

Coming—the holidays. Slightly wet—the weather about now. A general complaint—coughs and colds. Calculated to display a person's agility—attempting to cross our muddy streets. Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, is seventy-two years old. Electrical lights are to be applied to the light houses on the French coast. The centenary anniversary of Robt Burns' birth will occur on the 25th of January, 1859. The tallest chimney in the United States is at the Charlestown Navy Yard, it being 225 feet in height. Several periodicals in Spain were recently forced to suspend publication on account of the scarcity of white paper. The use of chloroform in cases of spasmodic diarrhoea is recommended by Dr. Wilson, of Edinburgh. The next return of the comet which has lately attracted so much attention, may be expected about 1899 or 1890. It is said that fewer accidents, in proportion to the number of travelers, occur on the railways in Prussia than any other country. The value of each warm growing day between seed time and harvest is estimated to be \$18,000,000. A tremendous dream—that one the editor of the Altoona "Tribune" dreamed, is member, "dreams go by contraries." The printers and telegraph operators at New Orleans have taken steps toward erecting a monument over the grave of Franklin, in Philadelphia. The average number of daily deaths in Boston is twelve; but, during the present year, two days passed without the occurrence of a single death. EL-QUEBENT.—As winged lightning dart from the clouds when Jupiter has unbarred his bolts, so does a bigger run like black whos a big dog is after him. A patent has been granted at Washington to Dr. C. P. Page for a pillow or rest for the head, for night travelers in railroad cars, the improvement being attached to an umbrella. Among the curiosities of the late industrial exhibition at Providence, R. I., were Rags Williams' pocket compass and King Philip's chair and ancestor's kettle. The feat of swimming across the St. Lawrence in twenty-five and a half minutes, was recently performed by an officer attached to a regiment stationed at Quebec. A pig four months old, with horns two inches in length, one above each eye, was recent one of the freaks of nature on exhibition at Faquier county. According to a late estimate, there are in the State of New York 190,000 voters who never visit the polls, and 200,000 who only do so occasionally. The longest train that ever passed over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad arrived at Cumberland recently, consisting of ninety-seven cars—mainly coal hoppers. "Bridget, Bridget," said an old lady on morning to her servant, who was not disposed to rise very early: "get up—here's Monday morning, to-morrow'll be Tuesday, next day Wednesday—half the week gone and nothing done yet!" Ebenezer Francis, who died lately in Boston, aged nearly 83, left the largest estate ever accumulated in New England. At the time of his death, he had on deposit in the Boston bank about \$2,600,000. Miss Mary Wright, formerly of America, but now of England, aged 108, preached lately in Leeds for about twenty minutes; her voice being from the beginning to the end perfectly clear and distinct. A pear tree in Salem, Mass., which was transplanted last Fall, bloomed in May and continued to blossom every month during the season up to September, when it was a well fruited tree. There is a pleasure in the pathless woods. There is a rapture on the lonely shore. By the deep sea, and music in its soul. The poet might as well have added, that more happiness, in comparison with the outlay necessary, is produced by the introduction of a Great & Baker Sewing Machine into a family, than by any other known means. AN IMPORTANT FEATURE.—The great demand which exists for its graduates, and the high salaries which they command are the best possible guarantees of the practical and business value of those from the Iron City College who commend.—Hunt's Merchant's Magazine. Cape May, which is now one of the most celebrated places of summer resort in the country, derives its name from Captain Cornelius J. May, a navigator in the service of the Dutch West India Company, who visited Delaware Bay in 1623. At Wilmington, N. C., recently, the tide which had been ebbing for some time, suddenly turned, and ran back for three quarters of an hour, then stopped, and renewed its downward direction till low water. At Smithville, N. C., on the same day, the tide ebbed and flowed several times, the strange fluctuation being caused as was supposed, by the heavy equinoctial storm of the night before. The late Dr. Chapman, of Philadelphia, was walking in the streets, and a baker's cart, driven furiously, was about to run him down. The baker reined up suddenly, and just in time to spare the doctor, who instantly took off his hat, and, bowing politely, exclaimed, "You're the best bred man in town!" A steamer with a boy of twelve at the helm: Old Gentleman—"You're a smart young fellow to be trusted in that station already." Boy (indignantly)—"Don't you see the notice. 'Don't speak to the man at the wheel'?" EPIGRAM.—Here lies an old maid, That wasn't afraid To kick up a dust when she walked; And was always intent, Wherever she went, Upon making a noise when she talked. She was happy and brave, When she went to her grave.— (Ay, laugh and shake while you can.) For, as none would have guessed, 'Twas her last request, To be buried ten miles from a man!

