history of the wrongs which we are suffered and patiently endured from Mexico a weak and injured enemy. Such erroneous views, though entertained by but few, have been widely and extensively circulated not only at home, but have been spread throughout Mexico and the them, however, Mexico obtained further delay.—

whole world. A more effectual means could not President Van Buron, in his annual message to sists in the fact, that while the United States, anxious Congress of fifth of December, 1837, states that to preserve a good understanding with Mexico, "although the large number" of our demands for have been constantly, but vainly, employed in seeking redress for past wrongs, new outrages were constantly occurring which have continued to increase our causes of complaint and to swell the amount of our demands. While the citizens of ho United States were conducting a lawful commerce While the citizens of with Mexico under the guaranty of a treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation," many of them "amity, commerce, and navigation," many of them have suffered all the injuries which would have resulted from open war. This treaty, instead of affording protection to our cittzens, has been the neaus of inviting them into the ports of Mexico means of inviting them into the ports of Mexico, that they might be, as they have been in numer-cus/instances, plundered of their property and deprived of their personal liberty if they dared insist on their rights. Had the unlawful seizures of American property, and the violation of personal liber-of our citizens, to say nothing of the iosults to our flag which have occurred to the ports of Mexico, taken place on the high seas, they would the mexicon taken place on the high seas, they would themselves long since have constituted a state of actual war be-

he two countries.
In so long suffering Mexico to violate her most In so long suttering Mexico to violate her most solemn treaty obligations, plunder our citizens of their property and imprison their persons without affording them any redress, we have fulled to perform one of the first and highest duties which every government owes to its citizens; and the conse government owes to us cauzens; and the consequence has been, that many of them have been reduced form a state of affluence to bankruptcy. The proud name of American civizens, which ought to protect all who bear it from insult & injury throughthe to the wild be a Control of the control of th out the world, has afforded no such protection to our citizens in Mexico. We had ample cause of war against Mexico long before the breaking out of hostilities. But even then we forbore to take re-dress into our own hands, until Mexico herselt be-

came the aggressor by invading our soil in hostile array and chedding the blood of our citizens. Such are the grave causes of complaint on the part of the United States against Mexico—causes which existed long before the anexation of Texas to the American Union; and yet, animated by the love of peace, and a magnificants. ove of peace, and a magnanimous moderation, we did not adopt those measures of redress which, un-

der such circumstances, are the justified resort of constituted no just cause of offence to Mexico.— The pretext that it didso is wholly inconsistent, and irreconcileable with well authenticated facts consected with the revolution by which Texas became

independent of Mexico.

That this may be more manifest, it may be proper to advert to the causes and to the history of the

principal events of that revolution.

Texas constituted a portion of the ancient province of Louisiana, ceded to the United States by France in the year 1803. In the year 1819, the United States, by the Florida treaty ceded to Spain all that part of Louisiana within the present limits of Texas; and Mexico, by the revolution which separated her from Spain, and rendered her an independent national and the sights of the mether country tion, susceeded to the rights of the mother country

composed of a number of sovereign states, confederated together in a federal Union similar to our own. Each of these States had its own executive, legislatine, and judiciary, and for all, except federal purposes, was as independent of the general government, and that of the other States, as is Pennylvania or Virginia under our own constitution. verminent, man man or me other Spaces, as is reinf-sylvania or Virginia under our own constitution.— Texas, and Coahuila united and formed one of

these Mexican States.

The State constitution which they adopted, and which was approved by the Mexican confederacy, asserted that they were "free and independent of the other Mexican United States, and of every other power and dominion whatsoever;" and pro-claimed the great principle of human liberty, that claimed the great principle of numan money, the sovereignty of the State resides originally and herself to any other Power; but this country which the sovereignty of the State resides originally and herself to any other Power; but this country which tract in any degree from the recognition which essentially in the general mass of the individuals that in any degree from the recognition which tract in any degree from the recognition. e-sentially in the general mass of the individuals who composed it." To the government under this constitution, as well as that under the federal constitution, the people of Texas owed allegiance.

