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THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

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Our paper is almost filled with official documents, in relation to the state of affairs with Mexico, &c.

Very destructive fires have happened at *Poughkeepsie* and *Greenbush*, New York, and on the island of *Nantucket*.

There will be found in subsequent pages some account of the progress and prospects of the "INDIAN WAR." The *Seminoles* are, again, in action; and have advanced, at different points, committing many ravages—and then as suddenly retiring, leaving a trace marked by conflagration and blood. They had even committed depredations at a very short distance from the capital, Tallahassee—to the great harrassment and disquiet of the people. The *Creeks* seem to be in state of complete insurrection—they had murdered *many* in Alabama in a most appalling manner; and, by fire, destroyed many improvements. Col. *Crowell* takes shelter every night in Fort Mitchell. Great excitement prevailed, and persons were hourly flying into the more densely populated settlements, leaving every thing behind them! It is probable that they will join the *Seminoles*, and, perhaps, aim at the "conquest of Florida!" These things, with events that will probably happen on the *Mexican* frontier, are exceedingly unpleasant, and must materially affect our march forward.

The Maryland "democratic state convention" met at Baltimore on the 18th inst. and responded to the nomination of *Martin Van Buren*, as president, and *Richard M. Johnson* as vice president of the United States, for four years, from the 4th of March next—and named their electoral ticket, &c.

Both boards of the corporation of New York are *ti-ed*, and last week took about forty ballots, each, for presidents, without success. In one of them, however, a "whig" clerk had been chosen—9 to 7, in place of a Van Buren man, dismissed. Other ballots have been since made, with the same results.

The elections in *Virginia* have resulted in the choice of 76 Van Buren men, and 57 whigs.

A great litter of banks is before the New York legislature, amounting to *twenty-seven millions*—of which about 25, (with several additions to the capital of old banks), and amounting, in all, to \$7,500,000 had been already incorporated; and the rest, it was supposed, would follow—for the simple purpose of promoting a "gold currency!" The work is not yet finished.

Offices of the bank of the United States, of Pennsylvania, will be speedily opened at *Erie* and *Beaver*, in that state.

During the recent session of the legislature of Massachusetts, \$10,320,000 was added to the banking capital of that commonwealth. Capital of sundry banks chartered, \$6,720,000. Making the total bank capital of the commonwealth \$40,830,000.

We have received a voluminous report in the legislature of this state, of the special committee, who have come to the conclusion, that the *Manhattan* company have failed to supply the city with pure and wholesome water, and that the charter ought to cease and be dissolved. They close the same by a resolution that the attorney general be directed to take such proceedings in the premises to procure a final adjudication upon the case. This report is one of a serious character, and we shall, with no little interest, watch to see how the company will escape, and hold on their banking privileges, as well as the public deposits. [N. Y. Her.

The banks of Cincinnati have come to the conclusion not to receive the notes of any of the banks out of that city. This, as it is stated in the Cincinnati Whig, causes

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the paper of other banks to be from 1 to 5 per cent. below par, which presents a fine harvest for its brokers.

The legislature of Maine, at their session just closed, incorporated about five-and-twenty new banks, although the state was very fully provided before. Such legislation is bad, very bad, and especially injurious to merchants. When there are so many banks, the money market will always be subject to violent reactions.

A bill for a two million bank, to be located in the city of New York, has passed the house of representatives of that state. The Commercial Advertiser states that Mr. Lawrence, the present mayor of New York, is to be president of the new institution.

Bank of England. Average of the month ending the 8th March.

Circulation.....	£18,570,000
Deposites.....	15,928,000
Bullion.....	8,201,000

Some idea may be formed of the rapidly increasing importance of the commerce of our *inland seas*, by the fact, announced in the Buffalo papers, of the launch of an elegant ship of three hundred tons, from Grand Island, on Tuesday. She is designed for a regular trader between Buffalo and Lake Michigan. Another ship of 350 tons is on the stocks at Buffalo.

The following communication from the author of the "Memoirs of Slater," is worthy of the attention of the public, and especially the cotton growers of the south.

MR. NILES:

Sir: In seeking information respecting the nankeen cotton, in which I perceived that some was darker than others, I was surprised to find that there were other varieties of color. Mr. Lyford, of Baltimore, first assured me of the fact, and gave me specimens of the cotton and of the seed, which was presented to him by a friend who gathered it in Chili; one a light nankeen, the other a beautiful brown, a specimen of which can be seen at Mr. Lyford's hotel. In further prosecution of my inquiries at Washington, Cary Seldon, esq. informed me, that, in settling the estate of commodore Thomson, it was found that he had brought from Chili, specimens of cotton, among which was found a beautiful brown and a bright lilac; he had also brought seeds of the different colors; and Mr. Seldon, on the discovery of the fact, distributed the seeds, with the specimens of the colored cotton, to the hon. Messrs. Forsyth, Dixon Lewis and Davis; who took pains to sow them the following season, but they were found too old to vegetate.

The death of com. Thomson prevented the valuable introduction which he intended for his country.

It is very important that this fact should be published, in order that more seed may be imported from South America, where there is no doubt of its existence, and probably in still greater varieties.

The nankeen cotton, so happily cultivated in Georgia, is found superior to the same article in China, and there is a probability that the other varieties may be introduced with great advantage. And if we can obtain all the varieties of the cotton plant, it will add to the importance of our great staple, and encourage the manufacturer to produce fabrics peculiar to America. I publish this fact, with the hope that efforts will be made, to procure the seed, that experiments may be made.

The cultivation of the cotton plant, so as to produce a finer staple, is a subject well worthy the attention of the planter. Yours respectfully, GEO. S. WHITE.

Philadelphia, May 13th, 1836.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS.—The Pittsburgh Gazette says—We understand that major R. L. Baker, at the Alleghany arsenal near this city, has received orders to send immediately to Baton Rouge ten thousand muskets, a number of pieces of artillery, and a large quantity of ammunition, to supply the

troops, for which a requisition has recently been made. They are now being shipped on board the steamboat Emerald and a keel boat.

—
APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT,

By and with the advice and consent of the senate, of officers for the territory of Wisconsin.

Henry Dodge, to be governor.

John S. Horner, to be secretary.

Charles Dunn, to be chief justice.

William C. Frazier, to be associate judge.

W. W. Chapman, to be attorney.

Francis Gehon, to be marshal.

—
A part of the French indemnity has arrived at New York, and chiefly in gold ingots.

—
BANK OF MARYLAND TRIALS AT BEL-AIR. The conspiracy case which was commenced on the opening of the adjourned term of Harford county court, on the first Monday of this month, was continued by the examination of testimony on the part of the state until Tuesday last week, when the counsel for the state abandoned the prosecution as untenable.

On Wednesday the case against Evan Poultney alone was taken up—the examination of testimony on the part of the state occupied the court and jury until noon Thursday. The defence was then stated by Henry Stump, esq., and the evidence in support of it consumed about half an hour—when, after an argument by Messrs. Bond and Gill for the state, and by Messrs. Constable and Scott for the defendant, the case was committed to the jury, who, after an absence of *eighteen minutes*, returned with a verdict *not guilty*.

On yesterday morning the only remaining indictment was abandoned by the counsel for the state, who announced to the court *their unanimous opinion entertained at all times since the pending of the indictment*—that the charge it contained was untrue, in point of fact, and could not be supported. [Gazette.

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INTERESTING RELIC. A late London paper says—*“Benjamin Franklin, whilst in London, pursued his business as a compositor with great ardour at the highly respectable establishment in Great Queen-street, Lincoln’s-inn-fields, now conducted by John Cox and Sons, printers to the East India company. The compositor’s case, occupied by Franklin, exists as when he left it.”*

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The London Morning Chronicle says that the trade in Barilla, has now fallen into the hands of Americans, “who have already supplanted” the English in other branches of trade in the Mediterranean, and “will soon possess themselves of all the commerce of the Canaries.”

—
LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

From Liverpool papers to the 15th April.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The fine equestrian statue of king William III, in the College Green at Dublin, was wantonly blown up with gunpowder about midnight of the 7th April. A Dublin paper of the 8th says—

The members of the corporation, horror-stricken at the event of this morning, met at their assembly house, William street, to-day. They resolved upon offering a reward of £200 for the apprehension and conviction of the ruffians who blew up the statue, and £50 for any private information that may lead to a discovery. May they not justly have apprehensions for their own security in such a state of affairs?

The quantity of powder used to blow up so mighty a substance (nearly thirteen hundred weight of lead) must have been immense. The lamps in the neighborhood were completely extinguished, and several panes of glass broken in the adjoining houses. The insolent tone of triumph assumed by the radical faction cannot but make a lasting impression on the lovers of peace and good order, who are now prostrated by the machinations of a wily and implacable foe. The lord lieutenant has been sending repeated messages to College street police office, where the investigation is held, for any information they may have received.

London, April 13. The wanton destruction of a very excellent work of art like the equestrian statue of king William III, in College Green, Dublin, which, as our Irish correspondent shows, was the other night blown up with gunpowder, would be an act of mere Vandalic barbarism if it were not inspired by religious bigotry and political malevolence. That statue, the symbol of the revolution of 1688, was a memorial of the deli-

verance of the civil and religious liberties of the British people from the grasp of a sullen and ruthless tyrant, who labored through his short and ignominious reign to prostrate the Protestant constitution, and the throne of a free people, at the feet of papal Rome. As such a memorial that statue has always been an odious thing in the eyes of that class of the Irish people who hate the principles which the restorer of Protestant freedom successfully asserted, and would rather be the slaves of the vassal-despot of the Romish power than the free subjects of a Protestant British king.

The price of cotton had declined at Liverpool $\frac{3}{4}$ d. There had been “a shadow of distrust in the money market” at London.

FRANCE.

A London paper says—

We learn from the Paris papers of Sunday that the debate of Saturday last, on the petitions to the chamber of deputies for the recovery of the remains of Napoleon, and their transit to Paris, and for the repeal of the law which banishes his family from the soil of France, terminated in the reference of the first set of petitions to the minister of the interior, and in the rejection of the second. The discussion did not prove so interesting as the early part of it had promised, but it fully demonstrated the apprehensions of the king, in which the majority of the deputies sympathised, that the presence of the family of Napoleon in France might occasion a new struggle for the throne. Even the arrival of his ashes was deemed dangerous by the ministry, as likely to revive the affection of the nation for him who, when living, had been its idol; and although apparently defeated on the point, government will have completely succeeded, for the petitions referred to the minister will share the fate of their predecessors—that is, in homely language, they will be “cushioned.”

The Courier Francais, states that the reports of the consuls to the government make known that the principal part of the Russian fleet in the Baltic has begun to concentrate at Revel. New orders for the purchase of naval stores had been executed at Dantzic, to be transhipped to Holland, where it would appear the deposit is to be found. Every thing announced that a naval expedition was contemplated.

Of the 200,000,000 lbs. of sugar consumed by France annually, beet-root already supplies 80,000,000 lbs.; whereas in the year 1828, beet-root supplied not more than 16,000,000 lbs.

SPAIN.

The intelligence from the north of Spain given by the Paris papers is not important, but it is in one respect calculated to make the blood freeze with horror. An order of the day of general Bernelle, commander of the (French) foreign legion, in the service of queen Isabella, directs, in reprisal for the massacre of such soldiers of that corps as fell into the hands of the Carlists, that in future no quarter be given. A letter from Bayonne states that the town of Plencia had been taken from the Carlists by a body of men landed from the British squadron.

GERMANY.

The emperor has sanctioned the endowment by the patrician Albertini, of a Jesuit seminary for the education of youth, at Veroni.

TURKEY.