adjusted by some fair tribunal provided for the purpose, and the route must not be closed pending the controversy. This is our whole policy, and it cannot fail to be acceptable to other nations. All these difficulties might be avoided if consistently with the good faith of Nicaragua, the use of this transit could be thrown open to general competition; providing at the same time for the payment of a reasonable rate to the Nicaraguan government, on passengers and freight. [CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

Democrat & Sentinel.



O. D. MURRAY, Editor and Publisher. EBENSBURG, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE. We this week commence the publication of the second Annual Message of President Buchanan. It will be concluded in our next issue. Of course it is unnecessary for us to commend it to the careful perusal of our readers. Thinking men of all parties are always anxious to ascertain the views of the Chief Magistrate of the Republic, on the important political questions of the day, and always grant him a candid and respectful hearing. The Message is ally written, and the principles and views embodied in it are those of a profound statesman and pure patriot. Read it carefully.

TRIAL OF WILLIAM ARENTRUE FOR MURDER OF GEORGE BEAMISH.

We last week published a synopsis of the evidence in this case up to Tuesday evening. On Wednesday morning, the Commonwealth called Charles Watkins. His testimony did not vary materially from that of the witnesses previously examined. He stated that he was at Hollywood ball; Arentreue and Beamish were there; on the way home, near corner of Rolling Mill, Beamish asked Arentreue if he'd "picked on him?" I said no, it was Jack Huff; Beamish then told Arentreue if he'd anything against him he could take it out there; Arentreue said he could fight him; Beamish then told him not to take anything out of his pocket; Arentreue told him he'd the fixers; went on a bit further; saw umbrella hitting Arentreue on head; they didn't stand together more than a moment when Beamish started to run; said he was stuck with a knife; then I started and went up to Flat; Arentreue and girl passed me; said he'd lost his hat; asked me to get it; can't tell how far behind when the conversation occurred. (Conversation between Arentreue and Beamish) was within 6 or 7 yards behind when umbrella struck; didn't see Beamish fall. On his cross examination, he stated that Arentreue had a girl with him when Beamish struck him with umbrella; god many persons there at the time—all in a bunch; after stroke was struck, Beamish and Arentreue pitched into each other; didn't see the crowd rushing in; walked myself; didn't think they were going to fight till I saw the umbrella; if Arentreue had fallen, I'd seen him; the stars show that night; Arentreue had on a white coat, ripped down the back; seen him put his hand to left side when he said he'd the fixers. Danl. Cryder called and sworn.—(Draft shown him by Mr. Scott.) Was present when this draft was made; was there on night of Beamish's death; draft represents localities correctly, (draft shown to jury) was at the ball; was coming up from there; came to corner of Mill; Beamish asked Arentreue if he had anything against him; Arentreue said he'd nothing; said he'd the fixers here; threw up his hand and said he'd fight him, or something that way; walked up a piece further, Beamish a step behind Arentreue; then they came up close together; seen Arentreue make the first pass; saw it because he'd a white coat on; Beamish then made a pass with the umbrella, at least he'd it crack; then they kind of parted; saw Arentreue make another pass; then Beamish threw up his hand and said he was stabbed; came round again near the spot where Arentreue made the pass at him, and fell; heard him uttering; John Glass and me went to him; Glass spoke to him; didn't answer; heard him uttering; ran up to Beamish's house and got a candle; after came back he drew one breath; bled out of left side; this occurred in Millville borough, about three months ago. On his cross examination he stated nothing new of importance, except that it was on account of the white coat sleeve he saw the motion of Arentreue's arm when he made the pass, and that he saw him kind of juking when Beamish struck him with the umbrella.