Emigrants from foreign countries, including the United States, were invited by the colonization laws of the State and of the federal government to

settle in Texas. Advantageous terms were offered to induce them to leave their own country and beto induce them to leave their own country and become Mexican citizens. This invitation was accepted by many of our citizens, in the full faith that in their new home they would be governed by laws enacted by representatives elected by themselves, and that their lives, liberty and property would be protected by constitutional guarantees similar to those which existed in the republic which they had left. Under a government thus organized they continued until the year 1835, when a military revolution broke out in the city of Mexico, which entirely subverted the federal and state constitutions, and placed a military dictator at the head stitutions, and placed a military dictator at the head

of the government.

By a sweeping decree of a Congress subservient
to the will of the dictator, the several State constitutions were abolished, and the State themselves converted into mere departments of the Central Go-vernment. The people of Texas were unwilling to submit to this usurpation. Resistance to such ty-ranny became a high duty. Texas was fully ab-solved from all allegiance to the Central Government of Mexico from the moment that governmen had abolished her State constitution, and in its place substituted an arbitrary and despotic Central Go

Such were the principal causes of the Texan revolution. The people of Texas at once determined upon resistance, and flew to arms. In the midst of these important and exciting events, however, they did not omit to place their liberties upon a secure and permanent foundation. They elected members are the second of cure and permanent foundation. They elected members to a Convention, who, in the mon h of March, 1836, issued a formal declaration that their "political connection with the Mexican nation was forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a Free, Sovereign, and Independent Republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and articibutes which properly below to independent nations. attributes which properly belong to independent nattributes which properly belong to independent nations." They also adopted for their government a liberal republican constitution.

About the same time Santa Anna, then the dicta-

tor of Mexico, invaded Texas with a numerous as my for the purpose of subduing her people, and enforcing obedience to his arbitrary and despotic government. On the twenty-first of April, 1836 he was met by the Texan citizen soldiers, and on that day was achieved by them the memorable victory of San Jacinto, by which they conquered their inde-pendence. Considering the numbers engaged on the respective sides, history does not record a more brilliant achievement. Santa Anna himself was unong the captives.

In the month of May, 1836, Santa Anna acknow ledged, by a treaty with the Texan au horities, in the most solemn form, "the full, entire, and perfect independence of the republic of Texas." It is true that be had failed to reconquer Texas, and had met with signal defeat; that his authority had not been revoked, and that by virtue of this treaty he obtained his personal release. By it hostilities were suspended, and the army which had invaded Texas, and the states that, by the treaty of the twenty-second of February, 1819; between the United States and Spain, the Sabine was adopted as the line of boundary between the two Powers. Up under his command returned in pursuance of this arrangement, unmolested, to Mexico.

onsider Texas as having been at all times since terminer Texas as having been a an unless since 1835, and as still continuing; a rebellious province; but the world has been obliged to take a very different view of the matter. From the time of the battle of San Jac nto, in April, 1836, to the present moment, Texas has exhibited the same external signs of national independence as Mexico herself, and with quite as much stability of government. "Practically free and Independent, acknowledged

supplying them with vessels, ammunition, and money, as if the war for the reduction of the province of Texas had been constantly prosecuted by Mexico, and her success prevented by these influences from abroad."

In the same despatch the Secretary of State af-firms that "since 1837 the United States have regarded Texas as an independent sovereignty, as much as Mexico; and that trade and commerce with citizens of a government at war with Mexico caonot, on that account be regarded as intercourse by which assistance and success are given to Mexian rebels. The whole current of Mr. de Rocane. ndependence of Texas had not been acknow-

dged.
"It has been acknowledged—it was acknow "It has been acknowledged.—It was acknowledged in 1837 against the remonstrance and protest of Mexico; and most of the acts of any importance, of which Mr. de Bocanegra complains, flow necessarily from that recognition. He speaks of Texas as still being an "integral part of the territory of the Mexican republic," but he cannot but understood that the United States do not so regard it. The real complaint of Mexico, therefore, is, in substance, neither more nor less than a complaint against the recognition of Texan independence. "It may be thought rather late to repeat that com-

plaint, and not quite just to confine it to the United States, to the exemption of England, France and Belgium, unless the U.S. having been the first to acknowledge the independence of Mexico herself, are to be blamed for setting an example for the re-cognition of that of Texas." And he added, that the constitution, public treaties, and the laws oblige the President to regard Texas as an independent State, and its territory as no part of the territory of