Advices from Constantinople of the 16th March, contradict the report that lord Ponsonby, had demanded his passports from the porte, in consequence of the latter refusing to afford facilities to the Euphrates expedition.

CRACOW.

Extract of a letter of the 23d ult. from Cracow:—“At the desire of the government of republic, 530 Polish refugees have gone to Podgoize; among them are two superior officers, 120 officers, 160 disposable officers, 11 private individuals, and about 300 soldiers. Very recently a number of other refugees, who did not comply with the order of the government, were arrested by Russians, who, according to their own expressions, drove them out like dogs. Those of the refugees who were born in the kingdom of Poland have been forced to return thither, and the others have been transferred under escort to Podgoize. The number sent to Russia, or into the kingdom of Poland, is not known. Twenty-three have been given up to Prussia, and conducted to the frontier of that kingdom by the Austrians, under the command of an Irishman named Weston, nephew of sir James Graham.

GREECE.

The king of Bavaria, in his voyage through the Archipelago, stayed some time in the island of Milo, where for a long period he has possessed a large estate, within the bounds of which are still standing the ruins of an amphitheatre. During his stay the workmen continued their excavations in the temple. It was in this spot that the celebrated Venus Aphrodisia was found, which was brought by Mr. Marcellay, the secretary to the French embassy, and is now in the galleries of the Louvre, under the name of the Venus of Milo. Here also was found a statue of Mars, which was afterwards conveyed to Rome.

ALGIERS.

March 28. This day an expedition of 7,000 men, of all arms, has marched against Medeah, so that our domination will be established at all points. [Fr. Patz.

The Paris Moniteur of Algiers contains the following letter, written by the king of the French to marshal Clausel, on occasion of the success of the Mascara expedition:—

Paris, 18th January, 1836.

"My dear marshal—I am happy to be enabled to announce to you, that France appreciates, as I do, the most brilliant results of the mission I confided to your experience and ability. After having expressed to you as king, all my satisfaction, I wish also to thank you as a father. I know with what enlightened solicitude you watched over my son, and I delight to tell you how much I rejoiced to see that he worthily partook with you, and with the brave soldiers you commanded, all the fatigues and dangers of an expedition in which the honor of our arms was so gloriously maintained. Receive, my dear marshal, the assurance of all my sentiments for you. Your affectionate, (Signed) LOUIS PHILIPPE.

—•••••
TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.
SENATE.

May 13. There appearing to be no quorum present at the usual hour of meeting—

Mr. Grundy moved that the senate adjourn—ayes 14, noes 8. The senate then adjourned.

May 14. Mr. Clayton, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill for the adjustment of the accounts of Stockton & Stokes, and several other persons named; which was read a first and second time, and taken up for consideration in committee of the whole. Mr. Clayton and Mr. Buchanan stated, among other remarks on the subject of this bill, that the committee was unanimous in reporting it, and they hoped that it would be at once ordered to a third reading; and after a few remarks from some other gentlemen, and an unimportant amendment being made, the bill was accordingly ordered to be engrossed and read a third time.

Mr. King, of Alabama, from the committee for the District of Columbia, reported a recommendation of the committee that the senate agree to some and disagree to another of the amendments made by the house to the bill for the relief of the several corporations of the District of Columbia.

On motion of Mr. King, the senate proceeded to consider the amendments.

[Finally, says the National Intelligencer, the bill for the relief of the corporate cities of the District of Columbia has now passed both houses of congress, and in a shape which it is supposed the president of the United States will approve. It provides simply that the United States, instead of guarantying (as it now does) the payment of the interest on the Holland loan to the three cities, shall assume the debt to itself, receiving in trust, towards its eventual extinction, the stock belonging to the three cities, in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, which money was borrowed to pay for. The cities are therefore henceforth to be relieved from the payment of interest on the debt, which has been an exhausting drain to them; the proportion of the principal debt due by Washington being one million of dollars, and that due by each of the other cities a quarter of a million of dollars.]

Mr. Southard, from the committee on naval affairs, reported a bill to establish a naval academy; which was read, and ordered to a second reading. The report was ordered to be printed.

Some other matters being disposed of, the senate adjourned.

May 16. Mr. Shepley presented a certificate from the governor of Connecticut of the election of J. M. Niles, to be a senator of the United States until the 3d of March, 1839, in room of the late N. Smith; which was read.

Mr. Niles was then sworn.

Mr. Mangum presented a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting of the citizens at Morgantown, North Carolina, concerning the recognition of the independence of Texas; which were read, and ordered to be printed.

These resolutions request the co-operation of Mr. Preston and Mr. Clay and Mr. Benton, in promoting the object sought for.

Mr. Preston made some remarks in return for the compliment, expressed his high gratification at the intelligence received this morning of the capture of Santa Anna, and the consequent termination of the war in Texas; his admiration of the skill and bravery by which this result had been obtained; adding his opinion, however, that the time had not come for the government of this country to interfere, until the Texians should have a government *de facto* to be recognised.

The bill for the relief of Stockton & Stokes and others, was read a third time, passed and sent to the house of representatives for concurrence.

Several bills were read and referred to committees. The senate proceeded to the consideration of executive business—and, after sitting some time with closed doors, adjourned.

May 17. Mr. Buchanan presented thirteen petitions from the city and county of Philadelphia, praying that congress would take measures for the recognition of the independence of Texas; which were laid on the table.

Mr. Naudain moved that the committee of claims be discharged from the further consideration of the petition of Wetmore. To account for the motion, he read a sentence from the memorial, in which the petitioner, in reference to a former application, expressed the presumption that his honor would not again be assailed, declaring his determination to punish an insult were it even in the court of heaven!

Mr. Webster asked how it had happened that such a petition had been presented?

Mr. Linn said he could answer that question. He had hastily glanced over its contents, and the offensive words had escaped his notice. But had he seen them, he would not say that he should not have presented the petition. He had no objection to having a dozen such referred to him. He could let them pass for just so much as they were worth, and not bring them into importance by any specific reference to them.

Mr. Webster reminded the senator that there was a rule of the senate which required that every senator should be responsible for the respectful terms in which the petitioner addressed congress.

Mr. Linn's reply was not heard. He was understood to say that had he seen the language, the recollection of the rule would have induced him to refrain from presenting it.

The committee were then discharged from the further consideration of the petition.

Mr. Ewing, of Ohio, offered the following resolution: Resolved, That the secretary of the treasury be directed to inform the senate what amount of transfers of the public money has been made by his direction, since the 30th of June last, from the Commercial bank of Cincinnati, and also from the Clinton bank of Columbus, to banks east of the Alleghany mountains, giving the date and amount of all such transfers, and the banks from and to which they were made. And, also, that he inform the senate what transfers are ordered from each of the abovenamed banks, and when and to what banks they are to be made. That he also inform the senate what amount of transfers were made to each one of the said banks in Ohio since the 30th of June last, and what amount, if any, is now ordered to each.

The resolution lies over one day, under the rule. A good deal of minor or preparatory business was attended to this day.

May 18. Mr. King, of Alabama, rose and said that, as the morning business was terminated, he wished to state that, in consequence of information received this morning, it appeared that the Creek Indians, who had been for some time in communication with the Seminoles, have broken out into acts of hostility, butchering men, women and children in the settlements. In consequence of this information, he hoped the senate would consent to take up a bill to authorise the president of the United States to accept the service of volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of dragoons or mounted riflemen.

The motion having been agreed to, the bill was considered, the amendments proposed by the committee on military affairs were agreed to and the bill was ordered to be engrossed; and finally passed.

On motion of Mr. Webster, the senate proceeded to consider the bill making appropriations for the current expenses of the Indian department, for Indian annuities and other similar objects, for the year 1836.

Various amendments were made to the bill—when it was ordered to be engrossed, &c.

A bill to carry into effect in the states of Alabama and Mississippi the existing compacts with those states in regard to the five per cent. fund and the school reservations, was read a third time, and passed.

A bill to authorise the president to appoint three additional paymasters was read a third time, and passed.

The senate spent a short time in executive business, and then adjourned.

May 19. Mr. Webster offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to the senate, so far as in his judgment the public interest will permit, confidentially or otherwise, information of the present state of the negotiation between the United States and Great Britain, respecting the north eastern boundary of the United States; including all correspondence between the two governments not heretofore communicated to the senate; and those preliminary conditions, without which Great Britain declines to renew the negotiation as stated in the president's message at the opening of the present session, and which conditions he deems to be incompatible with a satisfactory adjustment of the controversy.

On motion of Mr. King, of Alabama, the senate proceeded to consider the decision of the house on the amendments made by the senate to the bill authorising the president to accept the service of volunteers, &c.

The house disagreed to that part of the amendment of the senate which assigned to the president and senate the appointment of the officers of such volunteers as may be accepted.

Mr. King, of Ala. moved that the senate insist on its amendment, which, after some discussion was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Calhoun, a committee of conference was ordered to be appointed by the chair—yeas 20.

The resolution offered some days since by Mr. Ewing, from Ohio, calling on the secretary of the treasury for a statement of the transfers made from certain specified banks in Ohio to banks east of the Alleghany, &c. was, on his motion, taken up—and being amended, was adopted.

The senate then proceeded to the consideration of the fortification bill, on the merits of which Mr. Wright addressed the senate at length.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, May 13. A great deal of "private" business was attended to this day. [the National Intelligencer of Saturday says—

The races were, yesterday, owing to the combined influence of the fine weather and the competition expected from high-bred animals upon the turf, the great scene of attraction in this city. In consequence, the senate, not being able to make a quorum, adjourned without doing any business; and the house, which meets at 10 o'clock, was without a quorum after 12 o'clock, but continued to do business; by general consent, as if a quorum were present. We are not sure that this precedent may not grow into practice, and come in time to be common law, though against the constitution. It was Mr. Whittlesey's day, however, and the house has so much confidence in him that we verily believe they would be willing, if it were asked of them, to do the same by the whole batch of his bills, as our Franklin, when a boy, is said to have wished his father to do, when he begged him, instead of saying grace upon the daily dinner of salted meat, piece by piece, to say grace at once upon the whole barrel of it.]

Saturday, May 14. After other business—

The house proceeded to the consideration of the resolution reported by Mr. Owen, from the committee of ways and means, on the 12th of April.

On motion of Mr. Owen, the said resolution was amended to read as follows:

Resolved, That the bill (No. 436) reported by the committee of ways and means, regulating the deposit of the money of the United States in certain local banks, be made the special order of the day for the day next after the disposition of the appropriation bills, under the order of the 26th of January last, and that the said bill in relation to the deposit banks have precedence on the day after the disposition of the appropriation bills, and the following days, over all other business, until the same is disposed of.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinton to amend the said resolution, by inserting therein, after the words "following days," these words: "and after the several bills now on the speaker's table shall be disposed of."

Pending this motion, the house, on motion of Mr. Whittlesey, proceeded to the orders of the day, which were private bills.

The bill to authorise a compromise, and to secure to the U. States the title to the Pea Patch island, in the river Delaware, was read a third time; and the question being on its passage, a debate took place in which Messrs. Dickerson, Howard, Peyton, Reynolds and Fuller took part.

Mr. Milligan next took the floor. But,

On motion of Mr. Underwood, the house, at this stage of the debate, adjourned.

Monday, May 16. The bill for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, was partially considered, and then postponed. The bill for the relief of the cities of the District, was then taken up and the amendments of the senate considered, and finally passed. [See proceedings of the senate].

Mr. Mason, of Virginia, by general consent, reported the senate bill to provide for carrying into effect the treaty of limits between the United States of America and the Mexican United States, without amendment; which was read twice, and committed to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

The house, on motion of Mr. Mason, then went into committee of the whole on the state of the union (Mr. Howard in the chair) on the above bill.