William Cryder, sworn.—I was at Hollywood's ball; Beamish was leaning on his umbrella at ball; Arentreue asked what he was listening to; Arentreue said, "come out to side of door, you son of a b—h;" then Sarah Horner said something and he commenced laughing and sat down again; as I came up past Rolling Mill heard Beamish say if he'd anything against him he could take it out of him; Arentreue said he could lick him or Jack Huff, for he'd the fixers; I think I heard some one say, "wait till we get over the ties;" after they got over those wires passed; can't say what they were; saw no blows struck; I and Arentreue's girl went up; heard Beamish say that Arentreue had a knife. Think I heard him say "I'm stuck;" I went a piece with Miss Horner, till Arentreue caught up; he was bareheaded; asked me if I would go back and get his cap for him; told him I wouldn't; he then caught the girl's hand and ran up the top-path; I went to the Flat, and hollered for Beamish; went back in 10 or 15 minutes and found him dead. On his cross examination he said—I went ahead as I wanted to see some fun; I wanted to see who got the girl; she started with me; I wanted to go home with her, if he'd let me.

ENCOURAGING.

We are pleased to learn that the Democratic members of Congress are now working harmoniously together, and manifest a disposition to continue to do so during the present session. Past differences are forgotten, and all seem determined that the organization of our glorious old party shall be preserved. This is as it should be, the Democracy having nothing to gain by quarrelling among themselves. By so doing they strengthen the Opposition, and enable them to boast of at least temporary success. The campaign of 1860 is rapidly approaching, and we should already be preparing for the contest The Democracy, when united, are always successful. Three nuggets of gold of the aggregate value of \$70,000 are on exhibition at Melbourne, previous to being shipped for London. The largest lump weighs over 2,100 ounces of pure gold, and far eclipses in brilliancy the once celebrated "Blanche Barkly" nugget.

government immediately after the signing of the treaty, without awaiting the ratification of it by the Senate. I am encouraged to make this suggestion, by the example of Mr. Jefferson, previous to the purchase of Louisiana from France, and that of Mr. Polk in view of the acquisition of territory from Mexico. I refer the whole subject to Congress, and commend it to their careful consideration.

I repeat the recommendation made in my message of December last, in favor of an appropriation "to be paid in the Spanish government for the purpose of distribution among the claimants in the Amistad case." President Polk first made a similar recommendation in December, 1847, and it was repeated by my immediate predecessor in December, 1853. I entertain no doubt that indemnity is fairly due to these claimants under our treaty with Spain of the 27th October, 1795; and whilst demanding justice we ought to do justice. An appropriation promptly made for this purpose, could not fail to exert a favorable influence on our negotiations with Spain.

Our position in relation to the independent States south of us on this continent, and especially those within the limits of North America, is of a peculiar character. The northern boundary of Mexico is coincident with our own southern boundary from ocean to ocean; and we must necessarily feel a deep interest in all that concerns the well-being and the fate of so near a neighbor. We have always cherished the kindest wishes for the success of the republic, and have indulged the hope that it might at last, after all its trials, enjoy peace and prosperity under a free and stable government. We have never hitherto interfered, directly or indirectly, with its internal affairs, and it is a duty we owe to ourselves, to protect the integrity of its territory, against the hostile interference of any other power.

Our geographical position, our direct interest in all that concerns Mexico, and our well settled policy in regard to the North American continent, render this an indispensable duty.