Texas had been an independent State, with an organized government, defying the power of Mexi-co to overthrow or re-conquer her, for more than ten years before Mexico commenced the presen war against the United States. Texas had such evidence to the world of her ability to maintain her separate existence as an independent na-tion, that she had been formally recognized as such, ripered nations.

The annexation of Texas to the United States not only by the United States, but by several of the principal powers of Europe. These powers had entered into treaties of anity, commerce, and navigation with her. They had received and accredited her ministers and other diplomatic agents at their respective courts, and they had commissioned ministers and discounts and they had commissioned ministers and discounts and they had commissioned ministers and discounts and their commissioned ministers and discounts are their contracts. isters and diplomatic agents on their part to the go-

vennment of Texas.

If Mexico, notwithstanding all this, and her utter If Mexico, notwithstanding all this, and her utter inability to subdue or reconquer Texas, still stubbornly refused to recognize her as an independent nation; she was none the less so on that account.—Maxico herself had been recognized as an independent nation by the United Set 1, and by other powers, many years before Spain, of which, before her revolution, she had been a colony, would agree to

In the year 1824, Mexico established a federal constitution, unde which the Mexican republic was spain still claimed her as a colony.

If Spain had continued until the present period to ascert that Mexico was one of her colonies in republic against her, this would not have made her bellion against her, this would not have made her colonies, and purposes, was as independent of the general government, and that of the other States, as is Penn-Texas, at the period of her annexation to the United States, hore the same relation to Mexice that Mexico had borne to Spain for many years before Spain acknowledged her independence, with this important difference—that, before the annexation of Texas to the United States was consumated.

Mexico hazaff but a formal act of consumated. Mexico herself, by a formal act of government, had acknowledged the independence of Texas as a nation, It is true, that in the act of recognition she prescribed a condition which she had no power or authority to impose, that Texas should not annex herself to any other Power; but this could not de-

> Upon this plain statement of facts, it is about for Mexico to allege, as a pretext for commencing hostilities against the United States, that Texas is still a part of her territory.
>
> But there are those who, conceding all this to be But there are those who, concerning an analous true, assume the ground that the true western boundary of Texas is the Neuces, instead of the Rio Grande; and that, therefore, in marching our army to the east bank of the latter river, we passed the Texas line, and invaded the territory of Mexico. A simple statement of facts, known to exist, will conclusively refute such an assumption. Texas, as ceded to the United States by France in 1803, has been always claimed as extending west to the Rio Grande, or Rio Bravo. This fact is established by the authority of our most eminent statesmen at a period when the question was as well if not better

Upon this plain statement of facts, it is absurd for

period when the question was as well if not better understood than it is at present.

During Mr. Jefferson's administration, Messis. Motroe and Pinckney, who had been sent on a special mission to Madrid, charged among other things, with the adjustment of boundary between the two countries, in a note addressed to Spanish Ministers of Foreign Affairs, under date of the twenty-eighth of January, 1805, assert that the boundaries of Louisiana, as ceded to the United States by Frauce, "are the river Perdido on the east, and the river Bravo on the west;" and they add, that "the facts and principles which justify this conslucion are so satisfactory to our government as to convince are so satisfactory to our government as to convince it that the United States have not a better right to the island of New Orleans, under the cession refer-red to, than they have to the whole district of terri-tory which is above described."

Down to the conclusion of the Florida treaty, in

February, 1819, by which this territory was ceded to Spain, the United States asserted and maintained their territorial rights to this extent. In the month of June, 1818, during Mr. Monroe sadministration, information having been received that a number o foreign adventurers had landed at Galveston, with the avowed purpose of forming a settlement in that vicinity, a special messenger was despatched by the government of the United States with instructions from the Secretary of State to warm them to desist, should they be found there "or any other place north of the Rio Bravo, and within the terriry claimed by the United States."