[The debate, in committee, on the above bill, ranged, after some discussion on its particular merits, to the general questions involved in the consideration of the late events in the province of Texas, and to various supposable modes of action, in the event of a successful termination of the war on the part of Texas against the United Mexican States; which is unavoidably omitted.]

After some debate, in which Messrs. Wise, Mason, of Va. Peyton, Cushing, Calhoun, of Ky. Boultin, Hoar, Vanderpoel and Halsey participated. Adjourned.

Tuesday, May 17. Mr. J. Q. Adams asked the consent of the house to submit the following resolutions; which were read:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, if not incompatible with the public interest, copies of any overture made since the 3d of March, 1823, by his authority, to the government of the United Mexican States, for the acquisition by the United States of any portion of the territories of Mexico; and copies of all correspondence between the two governments relating thereto, and upon any question of boundary existing between the United States and Mexico.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, if not incompatible with the public interest, a copy and translations of any law, decree or ordinance of the Mexican republic, abolishing slavery within the territories thereof, which may be in possession of the executive department of the United States.

Objections being made, Mr. Adams moved the suspension of the rules, and thereupon asked the yeas and nays; which were ordered.

The question being taken, it was decided in the negative—yeas 74, nays 85.

An amendment made by the senate to a bill to carry into effect the convention with Spain, was disagreed to, on the motion of Mr. John Y. Mason.

Much incidental business was attended to. At last—

On motion of Mr. Cambreleng, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union, (Mr. Mann,

of New York, in the chair), and resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriations for fortifications for the year 1836.

The question being on the motion of Mr. Cambreleng to amend the bill by inserting a clause appropriating \$700,000 for the armament of the fortifications—

Mr. Maury rose and delivered a speech of considerable length. On a motion for an adjournment, (at half past three), it appeared that a quorum was not present. A variety of motions was then made. After awhile—

Mr. Wise moved an adjournment; which was agreed to—yeas 75, nays 32; and then the house adjourned.

Wednesday, May 18. Mr. Pinckney, from the select committee on the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, by general consent, made a report, which he said had received the unanimous assent of the committee, and which he hoped would be unanimously approved by the house.

Mr. P. asked that the report be read; which was objected to.

Mr. Claborn insisted upon the reading of the report; and it was read through to the conclusion, which is as follows:

"Your committee conclude by reporting the following resolutions, conformably to the instructions given them by the houses—

"Resolved, That congress possesses no constitutional authority to interfere, in any way, with the institution of slavery in any of the states of this confederacy.

"Resolved, That congress ought not to interfere, in any way, with slavery in the District of Columbia."

"And whereas it is extremely important and desirable that the agitation of this subject should be finally arrested, for the purpose of restoring tranquillity to the public mind, your committee respectfully recommend the adoption of the following additional resolution, viz:

"Resolved, That all petitions, memorials, resolutions, propositions or papers, relating, in any way, or to any extent whatever, to the subject of slavery or the abolition of slavery, shall, without being either printed or referred, be laid upon the table, and that no further action whatever shall be had thereon."

Mr. Pinckney said he was instructed to move that 5,000 extra copies be printed.

These proceedings gave rise to a variety of remarks on the report—

Mr. Sutherland was willing to print the report, if for no other reason, because the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. Pinckney) had been accused of misrepresenting the sentiments of his constituents. He wished to have the people of South Carolina see it, that when the gentleman should return home, the people might know what he had done, and he might have before them the means of defence against such accusations. He replied to the remark that the report conceded that congress had a right to legislate upon the subject in the District of Columbia; and said that such a right had never been till recently denied. It had been expressly conceded by the states of Maryland and Virginia, and John Randolph had once presented a petition for the interference of congress on the subject.

He was not an advocate for the report. He would not pretend to say that it would suit him or his constituents; but he was satisfied it ought to be printed, to let the people know what the arguments were.

Mr. A. H. Shepperd said the report conceded every thing. It conceded the principle that congress has a right to interfere in the question of slavery in the District, and that was conceding the whole. There was some limit to the propriety of printing; and this was a case, he thought, in which the report ought not to be printed. It contains elaborate arguments upon every thing but the subject which ought to have been discussed. He objected to the arguments of the report and to both of the resolutions, and moved to recommit it to the select committee which reported it, with instructions to report a different resolution.

Many other gentlemen made some observations on the subject—but before they had all concluded, the special order of the day was called, and the fortification bill was taken up, and partially considered.

A message from the senate having been received, returning, with amendments, the "bill authorising the president of the United States to accept the services of volunteers, and to raise a regiment of dragoons or mounted riflemen"—

The amendments of the senate, with one exception, were concurred in—and that was rejected, 101 to 102.

Mr. Cambreleng asked leave to report a bill, which was objected to.

Mr. C. moved to suspend the rules, which was agreed to, and Mr. C. reported a bill appropriating \$500,000 for the suppression of hostilities by the Creek Indians.

After some remarks on the bill, it was read a third time and passed, *nem. con.*

Thursday, May 19. After the presentation of memorials, resolutions, &c.

The house resumed, as the unfinished business of yesterday, the consideration of the report and resolutions from the select committee on the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

And debate followed—which was arrested by a call for the orders of the day.

On motion of Mr. Connor, the house, in pursuance of a special order to that effect, went into committee of the whole on

the state of the union, (Mr. *Sutherland* in the chair), upon the "bill to change the organization of the post office department, and to provide the more effectually for the settlement of the accounts thereof."

The bill was read by sections, and some amendments were proposed by Mr. *Connor*, and agreed to.

Other amendments were proposed and debated, and occupied the house until a late hour—7 o'clock.

[Pending the discussion of the post office bill, a message was announced from the senate, and the speaker resumed the chair, for the purpose of receiving it.

The message was that "the senate insist on their third amendment to the bill entitled 'an act authorizing the president of the United States to accept the service of volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of dragoons or mounted riflemen,' which has been disagreed to by this house, and ask a conference on the subject matter of the disagreeing vote of the two houses on said amendment."

On motion of Mr. *Speight*, the house, by general consent, took up the subject for consideration.

Mr. *Lewis* moved that the house agree to the appointment of a committee of conference on its part.

The motion was agreed to, and it was ordered that the committee, on the part of the house, consist of five members.]

MR. BENTON.

The following is a part of a strange speech delivered by Mr. *Benton*, in the senate, against the land bill, on the 27th of April ult. Are all the things—the direful things foretold by him to come to pass in the event of the deposit banks being required to return to the people a small part of the *people's money* which they have "monopolized?" The sum is larger than "some of the deposit banks can pay." A beautiful story is this! They "must all break," if the project be persevered in! One step further, and the "deposit banks" may say—we shall pay you "sixty days after convenience!" A good deal of the money lent to these banks, without interest, will never be returned into the public treasury. It will take some of the rest of them years to prepare a return of it—and in the mean time the "currency" will become more and more deranged. Vast piles of bank notes are now at 5 or 6 per cent discount!

Mr. *Benton* said—For the present, it could not be overlooked that the whole structure of the bill is changed: it is no longer a bill to divide the proceeds of the lands in future and for five years to come, but it is to reach back into the treasury, to travel back through the years 1835, '34, '33, and to gather up all the proceeds of the land sales for these three past years, and commence dividing this mass on the 1st day of July, and divide one-fourth on that day, one-fourth the 1st of October, one-fourth the 1st of January and one-fourth the 1st of April, 1837. To these divisions are to be added the amounts received from lands this year and next year. It is expected to begin the division upon 28 millions in July, and finish 38 millions by the 1st of January next. Now what is the object and effect of all this? Is it the object to take all the money for distribution, and leave nothing for defending the country? Is it the object to break all the deposit banks? Is it the object to distress the country, by making the deposit banks call in all their loans in six months? Is it their object to ruin the currency by enabling whig states to draw their distributive shares in specie, compelling the banks to stop payment, and then calling for the bank of the United States, as the only remedy for the evil. Whether this is the object, it will be the effect; and to do all this, it is necessary to reach back three years to find money in the treasury, which is not there, and thus make a larger sum for distribution than the deposit banks can pay.

The revenue of the year 1833, were received by the bank of the United States, and have been expended in the public service; no part of those revenues were ever transferred to the deposit banks; they all remained in the bank of the United States until expended; yet this bill, in its mass of deceptions and fallacies, assumes that the deposit banks received all the revenue for the year 1833: has separated the land revenue from the custom house revenue; has saved that land revenue to the present day, and now has it in a separate pile by itself, to be divided out! These are the assumptions of the bill, while the realities are that part of this land revenue never was received at all by the deposit banks; what they actually received for 1833, has been paid out, and what they have got, is the revenue of the country. The land receipts are in the mass of the revenue, and professing to divide the proceeds of the lands, the revenue itself is taken! and it is taken for three years back, in order to raise an immense sum for instant division! such a sum as is expected to tempt the cupidity of distributees beyond resistance, to ruin the president if he vetoes the bill, and ruin the deposit banks and the currency if he does not. Mr. B. said it was a bill to revive the tariff; to re-establish the bank of the United States, and to crush president Jackson, and all who opposed it, by mere dint of money!

But the "Globe" of last week says—

In relation to the public money in the deposit banks, the opposition have changed their tone again, and through their hired letter writers here, they are sounding the alarm, that the banks cannot pay over the public money in their hands at all, and that it is all lost to the country. Now, we venture the assertion, that there is not a single deposit bank which cannot

pay over every dollar of the public money on deposit with it in ninety days, in the following instalments, viz: one-fourth at sight; one-fourth at thirty days sight; one-fourth at sixty days sight, and the other fourth at ninety days sight. If the opposition doubt that there is a single bank that cannot do it, name the bank, and we pledge ourselves to prove our assertion.

THE CREEK INDIANS.

In the proceedings of congress it will be seen that there are some mention of hostile doings on the part of the *Creeks*. The following are some of the accounts received.

From the *National Intelligencer* of the 19th inst.

The subjoined letters, owing to the source of them, give more alarming signs of the hostility developing itself among the *Creeks*, than any thing else we have seen. It is distressing to think of the suffering and waste of human life which will certainly follow, if the *Creeks* are faithless and mad enough to engage in hostilities against their white neighbors:

Copy of a letter from col. *Crowell* to the gov. of *Alabama*.

Fort Mitchell, (Ala.) May 9, 1836.

Sir: I arrived at home yesterday, and found the neighbors considerably alarmed about Indian depredations; and in order to satisfy myself of the intentions of the *Indians*, I despatched a messenger after some of the principal chiefs to come and see me, for the purpose of ascertaining from them what their people intended. The chiefs have not come, but sent me word that their young men were bent upon war, and had assembled in the swamp near the Federal road, with the view of attacking any troops that might march into the nation.

I have satisfied myself that they contemplate mischief, and, without military aid, the settlers must be driven from their homes with a great loss of property, if not their lives. I have thought it my duty to give you this information, that you may call into immediate service a sufficient force to put those *Indians* down, and protect the lives and property of the settlers.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

JOHN CROWELL.

N. B. Four persons have been killed in the last few days, and many negroes taken off. J. C.

Letter from a citizen of Georgia to a member of congress, dated

Columbus, 10th May, 1836.

It is with feelings of deep sympathy that I address you. Our *Alabama* neighbors are now pouring into this city with the greatest possible precipitation. Several men, women and children are murdered on the road, in making for this place. Small children are picked up, wandering in the forest; not able to tell who their parents were. Such a state of misery and distress I never before witnessed. Nothing, as yet, has been done by the *Alabama* military. The *Indians* are going from one plantation to another, destroying every thing that they cannot convert to their use. The head chief has been waited on by some of our citizens to know the intentions of the *Indians*; and he stated, unequivocally, they were determined on war, and that he could not prevent it; and for us to be on our guard. It is somewhat feared our city will be attacked by them. At this moment we are poorly provided for defence, but hope to be in a few days. All those fine farms which a few days ago, promised so much reward to the owners, are deserted: the fencing thrown down, the inmates of the houses either killed or run away, they present now nothing but a dreary waste. The time has now arrived when nothing short of conquest and immediate removal or extermination, will give peace and stability to our agricultural neighbors.