Mexico has been in a state of constant revolution almost ever since it achieved its independence. One military leader after another usurped the government in rapid succession; and the various constitutions from time to time adopted, have been set at naught almost as soon as they were proclaimed.—The successive governments have afforded no Mexican citizens, or foreign residents, a secure and lawless violence. Heretofore, a seizure of the capital by a military chieftain, has been generally followed by at least the nominal submission of the country to his rule for a brief period, but not so at the present crisis of Mexican affairs. A civil war has been raging for some time throughout the republic, between the central government at the city, which has endeavored to subvert the constitution last framed, by military power, and those who maintain the authority of that constitution. The antagonist parties each hold possession of different States of the republic, and the fortunes of the war are constantly changing. Meanwhile, the most reprehensible means have been employed by both parties, to extort money from foreigners, as well as natives, to carry on this ruinous contest. The truth is, that this line country, blessed with a productive soil and a benign climate, has been reduced by civil dissension to a condition of almost hopeless anarchy and lawlessness. It would be vain for this government to attempt to force payment in money of the claims of American citizens, now amounting to more than ten million dollars, against Mexico, because she is destitute of all pecuniary means to satisfy these demands.—Our late minister was furnished with ample power and instructions for the adjustment of all pending questions with the central government of Mexico, and he performed his duty with zeal and ability. The claims of our citizens, some of them arising out of the violation of an express provision of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and others from injuries to persons as well as property, have remained unredressed and even unnoticed. Remonstrances against these grievances have been addressed without effect to that government. Meantime, in various parts of the republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; but the central government, although repeatedly urged thereto, have made no effort either to punish the authors of these outrages or prevent their recurrence. No American citizen can now visit Mexico on lawful business, without imminent danger to his person and property. There is no adequate protection to either; and in this respect our treaty with that republic is almost a dead letter.

This state of affairs was brought to a crisis in May last, by the promulgation of a decree levying a contribution *pro rata* upon all the capital in the republic, between certain specified amount, whether held by Mexicans or foreigners. Mr. Forsyth, regarding this decree in the light of a "forced loan," formally protested against its application to his countrymen, and advised them not to pay the contribution, but suffer it to be forcibly exacted. Acting upon this advice, an American citizen refused to pay the contribution, and his property was seized by armed men to satisfy the amount. Not content with this, the government proceeded still further, and issued a decree banishing him from the country. Our minister immediately notified them that if this decree should be carried into execution he would feel it to be his duty to adopt "the most decided measures that belong to the powers and obligations of the representative office." Notwithstanding this warning, the banishment was enforced, and Mr. Forsyth promptly announced to the government the suspension of the political relations of his legation with them, until the pleasure of his own government should be ascertained.

This government did not regard the contribution imposed by the decree of the 15th May last, to be in strictness a "forced loan," and as such prohibited by the 10th article of the treaty of 1823, between Great Britain and Mexico, to the benefit of which American citizens are entitled by treaty; yet the imposition of the contribution upon foreigners was considered an unjust and oppressive measure. Besides, internal factions in other parts of the republic were at the same time levying similar exactions upon the property of our citizens, and interrupting their commerce. There had been an entire failure on the part of our minister, to secure redress for the wrongs which our citizens had endured, notwithstanding his persevering efforts.—

And from the temper manifested by the Mexican government, he had repeatedly assured us that no favorable change could be expected, until the United States should "give striking evidence of their will and power to protect their citizens," and "severe chastening is the only earthly remedy for our grievances." From this statement of facts, it would have been worse than idle, to direct Mr. Forsyth to retrace his steps, and resume diplomatic relations with that government; and it was, therefore, deemed proper to sanction his withdrawal of the legation from the city of Mexico.

Abundant cause now undoubtedly exists, for a resort to hostilities against the government still holding possession of the capital. Should they be caused in subduing the constitutional forces, all reasonable hope will then have expired of a peaceful settlement of our difficulties.

On the other hand, should the constitutional party prevail, and their authority be established over the republic, there is reason to hope that they will be animated by a less unfriendly spirit, and may grant that redress to American citizens which justice requires, so far as they may possess the means. But for expectations, I should at once have recommended to Congress to grant the necessary power to the President, to take possession of a sufficient portion of the remote and unsettled territory of Mexico to be held in pledge until our injuries shall be redressed and our just demands satisfied. We have already exhausted every milder means of obtaining justice. In such a case, this remedy of reprisals is recognized by the laws of nations, not only as just in itself, but as a means of preventing actual war.