He was instructed, should they be found in the

country north of that river, to make known to them possession thus taken, without authority from the United States, of a place within their territorial limits, and upon which no lawful settlement can be made without their sanction." He was instructed to call upon them to "avow under what national authority they profess to act, 'and to give them due warning "that the place is within the United States, who will suffer no permanent settlement to be made there, under any authority other than their own." As late as the eighth of July, 1842, the Secretary of State of the United States, in a note addressed to our minister in Mexico, maintains that, by the Florida treaty of 1819, the territory as to that period, no considerable colonization had been effected in Texas: but the territory between been effected in Texas: but the territory between the Sabine and the Rio Grande being confirmed to spain by the treaty, applications were made to that possessed the power to reconquer Texas. In the language of the Secretary of State of the United States, in a despatch to our minister in Mexico, under date of the 8th of July, 1842, "Mexico may have chosen to consider, and may still choose to families, before the declaration of the independence of Mexico." of Mexico.

The Texas which was ceded to Spain by the Florida treaty of 1819, embraced all the country now claimed by the State of Texas between the Neuces and the Rio Grande. The republic of Texas always claimed this river as her western boundary, and in her treaty made with Santa Anna in May, 1836, he recognised it as such. By the con-stitution which Texas adopted in March, 1836, as a political sovereignty by the principal Powers of the world, no hostile foot finding rest within her territory for six or seven years, and Mexico herself refraining for all that period from any further attempt to re-establish her own authority over that territory, it cannot but be surprising to find Mr. de Recapter? (the Secretary of Receips Affairs of and by the said set they extended their "civil and are they extended their "civil and by the said set they extended their "civil and are they extended their "civil and the said set they extended their "civil and are they extended they extended the remaining their they extended they extended they are they extended they extended they are they extended they extended they are they extended they exten territory, it cannot but be surprising to find Mr. de trom its mouth to its source to be their boundary, Bocanegra' (the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico) "complaining that for that whole period citizens of the United States, or its government, have been favorable to the rebels of Texas, and years, which intervened between the adoption of political jurisdiction" over the country up to that boundary. During a period of more than nine, years, which intervened between the adoption of her constitution and her annexation as one of the States of our Union. Texas asserted and exercised many acts of sovereignty and jurisdiction over the territory and inhabitants west of the Neuces. She organized and defined the limits of counties extend-ing to the Rio Grande. She established courts of justice and extended her judicial system over the territory. She established a custom-house, and col-lected duties, and also post offices and post roads, in it. She established a land office, and issued numerous grants for land within its limits. A senaor and a representative residing in it were elected to the Congress of the republic, and served as such before the annexation took place. In both the Congress and convention of Texas, which gave their assent to the terms of annexation to the United States, proposed by our Congress, were represent-atives residing west of the Neuces, who took part the act of annexation itself. This was the Tex as which, by the act of our Congress of the twenty-ninth of December, 1845, was admitted as one of the States of our Union. That the Congress of the United States understood the State of Texas which they admitted into the Union to extend beyond the Neuces is apparent from the fact, that on the thirty-first of December, 1845, only two days after the act of admission, they passed a law "to establish a col-lection district in the State of Texas," by which they created a port of delivery at Corpus Christi, situated west of the Neuces, and being the same point at which the Texas custom-house, under the laws of that republic, had been located, and directed that a surveyor to collect the revenue should be appointed for that port by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. A surveyor was accordingly nominated and confirmed by the Senate, and has been ever since in the perormance of his duties. All these acts of the repub-ic of Texas, and our Congress, preceded the orders or the advance of our army to the east bank of the Rio Grande. Subsequently, Congress passed an act "establishing certain post routes," west of the Neuces. The country west of that riv west of the reduces. The country west of that river now constitutes a part of one of the congressional districts of Texas; and is represented in the House of Representatives. The senators from that State were chosen by a legislature in which the country west of that river was represented. In view of all these facts, it is difficult to conceive upon what ground it can be maintained that, in occupying the country west of the Neuces with our army, with a view solely to its security and defence, we invaded the territory of Mexico. But it would have been still more difficult to justify the Executive, whose duty it is to see that the laws be faithfully executed if in the face of all these proceedings, both of the Congress of Texas and of the United States, he had assumed the responsibility of yielding up the territary west of the Neuces to Mex.co, or of refusing to protect and defend this territory and its inhabitants, including Corpus Christi, as well as the remainder of Texas, against the threatened Mexican invasion.