[Columbus is on the eastern bank of the *Chattahoochee*, the river which divides Georgia from *Alabama*. Fort Mitchell is on the west bank of the same river, about 15 miles above Columbus. Nat. Int.]

From the *Globe*.

Copy of a letter to the adjutant general, dated

Fort Mitchell, *Alabama*, May 7th, 1836.

Sir: It has just been reported to me that colonel *Flournoy* was shot dead by *Indians* they day before yesterday, about fifteen miles below this post. I am also informed that a report is currently circulating among the *Creeks*, that the *Seminole* *Indians* have defeated the whites in their operations in *Florida*. This report will no doubt embolden them to many acts of hostility that they would not otherwise dare commit.

A constant communication must be kept up between them, as the *Creeks* are conversant with every transaction that occurs in *Florida*. Marshal, the half bred, says he is apprehensive mischief will be done by the *Indians* before long. Other friendly *Indians* are of this opinion. *Opothleyoholo*, principal of the upper *Creeks*, says he cannot keep his people together, or restrain them.

A runner has this instant arrived and informed me that another white man was shot in his bed last night by *Indians*—that many guns were heard in the neighborhood during the night, and other whites are supposed to have fallen victims.

I am sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. S. MCINTOSH, *vet. maj. 4th infantry*.
Gen. R. Jones, adjutant gen. U. S. Army.

The *Columbus Herald* of the 3d inst. says: "A letter now before us from an overseer in *Alabama*, to his employer in this place, gives information of a small brush between a party of *Indians*, and a few white men. It occurred at the *Oswitchee*

bend, fifteen miles below this place. The planters generally have removed their women and property from that part of the nation. We have not room for further particulars this week. The citizens will hold a public meeting in Girard, Ala. to consider this subject to-day."

☞ There are many corroborating accounts.

Uchee Creek, Russell co. Ala. May 8, 1836.

To gen. McDougald.

DEAR SIR: At a meeting of the citizens of Russell county residing on Uchee Creek, the undersigned were appointed a committee to address you as a chairman of a meeting of the citizens of Columbus, held some time since, at which meeting the citizens of Columbus pledged themselves to march to our relief, whenever occasion should require. We think, sir, the emergency has now arrived, when your gallantry would be of use to us. Our governor has done, and will do nothing. *Our citizens have been murdered!* and we are unable to avenge their blood! We were, many of us, once Georgians—we are your brethren—but we are unable to invite you to a feast, we cannot furnish a large number of men even the common necessities of life—but we shall hail you as our deliverer, and our women and children will rise and call you blessed. Most respectfully, your obedient servants,

Robert Adams, Matthew Turner, W. W. Pitts, John B. Tate, H. B. Green, Nimrod Long, committee.

FROM TEXAS.

We had "great news" from Texas, on Monday last. It was said, (and the authority of names given), that general Houston had attacked a body of Mexicans, (separated from their main body by a sudden rise of the waters of the Brazos), under the immediate command of Santa Anna, and killed 8 or 900 of them and made prisoners of the remainder, 500 more, including Santa Anna himself, who, with his principal officers were immediately shot—and all with the loss of only 6 killed and 20 wounded. Houston's whole force, engaged being only 600 men. And to this account was added a note from general Gaines to the secretary of war, giving his opinion that the reports were "no doubt" correct, &c. Indeed, the statements were made in such a circumstantial manner that they met with a general belief. But on Wednesday we had the following from New Orleans, being of two days later date than the preceding accounts received from the same place.

From the New Orleans Advertiser of May 5.

Texas. By a gentleman who arrived yesterday, we are credibly informed that Santa Anna has not been taken prisoner, much less sentenced and shot, as stated by a contemporary journal. Our informant stated that there had been a fight, or more properly speaking, a skirmish, between a body of the Mexican army and another of the Texans, which terminated in the total rout of the former, with loss on both sides, but principally on the part of the Mexicans; and that Santa Anna, so far from being in the engagement at the time, was, and is, in the city of Mexico.

The following is the proclamation of the president of Texas prohibiting the admission of slaves into that territory.

"PROCLAMATION.

"Whereas, the 8th article of the general provisions of the constitution of the republic of Texas, provides that the "importation or admission of Africans or negroes into this republic, excepting from the United States of America," is forever prohibited and declared to be piracy;" And whereas, the African slave trade is equally revolting to the best feelings of our nature, and to the benign principles of the Christian faith, is equally destructive to national morals and to individual humanity; and

Whereas, the most enlightened and powerful nations of Christendom are exerting both their moral intelligence and physical power, to suppress that odious and abominable traffic; and

Whereas, it is the imperative duty and the high privilege of the government of Texas, to contribute in all practicable and legitimate means, to the effectual prevention, in its own jurisdiction, of a trade, so atrocious and disreputable; therefore,

I, David G. Burnet, president of the republic of Texas, by and with the advice and consent of my cabinet, and in accordance with the 8th article of the constitution aforesaid, do command and require all officers, naval and military, and all collectors and other functionaries of the government, to be vigilant and active, in detecting and defeating any attempt to violate said article; and to seize, arrest and detain in safe custody, any person or persons that may be found violating or attempting to violate, the same; and to stop, seize, take possession of and detain, any vessel or vessels, with their equipment, tackle, &c. and any boats or other water craft, of any description, attached thereto, on board of which any Africans or negroes so attempted to be imported in contravention of the said 8th article, may be found; and to detain any and all such negroes wherever found, until the further decision of the government can be had in relation thereto: Provided, that any officer making such seizure, &c. shall as soon as may be practicable, report the same, with the relative facts, to the secretary of the navy.

"Excepting from the United States of America." This is a singular phraseology.

Done at Harrisburg, this 3d day of April, 1836, and of the independence of the republic the first.

By the governor: DAVID G. BURNET.
Bailey Hardeman acting secretary of state."

FROM FLORIDA—OFFICIAL.

From the Globe.

The following letter from general Scott to the secretary of war, gives the latest intelligence of the operations of the army in Florida:

Head quarters army of Florida, Picolata, April 30, 1836.

SIR: For the information of the war department, I have the honor to report my arrival here yesterday.

My last report was dated at Tampa Bay the 12th and 13th instant. The right wing and centre of this army moved from that place on the 14th, as did also the South Carolina mounted regiment. The foot of the same wing (the left) had remained encamped for twelve days about fifteen miles from Tampa on the Fort King road, and the Florida battalion commenced embarkation for the mouth of the Wythlacochee on the 17th. I left Tampa the same day, and joined the foot of the left wing with which I marched to Fort Alabama, on the Hillsborough. Here on the next day we were rejoined by the South Carolina mounted regiment from its expedition to the head of Peas creek, where no Indians and no recent trails were found. Col. Goodwin, the commander, however, discovered and burnt an extensive town on the left bank of that stream.

On the 28th the left wing passed the big Wythlacochee, where we found the centre engaged in constructing a defence for its baggage train, preparatory to entering and scouring the forks of the Wythlacochees, whilst the right wing was advancing by the core and the left bank of the main river.

I continued to march with the left wing *via* the scene of Dade's massacre, Palakleka and the upper crossing of the Ocklawaha. On the night of the 23d, our camp was fired upon by a party of six or eight of the enemy. One man and two horses were slightly wounded. At daylight a detachment of horse was put in pursuit of the enemy; but at the end of a few miles the trail was lost between some of those hammocks, swamps and ponds, which everywhere abound.

Another small party of the enemy was met on the morning of the 24th, and which might have been cut off from the nearest hammock but for a false movement made by the company of horse constituting the advance guard. The horses and packs of the party were captured; but after halting, and scouring a succession of hammocks, which were, as far as practicable, surrounded by the horse, we found ourselves eluded by every Indian. I mention these mortifying incidents to show the character of the enemy and the nature of the country. The foot broke into hammocks where a goat could not penetrate, and the horse rapidly took up the positions assigned; but the enemy, in all such cases, contrived to escape by secret passages which afterwards can but rarely be found.

When at the distance of twenty-three miles, I took an escort of two mounted companies, and proceeded to Volusia on the 24th. Finding there the United States steamer the Es-sayons, I embarked in her, and with a guard of only seventeen men determined to penetrate, by the St. Johns, the southern part of the peninsula as far as practicable. Colonel Gadsden, captain Canfield and Lieutenant Johnston accompanied me, to note the course and depth of the river, together with the general topography of the country. We found no difficulty in passing up to the head of Lake Monroe, and might have carried to that point a draft of eight or nine feet of water. The distance ascended is two hundred miles from the mouth of the river, and sixty from Volusia. We found the river beyond the lake nearly as bold as below, and if we could have crossed the bar at the entrance, we do not doubt that we might have gone fifty or seventy miles farther towards Cape Florida; but unfortunately our boat drew more than four feet, and we only found four on the bar.

This reconnaissance was made with a view to several objects; I was anxious to discover whether the Indians had any settlements on the upper part of the river; to find out the place of concealment for their women, children and negroes; to give to the well disposed among the latter an opportunity of communicating with us; to observe trails and crossings, and particularly to find a good point as far in the interior as practical for the establishment of a new post before the commencement of active operations on our part. Such point we found about eight miles below Lake Monroe, on the east bank. A leading trail passes through it. Here we took the ferry canoe in ascending, and here, on returning, a sharp fire was thrown in upon us by a party of ten or fifteen Indians who lay concealed in high grass on the west side. But for their timidity, they might have killed the four officers who were standing exposed on the bow of the boat. They fired from a distance of three hundred yards.

Brigadier general Eustis arrived with the body of the west wing at Volusia on the 25th. The garrison he had left there under major Gates had been sharply attacked on the 14th by perhaps eighty Indians; two of our men who happened to be outside were killed; and possibly the enemy lost as many; but no sortie was made.

Before the arrival of Eustis, I had planned an expedition to Spring Garden, consisting of two companies of horse that had escorted me, and sixty volunteers of the garrison. The de-

tachment returned without discovering any recent signs of the enemy.

All the volunteers of the left wing marched under colonel Goodwin on the morning of the 28th, for St. Augustine *via* Tomaka, &c. Brigadier generals Eustis and Bull both being much indisposed, came down the river with me. The regulars were left to garrison Volusia and to superintend the evacuation of the post, which had become extremely sickly. Many cases of malignant bilious fever had occurred, which, in the opinion of some of the physicians, threatened the approach of the yellow fever. By the aid of two boats, the Santee and the Essayons, the evacuation may be completed in a week. Colonel Goodwin, and the two regiments of volunteers, may be expected to reach St. Augustine, with the baggage train, in four days from this time. He will pursue any fresh Indian trail he may cross.

I have had as yet no report from brigadier general Clinch. I learn, however, unofficially, that he reached Fort Drane on the 26th, without finding in his march any party of the enemy exceeding fifteen or twenty.

From colonel Smith, who, with the Louisiana volunteers, went on an expedition up the Peas creek *via* Charlotte harbor, nothing had been heard when I left Tampa Bay. I may receive his report, *via* St. Marks and Tallahassee, in ten or twelve days. One from major Reed, who commanded the expedition up the Wythlacochee, (from its mouth), may be expected in the same time, and also a third from colonel Lindsay. On the receipt of all these reports, I shall be able to form a pretty accurate opinion of the measures to be pursued to put an end to this war, which must be recommenced at a better season, and with very different means. On our side, so far, nothing of importance has been achieved.