But there is another view of our relations with Mexico, arising from the unhappy condition of affairs along our southern frontier, which demands immediate action. In that remote region, where there are but few white inhabitants, large bands of hostile and predatory Indians roam promiscuously over the Mexican States of Chihuahua and Sonora, and our adjoining Territories. The local government of these States are perfectly helpless, and are kept in a state of constant alarm by the Indians. They have not the power, if they possessed the will, even to restrain lawless Mexicans from passing the border and committing depredations on our remote settlers. A state of anarchy and violence prevails throughout that distant frontier.—For this reason the settlement of Arizona is arrested, whilst it is of great importance that a chain of inhabitants should extend all along its southern border, sufficient for their own protection and that of the United States mail passing to and from California. Well-founded apprehensions are now entertained, that the Indians, and wandering Mexicans equally lawless, may break up the important stage and postal communication recently established between our Atlantic and Pacific possessions. This passes very near to the Mexican boundary, throughout the whole length of Arizona. I can imagine no possible remedy for these evils, and no mode of restoring law and order on that remote and unsettled frontier, but for the government of the United States to assume a temporary protectorate over the northern portions of Chihuahua and Sonora, and to establish military posts within the same—and this I earnestly recommend to Congress. This protection may be withdrawn as soon as local governments shall be established in these Mexican States, capable of performing their duty to the United States, restraining the lawless and preserving peace along the border.

I do not doubt that this measure will be viewed in a friendly spirit by the governments and people of Chihuahua and Sonora, as it will prove equally effectual for the protection of their citizens on that remote and lawless frontier, as for citizens of the United States.

And in this connection, permit me to call your attention to the condition of Arizona. The population of that Territory, numbering, as I alleged, more than ten thousand souls, are practically without a government, without laws, and without any regular administration of justice. Murder and other crimes are committed with impunity. This state of things calls loudly for redress; and I, therefore, repeat my recommendation for a territorial government over Arizona.

The political condition of the narrow isthmus of Central America through which transit routes pass, between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, presents a subject of deep interest to all commercial nations. It is over these transits that a large proportion of the trade and travel between the European and Asiatic continents is destined to pass. To the United States these routes are of incalculable importance, as a means of communication between their Atlantic and Pacific possessions. The latter now extend throughout seventeen degrees of latitude on the Pacific coast, embracing the important State of California and the flourishing Territories of Oregon and Washington. All commercial nations, therefore, have a deep and direct interest that these communications shall be rendered secure from interruption. If an arm of the sea, connecting the two oceans, penetrated through Nicaragua and Costa Rica, it could not be pretended that these States would have the right to arrest or retard its navigation to the injury of other nations. The transit by land over this isthmus occupies nearly the same position. It is a highway in which they themselves have little interest, when compared with the vast interests of the rest of the world.

Whilst their rights of sovereignty might be respected, it is the duty of other nations to require that this important passage shall not be interrupted by the civil wars and revolutionary outbreaks which have so frequently occurred in this region. The stake is too important to be left at the mercy of rival companies, claiming to hold conflicting contracts with Nicaragua. The commerce of other nations is not to stand still and await the adjustment of such petty controversies. The government of the United States expect no more than this. They would not, if they could, derive any advantage from the Nicaraguan transit, not common to the rest of the world. Its neutrality and protection for the common use of all nations, is their only object. They have no objection that Nicaragua shall demand and receive a fair compensation from the companies and individuals who traverse the route; but they insist that it shall never hereafter be closed by an arbitrary decree of that government. If disputes arise between it and those with whom they have entered into contracts, these must be

the Spanish ministry, have been employed as reasons for delay. We have been compelled to wait again and again, until the new minister shall have had time to investigate the justice of our claims.

Even what have been denominated "the Cuban claims," in which more than a hundred of our citizens are directly interested, have furnished no exception. These claims were for the refunding of duties unjustly exacted from American vessels at different custom houses in Cuba, so long ago as the year 1844. The principles upon which they rest are so manifestly equitable and just, that after a period of nearly ten years, in 1854, they were recognized by the Spanish government. Proceedings were afterwards instituted to ascertain their amount, and this was finally fixed according to their own statement (with which we were satisfied) at the sum of one hundred and twenty-eight thousand six hundred and thirty-five dollars and fifty-four cents. Just at the moment, after a delay of fourteen years, when we had reason to expect that this sum would be repaid with interest, we have received a proposal to refund one third of this amount, (forty-two thousand and seventy-eight dollars and forty-four cents,) but without interest, if we would accept this in full satisfaction. The offer is also accompanied by a declaration that this indemnification is not founded on any reason of strict justice, but is made as a special favor.