recognize her as such; and yet Mexico was at that time, in the estimation of the civilized world, and which she has waged, upon the ground that our ar-But Mexico herself has never placed the war overtures made by Texas.

On the twelfth of April, 1944, and after mere that

my occupied the intermediate territory between Neuces and the Rio Grande. Her re sion that Texas was not in fact an sion that Texas was not in fact an independent State, but a rebellious province, was abstinged personned in; and her avowed purpose in comparing a war with the United States was to record the value of the Vences only, but to the Neuces only, but to the Schine. In view of the proclaimed metals. whole territory—not to the Neuces only, but to be Sabine. In view of the proclaimed menare of Mexico to this effect, I deemed it my duty, at measure of precaution and defence, to order to army to occupy a position on our frontier as a nit tary post, from which our troops could best read and repel any attempted invasion which Merico might make.

Our army had occupied a position at Copa Christi, west of the Neuces, as early as August

Our army had occupied a position at Copa Christi, west of the Neuces, as early as Augus 1845, without complaint from any quarter. Had the Neuces been regarded as the true week boundary of Texas, that boundary had been passed by our army many months before it advanced in the eastern bank of the Rio Grande. In my arms message of December last I informed Congress, the invitation of both the Congress and consequents. upon the invitation of both the Congress and upon the mination of both the Congress and Covention of Texas, I had deemed it proper to only a strong squadron to the coasts of Mexico, and concentrate an efficient military force on the way ern frontier of Texas, to protect and defend the em frontier of Texas, to protect and detend the a-habitants against the menaced invasion of Merko. In that message I informed Congress that have ment the terms of annexation offered by the United States were accepted by Texas, the latter became so far a part of our own country as to make it or duty to afford such protection and defence a that for that purpose our squadron had been ode ed to the Gulf, and our army to "take a positional tween the Neuces and the Del Norte," or R Grande, and to "repel any invasion of the Tex-territory which might be attempted by the Meiro

forces."

It was deemed proper to issue this order, because soon after the President of Texas, in April 181 had issued his proclamation convening the Cagress of that republic, for the purpose of submini gress of that republic, to that body the terms of annexation proposal in the United States, the government of Mexico magnetic serious threats of invading the Texan termory. serious threats of invading the Lexan termon.

These threats became more imposing as it became more apparent, in the progress of the question, is the people of Texas would decide in favor accepting the terms of annexation; and, finally, they is assumed such a formidable character, as indeed assumed such a formidable character, as indeed. assumed such a formidable character, as indust both the Congress and convention of Texas low quest that a military force should be sent by the United States into her territory for the purpose of protecting and defending her against the threaten invasion. It would have been a violation of good faith towards the people of Texas to have refued to afford the aid which they desired against a three ened invasion, to which they had been expeedy their free determination to annex themselves are Union, in compliance with the overture made them by the joint resolution of our Congress.

Accordingly, a portion of the army was order; to advance into Texas. Corpus Christ was be position selected by Gen. Taylor. He example at that place in August, 1845, and the army readed in that position until the eleventh of Mark 1846, when it removed westward, and on the two ty-eighth of that month reached the eastbank of Rio Grande opposite to Matamoras.

This movement was made in pursuance of order from the War Department, issued on the threem of January, 1846. Before these orders were used the despatch of our minister in Mexico, transmusthe decision of the council of Government of Ne co, advising that he should not be received, and the the despatch of our consul residing in the circ Mexico-the former bearing date on the seventer and the latter on the eighteenth of December, la copies of both of which accompanied my message longress of the eleventh of May last-were rece

at the Department of State.