I am more than ever persuaded that the whole force of the enemy, including the negroes, does not exceed twelve hundred fighting men. It is probably something less. Of that force I am equally confident that not five hundred have at any time, since the commencement of hostilities, been brought within the same ten miles square. In all our operations within the last thirty days, we have not found a party of more than perhaps one hundred and thirty; but parties of from ten to thirty have been encountered almost everywhere. No Indian woman, child or negro, nor the trace of one, has been seen in that time. Those non-combatants, it has been evident to us all, have been removed beyond the theatre of our operations. They were, no doubt, even while the parley was going on with gen. Gaines on the 7th March, moving off to the south east, beyond Peas creek and Lake Topkelika, and in that almost inaccessible region they are now concealed. That officer, it is said, caused Powell and his chiefs to be informed, by way of inducing them to agree to accept Wythlacochee as a temporary boundary, that large armies were approaching, which would fill up the Indian country, or crush every thing in the way. The wily chiefs profited by the information; sent off their families, and dispersed their warriors into small parties. In this way Powell expects to make good his threat, viz: *that he would protract the war three years.*

To end this war, I am now persuaded that not less than 3,000 regular troops are indispensable; 2,400 foot and about 600 horse: the country to be scoured and occupied, requires that number. I have no particular desire to conduct the operations of the new forces. That is a duty which I shall neither solicit nor decline.

Of the 3,000 good troops (not volunteers), five hundred will be necessary to garrison five posts for the deposit of supplies, say one on the St. John's seven miles below Lake George; one up the Peas Creek, say fifteen miles above Charlotte harbor; one at Tampa Bay; one twelve miles from the Gulf of Mexico, up the Wythlacochee; and on the same river, near the Fort King road; with one hundred and sixty thousand rations deposited at Tampa Bay, and thirty or forty thousand at each of the other posts. Five columns with haversacks, and a few one-horse carts, may operate securely and with every prospect of success, at least to the north and west of Charlotte harbor. For the country below, additional means will be wanted viz: two or three steamers of a light draft of water, and fifty or sixty barges of different sizes, capable of carrying from ten to fifteen men each.

I give these items, in order, if approved, that the necessary appropriations may be asked at once. I beg leave to add, in haste, that new regiments, or regiments of recruits, would be worth little or nothing in this war. I will, therefore, earnestly recommend, that the companies of the old regiments be extended to eighty or ninety privates each. Recruits mixed up with old soldiers in June or July, would become effective by the first of December; and I repeat, that operations cannot be carried on by any troops whatever, in this peninsula, except between the 20th of November, and the end of April. The intermediate period is too hot or too sickly to be endured.

The boat is about to depart, and I must, for the present, conclude.

At the end of January, I asked for troops of the governors of several states. The last of the South Carolinians arrived at St. Augustine the 9th of March, and at Volusia the 25th; the Georgians, in part, arrived at Fort Drane about the same time; but six companies of horse not till the 9th of this month—after the campaign was nearly over. As it was impossible for them to join either of the columns, lieutenant colonel Crane sent them back to their homes. The Alabama regiment that was

expected to reach Tampa Bay about the 25th of February, did not reach that place till (I think) the 13th of March. These extraordinary delays it was impossible for me to foresee or guard against.

A portion of the Georgians have just arrived here to embark for their homes, and the remainder of the same quota will follow. The South Carolinians will be discharged at St. Augustine and Jacksonville.

I shall write again by the first opportunity. In the mean time I shall, here or at St. Augustine, await the orders of the department.

I remain, with great respect, your most obedient servant,
WINFIELD SCOTT.
Brig. gen. R. Jones, adj't gen. U. S. army.

The schr. Bushrod, capt. Houston, arrived at Charleston, on the 8th inst. from St. Augustine, in 3 days, having on board 54 volunteers from Florida. The following gives the latest news from the territory.

Office of the Herald, St. Augustine, May 5, 1836.

The left wing of the army arrived in town on Saturday afternoon last, from Tampa Bay, *via* Volusia. The objects of the campaign have not been accomplished. The Indians have scattered throughout the country, and are in small detached parties. A few of them were met by the army, and some skirmishing took place between them. The Indians were hovering about the army, and fired into the camp several times, but one Indian is killed that is known certainly.

Fort Alabama, on the bank of the Little Wythlacochee, sustained several attacks.

Camp Shelton, 11 miles from Tampa Bay, was also attacked and one man wounded.

Major Cooper of the Georgia battalion, with 350 men, was stationed on the road between Fort Drane and Tampa Bay, with 17 days provisions, was attacked by about 500 Indians every day, until relieved by gen. Clinch on the 17th day.

Gen. Scott ordered a quantity of provisions into the Wythlacochee, by sea; and capt. McLemore, with 75 men, went with them—they were landed within 18 miles of Clinch's battle ground, and 38 men left to guard them, and it is feared that they have suffered a similar fate to that of the gallant band under major Dade. It is reported that a council of war was held at Fort Drane, and it was decided to be impossible to relieve them. We hope there are no grounds for this report.

That there has been an understanding between Creeks and Seminoles, there are some grounds for believing. A silver whistle was found on the Wythlacochee, which was recognized to belong to a brother of capt. Elmore, who was travelling through the Creek nation last summer, when he lost it. The owner's name was engraved in full upon it.

Generals Scott and Eustis arrived here on Saturday night last.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Division of accounts, April 26, 1836.

To the postmaster general:

Sir: I have the honor to report, that there is now in banks, subject to the checks of this department, the sum of \$216,096 78. Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT JOHNSON, accountant.

To show the cash means of the department, the sum of \$41,934 07 paid during the last year for extra clerk hire, and to be refunded from the treasury as soon as the appropriation bill passes, must be taken into consideration, viz:

Cash in sundry banks.....	\$216,096 78
Due from the treasury.....	41,934 07

Checks signed this day for paying balance of bank debt.....	\$258,030 85
Leaving cash means to the amount of.....	\$158,030 85

OFFICIAL PAPERS

Presented in the house of representatives on Saturday last, by the chairman of the committee of ways and means.

War department, Jan. 23, 1836.

Sir: I am instructed by the president to request that you would repair to some proper position near the western frontier of the state of Louisiana, and there assume the personal command of all the troops of the United States who are, or may be, employed in any part of the region adjoining the Mexican boundary. It is not the object of this order to change at all the relations between yourself and the military departments under your command, but to require your personal presence at a point where public considerations demand the exercise of great discretion and experience. An order will be issued without delay to the sixth regiment, to proceed to Fort Jesup; and this force, together with all the troops in the western part of Louisiana, and in the country west of the Mississippi and south of the Missouri rivers, will be employed, as occasion may require, in carrying into effect the instructions herein communicated to you.

The state of affairs in Texas calls for immediate measures on the part of the government. It is the duty of the United States to remain entirely neutral, and to cause their neutrality to be respected. It is possible that the course of operations may induce one or other of the contending parties to approach the boundary line, with a view to cross it in arms. Should you find that the case, you will give notice to the persons having

the direction, that they will not be permitted to cross into the territory of the United States; and if they attempt to do so by force, you will resist them with the means at your disposal.

The 33d article of the treaty with Mexico requires both the contracting parties to prevent, "by force, all hostilities and incursions on the part of the Indian nations living within their respective boundaries, so that the United States of America will not suffer their Indians to attack the citizens of the Mexican states," &c.

The provisions of this article you will cause to be faithfully enforced, and the various Indian agents and the officers of the Indian department in that region will be required to furnish you any information in their power in relation to this matter, and to carry into effect any instructions you may give. You will make known to the various Indian tribes inhabiting that part of the United States, the determination of the government to prevent any hostile incursions into Texas, and you will call upon the chiefs to inculcate upon all their people the necessity of carefully abstaining from any violation of the above-mentioned engagement, and you will not hesitate to use the force at your disposal for the purpose of preventing any such designs.

Should you be called upon by the civil authority for any aid towards enforcing the laws having relation to the neutral duties of the United States, you will render such assistance as the laws prescribe.

You are requested to communicate freely with the district attorneys of both the districts of Louisiana, on all points of law connected with the execution of the instructions, and those officers will be desired to give you their opinion.

I will thank you to keep me advised of any occurrences in that quarter, which it may be important for the government to know. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

Major general E. P. Gaines, Memphis, Tennessee.

Head quarters western department, Baton Rouge March 29, 1836.

SIR: I have received, not until yesterday, an official copy of your letter of the 23d January last, by which I have the satisfaction to be informed that the president of the United States has been pleased to direct my immediate attention to the western frontier of the state of Louisiana, in order to preserve, if necessary, by force, the neutrality of the United States.

In obedience to this order, I have availed myself of the very first S. B. conveyance that offered after the receipt of the order to proceed to Baton Rouge, to enable me to ascertain to what extent the arsenal there will furnish ordnance and ordnance stores for the prompt and efficient discharge of the duties assigned to me—duties which derive great importance from the recent accounts of the sanguinary manner in which the Mexican forces seem disposed to carry on the war against our Texian neighbors. (See the accompanying newspapers).

Upon this point I take leave to suggest whether it may or may not become necessary, in our own defence, to speak to the contending belligerents in a language not to be misunderstood—a language requiring force and military supplies that shall be sufficient, if necessary, for the protection of our frontier, to check the savage operations of each of the contending parties who may forget to respect the laws of war and our neutral rights, until Mexico and the United States shall, by an adjustment of existing difficulties, put an end to scenes of barbarism which cannot but endanger the peace and other vital interests of all the parties concerned—scenes of barbarism disgraceful to all who enact or tolerate them.

Should I find any disposition on the part of the Mexicans or their red allies to menace our frontier, I cannot but deem it to be my duty not only to hold the troops of my command in readiness for action in defence of our slender frontier, but to anticipate their lawless movements, by crossing our supposed or imaginary national boundary, and meeting the savage marauders wherever to be found, in their approach towards our frontier.

Should I err in this view of the subject, in which, however, I am convinced the laws of war and nations will bear me out, I shall be gratified to receive the views of the president, to which I shall scrupulously adhere. But if it be otherwise, if my own views are approved, I shall, in that event, have occasion for some mounted volunteers, with other forces sufficient to make my numerical strength equal to the estimated strength of the contending parties, which is now estimated at eight thousand to twelve thousand men, (8,000 to 12,000 men). With a view to this possible emergency, I have already desired the fine legionary brigade, commanded by general Planché, of the city of New Orleans, to calculate on the possibility of my having occasion to invite the legion to join me. To this suggestion the officers of the legion, with the gallant general at their head, cordially responded that they would, whenever it might be deemed necessary, promptly repair to the frontier, delighted with the opportunity of carrying into effect the wishes of the president, under whose immediate command many of these officers had distinguished themselves in the defence of their city and state in the memorable triumphs of December, 1814, and January, 1815.

All which is submitted for the information of the president of the United States. With profound respect,

EDMUND P. GAINES, maj. gen. commanding.

To the hon. Lewis Cass, secretary of war.

P. S. I arrived at the city of New Orleans at 7 A. M. and departed therefrom on board the steamboat at 7 P. M. yesterday, having taken my passage on board the steamboat the *Lerant*,

bound from New Orleans for Natchitoches, and to be at Baton Rouge on the 1st April, Friday next.

E. P. G.

Washington, April 25, 1836.

SIR: Your letter of the 29th ultimo, was received at the department a few days since, but I have been prevented by indisposition from giving it an earlier answer.

I enclose for your information a copy of the memorandum of an official conference between the secretary of state and the Mexican minister, respecting the present state of affairs upon the south western borders of the United States. You will consider, as a part of your instructions, the declaration made by the secretary of state, and govern yourself accordingly.