One alleged cause for procrastination in the examination and adjustment of our claims, arises from an obstacle which it is the duty of the Spanish government to remove. Whilst the captain-general of Cuba is invested with general despotic authority in the government of that island, the power is withheld from him to examine and redress wrongs committed by officials under his control, on citizens of the United States. Instead of making our complaint directly to him at Havana, we are obliged to present them through our minister at Madrid. These are then referred back to the captain-general for information, and much time is thus consumed in preliminary investigations and correspondence between Madrid and Cuba, before the Spanish government will consent to proceed to negotiation. Many of the difficulties between the two governments would be obviated, and a long train of negotiation, if the captain-general were invested with authority to settle questions of easy solution on the spot, where all the facts are fresh, and could be promptly and satisfactorily ascertained. We have hitherto in vain urged upon the Spanish government to confer this power upon the captain-general, and our minister to Spain will again be instructed to urge this subject on their notice. In this respect, we occupy a different position from the powers of Europe. Cuba is almost within sight of our shores; our commerce with it is far greater than that of any other nation, including Spain itself; and our citizens are in habits of daily and extended personal intercourse with every part of the island. It is, therefore, a grievance that, when any difficulty occurs, no matter how unimportant, which might be readily settled at the moment, we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step to be taken there is to refer back to Cuba.

The truth is that Cuba, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world where the African slave trade is tolerated; and we are bound by treaty with Great Britain to maintain a naval force on the coast of Africa, at much expense both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slavers bound to that island. The late serious difficulties between the United States and Great Britain respecting the right of search, now so happily terminated, could never have arisen if Cuba had not afforded the market for slaves. As long as this market shall remain open, there can be no hope for the civilization of benighted Africa. Whilst the demand for slaves continues in Cuba, wars will be waged among the petty and barbarous chiefs in Africa, for the purpose of seizing subjects to supply this trade. In such a condition of affairs, it is impossible that the light of civilization and religion can ever penetrate these dark abodes.

It has been made known to the world by my predecessors, that the United States have, on several occasions, endeavored to acquire Cuba from Spain by honorable negotiation. If this were accomplished, the last relic of the African slave trade would instantly disappear. We would not, if we could, acquire Cuba in any other manner. This is due to our national character. All the territory which we have acquired since the origin of the government has been by fair purchase from France, Spain and Mexico, or by the free and voluntary act of the independent State of Texas, in blending her destinies with our own. This course we shall ever pursue, unless circumstances should occur, which we do not now anticipate, rendering a departure from it justifiable, under the imperative and overruling law of self-preservation.

The Island of Cuba, from its geographical position, commands the mouth of the Mississippi, and the immense and annually increasing trade, foreign and coastwise, from the valley of that noble river, now embracing half the sovereign States of the Union. With that Island under the dominion of a distant foreign power, this trade, of vital importance to these States, is exposed to the danger of being destroyed in time of war, and it has hitherto been subjected to perpetual injury and annoyance in time of peace. Our relations with Spain, which ought to be of the most friendly character, must always be placed in jeopardy, whilst the existing colonial government over the Island shall remain in its present condition.

Whilst the possession of the Island would be of vast importance to the United States, its value to Spain is comparatively unimportant. Such was the relative situation of the parties, when the great Napoleon transferred Louisiana to the United States. Jealous, as he ever was, of the national honor and interests of France, no person throughout the world has imputed blame to him for accepting a pecuniary equivalent for thisession.

The publicity which has been given to our former negotiations upon this subject, and the large appropriation which may be required to effect the purpose, render it expedient before making another attempt to renew the negotiation, that I should lay the whole subject before Congress. This is especially necessary, as it may become indispensable to success that I should be entrusted with the means of making an advance to the Spanish