These communications rendered it highly proble, if not absolutely certain, that our ministers of not be received by the government of Gener Herrera. It was also well known that but in hope could be entertained of a different result for General Paredes in case the revolutionary mor General Paredes in case the revolutionary mass ment which he was prosecuting should prore six cessful, as was highly probable. The partisant of Paredes, as our minister, in the despatch remi-to, states, breathed the fiercest hostility against he United States, denounced the proposed negonator as treason, and openly called upon the troops as he people to put down the government of

The reconquest of Texas, and war with the Univ. I ne reconquest of Texas, and war with the Unit States, were openly threatened. These were circumstances existing, when it was deemed prope to order the army under the command of General Taylor to advance to the western frontier of Texas.

Taylor to advance to the westers frontier of teas, and occupy a position on or near the Rio Grade.

The apprehension of a contemplated Mexican revasion have been since fully jusuified by the real the determination of Mexico to rush into hostilans with the United States was afterwards manifest from the whole tenor of the note of the Mexico. Minister of Foreign Affairs to our muster, but ing date on the twelfth of March, 1846.

Paredes had then revolutionized the government and his minister, after referring to the resolution the annexation of Texas, which had been adopted that "a fact such as this, or, to an imperious necessity that Mexico, for her or honor, should repel it with proper firmers dignity. The Supreme Government had beforebated that it would look upon such an act at casus belli ; and, as a consequence of this decla tion, negotiation was, by its very nature, at an (2) and war was the only recourse of the Mexican 6:

vernment."
It appears also, that on the fourth of April feller ing, General Paredes, through his minister of exing, General Pareces, through his minister is seued orders to the Mexican general information the Texan frontier, to attack our army "by cermeans which war permits." To this, Geeri means which war permits." To this, Geeri Paredes had been pledged to the army and people of Mexico during the military revolution which his brought him into power. On the 18th of April, 18th General Paredes addressed a letter to the commands on that frontier, in which he stated to him, "at the present date I suppose you at the head of that raising army, either fighting already, or preparing for the operations of a campaign;" and "supposing for already on the theatre of operations, and with all the forces assembled, it is in the control to the control of the control forces assembled, it is indispensible that hestilities e commenced, yourself taking the initiative against

The movement of our army to the Rio Grate was made by the commanding general under posters orders to abstain from all aggressive acts was Mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard there's mexico, or Mexican citizens, and to regard ucreations between the two countries as peaceful unks Mexico should declare war, or commit acts of bettility indicative of a state of war; and these order the faithfully executed. Whilst occupying his position on the east bank of the Rio Grande, within the limits of Tayan that peaceful admitted as media. limits of Texas, then recently admitted as oned States of our Union, the commanding general cathe Mexican forces, who, in pursuance of the other of his government, had collected a large annia the opposite shore of the Rio Grande, crossed river, invaded our territory, and commenced hosting the control of the commenced hosting the control of the commenced hosting the control of the control

Thus, after all the injuries which we had rece ed and borne from Mexico, and after she had more ingly rejected a minister sent to her on a mixed of peace, and whom she had solemnly agreed to ceive, she consummated her long course of outre against our country by commencing an official war and shedding the blood of our citizens of the

own soil.

The United States never attempted to add Texas by conquest. On the contrary, at an eff period after the people of Texas had achieved by independence, they sought to be admitted to be United States.

At a general election in September, 1830, del decided with great unanimity in favor of same tion," and in November following, the Concept the republic authorized the appointment of a mitthe republic authorized the appointment of a mitthe republic authorized the appointment. government, however, having remained neutral by tween Texas and Mexico during the war bright them, and considering it due to the honor of the contract. ter to bear their request to this g: verument them, and considering it due to the honor of the country, and our fair fame among the national the earth, that we should not at this early processed to annexation, nor until it should be not to annexation, nor until it should be not feet to the whole world that the reconquest of Termination of the country of the state of the sta lest to the whole world that the reconquest of Feri by Mexico was impossible, refused to accide min overtures made by Texas.