It is not the wish of the president to take advantage of present circumstances, and thereby obtain possession of any portion of the Mexican territory. Still, however, the neutral duties as well as the neutral rights of the United States will justify the government in taking all necessary measures to prevent a violation of their territory. Recent events induce the belief that the Mexican forces, as well as the inhabitants of Texas, must be in a high state of excitement. In that portion of the country, there are many Indian tribes whose habitual predisposition to engage in war is well known, as is, also, their reckless disregard of any of the claims of humanity. And from information which has reached the government, there is too much reason to believe that efforts have been made to induce these Indians to join the Mexican troops. It may, therefore, well be, as you anticipate, that these various contending parties may approach our frontiers, and that the lives and property of our citizens may be placed in jeopardy. Should this be the case, the president approves the suggestion you make, and you are authorised to take such position, on either side of the imaginary boundary line, as may be best for your defensive operations. You will, however, under no circumstances, advance farther than old Fort Nacogdoches, which is within the limits of the United States, as claimed by this government. But you will please to observe, that this permission will not be exercised, unless you should find such an advanced position necessary, to afford due security to the frontier, in consequence of the unsettled state of things beyond you.

You will please to explain, fully, your views and instructions to any armed parties who may be marching towards you; and should they continue to threaten your position, or to manifest a design of crossing into the United States, you are authorised to attack and repel them.

I have this day, by direction of the president, requested the governors of Louisiana and Mississippi to call into service any militia force you may find necessary for the protection of the frontiers. This force must be called out for a term of not less than six months from the day they reach their rendezvous, to be discharged at any time by the United States. The necessary means will be furnished to the officers of the proper staff departments, for such supplies as may be required.

I need hardly say that the duty committed to you is one of great importance, as well as of great delicacy; and I do not doubt it will be executed as to preserve, on the one hand, the proper safety of the frontier, while, on the other hand, as little cause of offence as possible will be given to any foreign authority. I have to request that you would keep me regularly advised of your proceedings.

Gaines, major general E. P.

L. C.

[Copied from the letter-book of the war department.]

Department of state, Washington, April 23, 1836.

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to transmit a memorandum of the substance of what I stated in an official conference, on the 20th instant, with Mr. Gorostiza, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic to the United States. I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

The hon. Lewis Cass, secretary of war.

Memorandum for Mr. Gorostiza, of what was said to him by Mr. Forsyth, in their conference on the 20th of April, 1836.

Mr. Forsyth stated to Mr. Gorostiza, that, in consequence of the contest in Texas, the movements of some citizens of the United States on the Red river, and apprehended hostile intentions of the Indians in Mexico against the United States, and of the Indians within the United States against Mexico, orders would be given to general Gaines to take such a position with the troops of the United States as would enable him to preserve the territory of the United States and of Mexico from Indian outrage, and the territory of the United States from any violation by Mexicans, Texans or Indians, during the disturbances unfortunately existing in that quarter, and that the troops of the United States would be ordered to protect the commissioners and surveyors of the two governments, whenever they should meet to execute the instructions to be prepared under the treaty of limits between the United States and the United Mexican States. Should the troops, in the performance of their duty, be advanced beyond the point Mexico might suppose was within the territory of the United States, the occupation of the position was not to be taken as an indication of any hostile feeling, or of a desire to establish a possession or claim not justified by the treaty of limits. The occupation would be precautionary and provisional, and would be abandoned whenever (the line being run and the true limits marked) the disturbances in that region should cease, they being the only motive for it.

*Head quarters western department,
Natchitoches, Louisiana, April 8, 1836.*

SIR: I arrived at this place on the 4th instant, since which time I have received information from various sources, which leaves no doubt in my mind that a considerable portion of several tribes of the Indians residing within our territorial limits have gone over to the Texas side of the boundary line between the United States and Mexico.

When to this fact are added the reports daily received at this place, that the army of Mexico, commanded by the president, (Santa Anna) in person, is rapidly approaching in this direction through the centre of Texas; that his plan is to put to death all he finds in arms, and all who do not yield to his dictation; that as soon as he comes to the section of country occupied by the Indians in question on the waters of the Trinidad, or Trinity river, they will unite with him in his war of extermination; and that no boundary line, save such as they find properly guarded with an efficient force, will be sufficient to arrest the sanguinary career of these savages, I cannot but deem it my duty to prepare for action.

For this purpose I have requested of the governors of Louisiana and Mississippi and Tennessee, each, a brigade, and of the state of Alabama a battalion, making altogether three brigades and one battalion; the whole, or as many of them as practicable to be mounted; to repair to this place as soon as may be convenient, by battalions or companies.

This force, though not equal in numbers to that which it may be my duty to meet in battle, will enable me at least to secure the confidence of the frontier settlements, and keep them at home to plant their crops; and moreover enable me to inflict summary punishment on such of the enemy by whom they are now menaced, as may teach them to respect us, and in future to pay more regard than they seem now disposed to pay to our rights and treaties.

I shall in the course of a few days address to each one of the commanders of the armies in Texas a note calling their attention to their duties, and apprising them of the course which I shall pursue towards them, in obedience to the orders of the president of the United States, should they approach our boundary, or suffer the Indians near them to commence hostilities. I have notified the governors of the states to whom I have applied for force, that "should the war in Texas be brought to a close without the apprehended Indian hostilities," the volunteers will in that case "be discharged forthwith." I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

EDMUND P. GAINES, *major general commanding.*

The hon. Lewis Cass, *secretary of war, Washington city.*

P. S. I enclose a copy of my letters to the governors of the states above named. E. P. G.

[Here follows the letter from gen. Gaines inserted in a late number, page 162.]

War department, May 4, 1836.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 8th ultimo, and, in answer, have to inform you that the president will sanction the employment of whatever force may be necessary to protect the western frontier of the United States from hostile incursions. This department has addressed the governors of the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama, requesting them to call into service such militia force as you may find necessary in carrying into effect the instructions heretofore given to you. The theatre of operations is so distant from the seat of government, that much must be entrusted to your discretion. The two great objects you have to attain are, first, the protection of the frontiers, and, secondly, as strict a performance of the neutral duties of the United States as the great object of self-defence will permit. You will take care and do no act which can give just cause of offence to any other government; and, on the other hand, you will not permit the frontiers to be invaded by any forces whatever. I have to request that the militia you may call out may not be more numerous than the exigencies shall seem to require. They ought to be called into service for six months, if practicable, to be disbanded whenever not wanted; and you will take care that all due economy is preserved, as well in your disbursements as in the preservation and accountability of the public property. It is very necessary that you should communicate freely to the commanding officers of any military parties who may approach the frontiers, and inform them of the nature of your orders. You will state to them, that while you have been ordered to that quarter with a view to the execution of the neutral obligations of the United States, you have also been instructed to defend their territory from any invasion whatever; and that this duty will be executed under any circumstances that may happen. You will also remonstrate against the employment of any of the Indians. Although the dictates of humanity forbid the use of this species of force, which cannot be restrained, yet the right of the United States to remonstrate against its service rests upon other grounds. From the habits and dispositions of the Indians, it is well known that the power of employing them cannot restrain them within the legitimate rules of warfare. If they approach the frontiers, they will pay no regard to a mere imaginary line, but will carry on their depredations and massacres wherever inhabitants can be found, and where there is no force to oppose them. It is altogether idle to expect that in such a state of things the frontier settlements of the United States would not be exposed to these calamities. Whoever calls the Indians into service, and induces

them to approach our border, cannot but be aware of the consequences that must ensue.

All this you will represent to the proper officers, and you will use your best exertions to keep such a force from marching towards your position, and, if they do so, to repel and disperse it.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

Major general Gaines, Fort Jesup, Louisiana.

War department, May 4, 1836.

SIR: In January last orders were given to major general Gaines to take measures for the defence of the western frontier of Louisiana. Events which were then passing in Texas, led to the belief that a state of things might arise requiring the interposition of the government to protect the inhabitants of that portion of the United States from the calamities of war.

There were placed, subject to general Gaines' orders, three regiments of infantry and seven companies of dragoons; and he was instructed to prevent, by force if necessary, any armed parties from crossing the boundary line into the territory of the United States. He was also informed that the thirty-third article of the treaty with Mexico imposes upon both of the contracting parties the duty of preventing all hostile incursions on the part of the Indians into the possessions of the other; and he was directed to take the necessary measures for fulfilling this obligation on the part of the United States. He was also instructed, if called upon by the civil authority for any aid towards enforcing the laws having relation to the neutral duties of the United States, to render such assistance as the laws prescribe; and he was referred to the district attorneys of the two districts of Louisiana for their opinion upon such points of law connected with his duty as might arise. He was also particularly advised that it was the duty of the United States to remain entirely neutral, and to cause their neutrality to be respected.

By information recently received from general Gaines, it appears that he considers it necessary that his force should be increased, with a view to afford proper protection to the frontiers. He has, therefore, called upon each of the governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee for a brigade, and upon the governor of Alabama for a battalion of militia; the whole, or as many of them as practicable, to be mounted. He reports that the Mexican forces are rapidly approaching the border; and he anticipates, that as soon as they have reached the vicinity of the Indians, these will join in the contest, and that the Indian force will respect no boundary line. And the operations in Texas, as described by general Gaines, cannot fail to produce a favorable effect upon the cruel disposition and predatory habits of the Indians.

I have, therefore, the honor to suggest to the committee of ways and means the propriety of an appropriation of one million of dollars "to defray the expenses attending the defence of the western frontier of the United States, to be expended under the direction of the secretary of war, conformably to the provision of the act of April 5th, 1833, making appropriations for the support of the army."

I enclose for the information of the committee a letter from the quartermaster general. Very respectfully your most obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

Hon. C. C. Cambreleng, *chairman committee of ways and means, house of representatives.*

Quartermaster general's office, Washington city, May 3, 1836.

SIR: The operations on the frontiers of Texas will require large appropriations. I have a requisition on my table for one hundred thousand dollars for that service, and have not a dollar to meet it. I have received a letter from the assistant quartermaster at Natchitoches, reporting that he had found great difficulty in obtaining land transportation for five companies. The wagons and horses, as well as mules for packing, must be taken from Ohio, Kentucky or Tennessee. Should the operations be continued through the season on the scale indicated by general Gaines' requisitions, a million of dollars will probably be required for the service of this department alone.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP, *quartermaster general.*

The hon. secretary of war, *Washington city.*

War department, May 5, 1836.

SIR: In consequence of the intimation contained in your note of this date, I beg leave to observe, that the request for an appropriation of \$1,000,000, for the protection of the frontier, in my letter of yesterday, was submitted to, and approved by, the president. Very respectfully, your obt. servt,

LEW. CASS.

Hon. C. C. Cambreleng, *chairman committee of ways and means, house of representatives.*

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

Communicated to the house of representatives by the president of the United States.

The following message from the president of the United States was received by the hands of Mr. Donelson:

In compliance with a resolution of the house of representatives of the 10th instant, I transmit reports from the secretaries of state and war, with the papers accompanying the same.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Washington, 14th May, 1836.

Department of state, 13th May, 1836.

To the president of the United States:

The secretary of state, to whom was referred a resolution of the house of representatives of the 10th instant, has the honor to lay before the president the papers mentioned in the accompanying list, which contain all the instructions to the charge d'affaires of the U. States at Mexico, all the correspondence between the two governments called for, and all other information on the files of the department supposed to be embraced by the resolution.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Mr. Butler to Mr. Forsyth.—Extract.

Legation of the U. S. of America, Mexico, 31st March, 1835.

Sir: I have great pleasure in being able to tell you, for the information of the president, that the renewal of the treaty of limits will be completed within a few days, and I shall bring it with me on my return to the United States. The Mexican congress are now in session, and the ratification on the part of Mexico will be obtained at once, and the treaty be delivered to you in conformity with instructions sent me in January, 1834. The mere renewal of the treaty is in itself a matter of importance to us, because I am convinced that we shall gain by its jurisdiction over a very valuable tract of country, now either in an unsettled state, or under the dominion of the Mexican government.

* * * * *

A few weeks since, there was no prospect of my being able to conclude this affair previous to my departure from Mexico, for reasons which were communicated to the president of the United States in my last private letter, and I had actually obtained my audience of leave from this government, with the intention of setting off for Vera Cruz this day, and to return in the New York packet.

The audience was a private one, there being only the president, the secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury, and myself present. At the interview, I spoke to the president very frankly—I may, perhaps, add, energetically—upon the several questions pending between the two governments, and expressed my regret at not having it in my power to bear a more favorable representation of the condition of affairs with Mexico than candor would compel me to do. I was listened to by all present with apparent interest; but as my course has always been frank and direct, neither my manner nor language would create surprise. At the close of the interview, the acting president (general Barragan) inquired whether it would be convenient for me to postpone for a short time my departure, in the event of the government being disposed to entertain my proposition relative to the boundary question, and was answered, that notwithstanding the delay in my departure would occasion some inconvenience to myself, still I would not hesitate to remain for a length of time sufficient for the accomplishment of that object, provided the president gave me assurances that no unnecessary delay would be suffered. When about to leave the audience chamber, the president observed that a communication would be made to me before my departure, and as early as practicable. On the 29th, a note from the secretary of foreign affairs informed me that the treaty should be immediately entered upon and concluded, announcing himself and the secretary of the treasury as the plenipotentiaries on the part of Mexico.

We met on the 30th inst. compared and exchanged our powers, and I was requested to prepare the projet. This was done on the evening of the same day, and sent to the plenipotentiaries, who appointed two o'clock to-day for the conference, and where signing and sealing would have followed. At eleven o'clock, the enclosed note was received from the chief clerk of the department of foreign affairs, postponing the meeting until to-morrow.

[TRANSLATION.]

Department, Mexico, March 31, 1835.

To Anthony Buller, &c.

Sir: His excellency the minister has charged me to inform you that, being much occupied, he does not write to inform you that, in consequence of such occupation, he cannot hold the conference appointed for this day, but that it will take place to-morrow between ten and half past ten o'clock, so that the whole day may be employed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you of my most distinguished consideration.

JOSE MARIA ORTIZ MONASTERIO.

Mr. Butler to Mr. Forsyth.

Washington city, June 9, 1835.

To the hon. John Forsyth, secretary of state:

Sir: In pursuance of a leave of absence granted me several months since by the president of the United States, I have the honor of reporting myself to you as just arrived in this city.

In the despatch by which my leave of absence was communicated, I was directed, previous to my departure from Mexico, to conclude with that government a treaty stipulating the revival of the third article of a treaty previously negotiated between the two governments for adjusting limits and boundary, and which had been suffered to expire.

My instructions have been complied with, the duty is performed, and I have now the honor of presenting herewith the treaty; and have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

A. BUTLER.

[TRANSLATION.]

Philadelphia, October 14, 1835.

To the hon. Ashbury Dickens:

The undersigned, charge d'affaires of the United Mexican States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a note from Mr. Dickens, dated the 12th instant, with the copy enclosed, and the official letter from the political chief of the department of Nacogdoches; for the transmission of which documents he expresses the most sincere thanks to Mr. Dickens.

The said political chief, in his letter, communicates that the tribe of Creeks from Alabama is now emigrating and establishing itself in lands belonging to Mexico, without any license or authority to that effect; he therefore requests me to state the fact to the executive of the United States of America, in order that measures may be taken to restrain that tribe within its proper limits. As the representation made by the political chief of the department of Nacogdoches is founded on the thirty-third article of the existing treaty of friendship between the two republics, the undersigned hopes that Mr. Dickens will submit the import of this note to the president of the United States, and that his excellency will cause the requisite executive measures to be taken, if the facts should be as stated by the political chief, in order to repress any incursions into the Mexican territory on the part of the Indians who inhabit that of the United States.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to Mr. Dickens the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

J. M. DE CASTILLO Y LANZAS.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Castillo.

Department of state, Washington, Oct. 22, 1835.

Senor Don J. M. de Castillo y Lanzas, &c. &c.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Mr. Castillo, charge d'affaires of the United Mexican States, dated the 14th instant, relative to alleged encroachments of Creek Indians from the United States upon Mexican territories. A copy of Mr. Castillo's note having been referred to the secretary of war, who is charged with the superintendence of Indian affairs, that officer has stated that no information has been received by the war department, showing that the Creek Indians from Alabama are removing into the Mexican possessions; that there has not been, during this season any emigration of Creek Indians from Alabama; and that the war department has, on all proper occasions, by direction of the president, discountenanced the project of those Indians for removing into the province of Texas.

From this it would appear that the political chief of Nacogdoches has been misinformed. But should it be otherwise, it may be doubtful whether, under the 33d article of the treaty, the intervention of the United States could be claimed or afforded, unless the Indians manifested some hostile intent. If Indians going from the United States or elsewhere, should migrate to the Mexican territories with peaceable intentions, it will be for the Mexican government alone to decide upon their admission or exclusion.

Though the general terms used in the representation of the political chief of Nacogdoches would justify the president in expecting a more explicit statement, showing at what times and places, and under what circumstances, the Indians are alleged to have entered the Mexican territories, he has preferred directing this explanation to be made without delay, in order that there may be no room for doubt as to his views on the subject.

The undersigned avails himself of the occasion to offer Mr. Castillo renewed assurances of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

[TRANSLATION.]

Mexican Legation, Philadelphia, October 29, 1835.

To the hon. John Forsyth, &c.

The undersigned, charge d'affaires of the United Mexican States, has been informed that "at New York several vessels were in preparation, which were to join others at the Balize of New Orleans, not less than twelve in number, and to sail together for the coast of Texas. The object of the expedition," continues the notice, "is to introduce into that colony arms and munitions of war, for the assistance of the colonists in their insurrection, (*pronunciamento*) against the supreme government of the republic. Of these vessels, some, it appears, are armed for the defence of the expedition against the national cruisers now upon those coasts, and, if possible, for the destruction of those cruisers." "I have been assured," concludes the writer, "that two or three vessels have lately sailed from New York, with arms and ammunition for Texas." The undersigned has the honor to submit this information, which he has received through various channels, to the notice of the secretary of state of the U. States, in order that he may communicate it to his excellency the president, from whose inflexible rectitude he hopes that, for the sake of the peace and harmony subsisting between the two nations, he will order such measures as the case may require for putting an end to these proceedings, and absolutely preventing others of the same class from being carried into execution or projected. Such an order is most necessary, in the opinion of the undersigned, under the present circumstances, as the contempt of obligations arising from the treaty of friendship between the United Mexican States and those of America has reached such a point, that, according to

an official notice received from the Mexican consul at New Orleans, it is certain that, between the 10th and 11th of this month, the American armed schooner *San Felipe* sailed from that port for *Brazoria*, with the same captain *N. E. Hurd*, and "having her defences much strengthened, under the protection of which she goes laden with warlike stores and ammunition," and without a single paper which she should carry from the Mexican consul. The undersigned sincerely believes that this conduct will be viewed with disapprobation by the president of the United States.

The undersigned has the pleasure to renew to Mr. Forsyth, on this occasion, the assurance of his distinguished consideration.

J. M. DE CASTILLO Y. LANZAS.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Castillo.
Department of state, Washington, Nov. 10, 1835.
Senor don J. M. de Castillo, &c.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the note of Mr. Castillo charge d'affaires of the United Mexican States, dated the 29th of October, and to acquaint him that, in conformity with the president's views relating to the existing state of affairs in Texas, which the undersigned had the honor to impart at large to Mr. Castillo, in an interview at this office on the 4th instant, the district attorney of the United States at New York, as well as the district attorney at New Orleans, has been instructed to prosecute any persons within the jurisdiction of his district, who have attempted or who may attempt to compromise the neutrality of this government by proceedings in violation of those laws of the United States which have been enacted for the purpose of preserving peace, and fulfilling the obligations of treaties with foreign powers.

The undersigned prays Mr. Castillo to accept renewed assurance of his high consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Department of state, Washington, Nov. 4, 1836.

Sir: It has become necessary for me to call your attention to the probable event of a contest between the different portions of the Mexican empire in the vicinity of the United States. Some of our citizens may, from their connexion with the settlers there, and from their enterprise and love of change, be induced to forget their duty to their own government, and its obligations to foreign powers; but it is the fixed determination of the executive faithfully to discharge, so far as its power extends, all the obligations of the government, and more especially that which requires that we shall abstain, under every temptation, from intermeddling with the domestic disputes of other nations.

You are therefore earnestly enjoined, should the contest begin, to be attentive to all movements of a hostile character which may be contemplated or attempted within your district, and to prosecute, without discrimination, all violations of those laws of the United States which have been enacted for the purpose of preserving peace, and of fulfilling the obligations of treaties with foreign powers. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Benjamin F. Linton, esq. U. S. attorney, St. Martinsville, L.

Same to J. Mills, district attorney, Boston.

" Wm. M. Price, do. New York.
" Henry D. Gilpin, do. Philadelphia.
" Nat. Williams, do. Baltimore.
" John Forsyth, jr. do. Mobile.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Butler—Extract.
Department of state, Washington, Nov. 9, 1835.

The president's views relative to the existing contest in Texas have been imparted to Mr. Castillo in a conference I have had with him at this office, and he will no doubt communicate them to his government; but that there may be no room for misapprehension on the subject, it is deemed best that the Mexican government should also be assured of them through you.

It is the wish of the president, therefore, that as soon as practicable after the receipt of this dispatch, you should seek an interview with the minister of foreign affairs, and acquaint him that the president looks with regret upon the unhappy state of things in Texas. That as the United States are and desire to remain at peace with the United Mexican States, as all measures enjoined and warranted by law have been and will continue to be taken to enforce respect by citizens of the United States, within their jurisdiction, to the neutrality of their government, whose desire is to execute in entire good faith the treaty of limits, he expects nothing will be done by the Mexican authorities tending to frustrate that desire, or to diminish the friendly sentiments entertained for the Mexican republic. In the probable event of a protracted war in Texas itself, neither party can be permitted to encroach upon the territorial limits of the United States, or make our soil a battleground for settling their political dissensions. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

[TRANSLATION.]

Palace of the national government, Mexico, Nov. 19, 1835.
To his excellency the secretary of state and of foreign relations of the United States of America:

The undersigned, chief officer charged with the direction of the department of [foreign] relations of the Mexican republic,

has received orders from his excellency the president to address the government of the United States through its secretary of state on two subjects of the utmost importance to both nations, as, should they not be presented in a clear light, and treated with that good faith which characterizes the intercourse between those nations, the bonds of friendship and reciprocal confidence which have hitherto united them may, in a certain contingency, be considered as broken, in defiance of justice, reason and mutual interests. The undersigned, while addressing this communication to the secretary of state of the United States, in performance of his duty, has the satisfaction to be able at once to state with confidence that this government conceives itself to be too well acquainted with the equitable principles which have ever directed the cabinet of Washington, and remembers too distinctly the proofs of affection and sympathy at all times displayed by that cabinet in favor of the prosperity of the Mexican republic, to have the slightest doubt that its complaints will be attended to as soon as they are found to be established on just grounds, and they will be treated with the consideration shown towards those of the most friendly governments.

The first subject to which the undersigned thinks proper to call the attention of the secretary of state of the United States is the notorious co-operation of a great number of the inhabitants of Louisiana in aiding and advancing the cause of the insurgent colonist of Texas. These Mexicans—for they neither are, nor can they be viewed otherwise than as Mexicans, having voluntarily ceased to be what they previously were—would never have ventured, in so open and shameless a manner, to abandon their duty to their adopted country, had they not expected to receive ready and effective support from American speculators, established near their frontiers, with views purely interested.

Unfortunately for themselves, the colonists of Texas were not mistaken in their calculations; and, before raising the standard of rebellion, they had received from their friends in New Orleans the combustibles required for kindling and spreading the conflagration; this conflagration must certainly destroy their infant establishments, unless they quickly open their eyes to the impending danger, and again submit to the authority of the government which they have outraged, and which, although it neither desires nor intends to take vengeance, is nevertheless firmly resolved to enforce respect to itself in every part of our immense territory. The colonists of Texas have since obtained, and continue to obtain, daily, from New Orleans, succors of every kind, in provisions, arms, ammunition, money, and even in soldiers, who are openly enlisted in that city, who sail from it armed for war, against a friendly nation, and, by their mere presence, render more difficult the pacific solution of a question purely domestic. Societies have moreover been formed in New Orleans, which publicly direct or interfere with affairs foreign to their country, either through the instrumentality of the press, or by meetings called ostensibly for the determined object of rendering general throughout the United States the views of a few individuals with regard to Texas. In other words, attempts are made to give a color of nationality to that which is a mere speculation on the part of some adventurers of various sorts.

The undersigned is well aware that many of these acts might have been, and still may be, effected at New Orleans under cover of the very liberality of the American institutions; and that the authorities of the union may have been unable legally to prevent them, especially such as involve questions connected with the freedom of the press, individual liberty, or the privileges allowed to American commerce. For this reason, the government of the undersigned neither should nor does solicit any thing in this case from the government of the United States, except that it should employ every measure permitted by its own laws for preventing, as far as possible, the injury which a friendly nation, connected with the United States by bonds of every kind, may sustain from the interference even of private individuals in a question entirely domestic.

JOSE MARIA ORTIZ MONASTERIO.

[TRANSLATION.]

Philadelphia, December 11, 1835.

To Mr. John Forsyth, secretary of state of the U. States.

MOST ESTEEMED SIR: In the late message of the president of the United States, the paragraph relative to my country concludes thus: "It has been thought necessary to apprise the government of Mexico that we should require the integrity of our territory to be scrupulously respected by both parties." Now, I recollect well what was said on this subject in our conference at the beginning of the last month, and I admit that the desire of this government is most just; it cannot be other than the desire of the Mexican government. The only point on which I should be happy, if you would inform me, in order that all proceedings in this affair should be conducted with clearness and perfect understanding on both sides, is this: In making use of the expression quoted above, does the executive of these United States perchance intend to convey the idea that he recognises limits, which are not those expressly determined in the second article of the treaty between the two countries?

I think, sir, you will see that I am induced to put this question, by the interest which I take in preventing any equivocal or false interpretation which might lead to a disturbance of the

friendly relations between the two governments. I am, sir, with due respect, your most obedient servant,
J. M. DE CASTILLO Y LANZAS.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Castillo.

Department of state, Washington, December 16, 1835.

Senor Don J. M. de Castillo y Lanzas, &c.

Sir: In answer to your letter of the 11th instant, I have the honor to inform you that remarks made by the president in a message to congress are not deemed a proper subject upon which to enter into explanation with the representative of a foreign government. I take occasion to add, however, that if there be any matter connected with the relations between our two countries, on which it may be interesting to you to receive further information than that conveyed in our conversation to which you refer, I shall be happy to afford it whenever your convenience permits you to visit me at this department.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Castillo.

Department of state, Washington, January 14, 1836.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, has the honor to inform Mr. Castillo, charge d'affaires of the Mexican republic, in answer to his note of the 13th instant, that this department will avail itself of the occasion of the departure of Mr. Ellis for Mexico, which will take place immediately, to answer through him the communication of the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic, dated the 19th of November last, and referred to in Mr. Castillo's note.

The undersigned embraces this opportunity to renew to Mr. Castillo the assurances of his high consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Ellis.—Extract.

Department of state, Washington, January 29, 1836.

You will herewith receive my answer to a late communication of the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic, complaining of the co-operation of citizens of the United States with the insurgents in Texas. You will deliver this letter to the minister of foreign affairs; and that you may understand the subjects to which it relates, you are herewith furnished with a copy of it, and of the correspondence between this department and Mr. Castillo concerning them.

Extract of a letter from the hon. John Forsyth to his excellency the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic, dated

Department of state, Washington, January 29, 1836.

"The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, has had the honor to receive the note of the 19th November, 1835, addressed to him by the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic, and avails himself of the departure of Mr. Ellis, recently appointed charge d'affaires for Mexico, to transmit the answer to it, which the undersigned has been directed by the president of the United States to give.

"Both the subjects of that letter had been already acted upon when the note of the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic was received, and the president instructs the undersigned to express his conviction that the course which has been adopted, while it has been dictated by a just regard to the interest of the United States, and his obligations under their laws, is entirely consistent with that sympathy for the Mexican republic, and that anxiety for its property which the United States has ever professed and felt, and by which their intercourse with it has been uniformly regulated. As to the first subject of complaint, the principles which have governed the United States in the contest between Spain and the Spanish American states, and in the numerous internal contests in Spanish America, are too well known to require explanation. So soon as it was apparent that the dispute between Texas and the dominant party in the other Mexican states would be carried to extremities, and indications were observed of a desire in some of the citizens of the United States to take part in the struggle, all the measures in his power were adopted by the president to prevent any interference that could by possibility involve the United States in the dispute, or give just occasion for suspicions of an unfriendly design on the part of this government to intermeddle in a domestic quarrel of a neighboring state. Notice was given to the Mexican charge d'affaires of the measures adopted, and the principles and course of the United States, distinctly and fully, and the undersigned trusts, satisfactorily explained to him. This has certainly been duly communicated to his government, and has, with equal certainty, satisfied the acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic that it is the determination of the executive of the United States to employ every measure permitted by our own laws for preventing, as far as possible, the injury a friendly nation might sustain from interference in a question entirely domestic. For the conduct of individuals, which the government of the United States cannot control, it is not in any respect responsible; and the Mexican government well understands how far the funds and the exertions, and the combined efforts of individuals may be made to contribute to

the aid of parties in a foreign contest, without in the slightest degree implicating the government of this country. The acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic must be aware that all this preceded any official communication of the character of the contest going on, or of the precautions and regulations adopted by either party to it in the assertion of their respective pretensions, and that as yet the United States have not been distinctly informed of those adopted by the government of Mexico."

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Castillo.

Department of state, Washington, February 13, 1836.

Senor Don J. M. de Castillo y Lanzas, &c.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, had the honor to receive the note of Mr. J. M. de Castillo y Lanzas, charge d'affaires of the Mexican republic, dated the 4th instant. The acting minister of foreign affairs of the Mexican republic having, by his communication of the 19th of November last, thought proper to address himself directly to the undersigned concerning the differences with Texas, the undersigned deems it unnecessary at present to continue a correspondence with Mr. Castillo on those subjects. In pursuance of the intention expressed in his note to Mr. Castillo of the 14th ultimo, the undersigned has made Mr. Ellis, who will soon be in Mexico, the bearer of the answer of this department to the communication of the acting minister of foreign affairs. Mr. Ellis has also been instructed to acquaint the Mexican government that he is ready to pursue the further discussion of the business at the Mexican capital, if it should be thought necessary. The undersigned will, however, be happy to renew the discussion with Mr. Castillo, if, in the opinion of the Mexican government, there should be any sufficient reasons for such a course, and if Mr. Castillo should be specially instructed to that effect.

The undersigned renews to Mr. Castillo the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Brown.

Department of state, Washington, February 24, 1836.

Sir: I enclose an extract of a letter addressed to the president of the United States, and referred by him to this department, relative to the enlistment of men at Nashville for the Texas service by a certain major Miller. You are requested to satisfy yourself by proper inquiries; and should you find that either he or any other person has, in regard to the transaction therein referred to, violated the laws, you will, without loss of time, institute such proceedings as may be necessary to bring the offender to punishment.

It is to be presumed, however, that you will have done what your duty required, without waiting for instructions from this department. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN FORSYTH.

William T. Brown, U. S. attorney, Nashville, Tennessee.

Extract of a letter from W. H. Hunt, dated

Nashville, Feb. 10, 1836.

"A certain major Miller, of the Texas service, has recently been in this place, obtaining recruits, and has enticed away young men, even when in debt to their employers, who would otherwise have complied with their engagements.

"In an instance of that kind I have applied to the U. States attorney for this district, who says he has received no instructions from you on the subject. I beg that you will immediately issue those instructions, as this course of the Texas recruiting officers is highly injurious to the citizens of the U. States."

[TRANSLATION.]

Washington, April 4, 1836.

To the hon. John Forsyth, secretary of state of the U. States:

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has read with pain in some of the newspapers published in Tennessee and Kentucky, that Felix Huston, esq. of Natchez, is actually engaged, in the former of those states, in enlisting, clothing and arming, at his own expense, a corps of volunteers, the number of which is expected to be no less than five hundred, with whom he proposes to march to Texas in the beginning of the ensuing month of May, in order to increase the forces of the rebel colonists.

Such at least is the deduction to be drawn from a letter of his published in several of the newspapers, of which the undersigned has the honor to send one to the honorable John Forsyth, secretary of state of these United States, in order that, having seen it, the federal government may take such measures as, in its conception, may appear sufficient to arrest the plan which Huston proposes to carry into execution, in contempt of the laws of the country itself, as well as of the most obvious and acknowledged principles of international law.

The undersigned might also denounce to Mr. Forsyth other acts of the same nature which are now in progress in the said states of Tennessee and Kentucky, in consequence, no doubt, of the sort of crusade which has been preached there by persons calling themselves commissioners from Texas; among others, the project of raising a company at Nashville at the expense of the ladies of that city. But as the undersigned has had the satisfaction of knowing that some of these acts have already attracted the notice of the American government, and have merited its disapprobation, he does not consider it necessary to spend more time at present in enumerating and complaining of evils which may perhaps have been already, in a

great measure, remedied—thanks to the equity and foresight of the department of state.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, avails himself of this opportunity to repeat to the honorable John Forsyth, secretary of state of these United States, the assurances of his esteem and high consideration.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

[TRANSLATION.]

Washington, March 9, 1836.

To the hon. J. Forsyth, &c. &c.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has seen in the Globe of yesterday, with a degree of regret equal to his surprise, that in the instructions addressed by the secretary of war to general Gaines on the 25th of April last, that general Gaines has been authorised, in case of necessity, to advance with his troops to Nacogdoches, "which old fort" says the secretary of war, "is within the limits of the United States as claimed by this government."

The undersigned cannot form any conjecture with certainty as to the ground on which the American government believes that Nacogdoches would be within the limits of the United States, when the dividing line between the two countries, determined by the third article of the existing treaty, shall have been run and marked down, because, although the undersigned has consulted Melish's map, published in Philadelphia, and improved in 1818—the only authority on the matter which the Mexican government will recognise agreeably to the treaty—he has not been able to find any other thing than that Nacogdoches is situated several miles beyond the Sabine river, and consequently far within the indisputable territory of Mexico.

The undersigned is, moreover, not aware that any claim of this nature has ever been advanced on the part of the American government; and this appears so much the more strange to him, as the undersigned, before leaving Mexico, was enabled to examine all the correspondence which had for many years been carried on between the two governments on the subject of limits, and does not recollect to have found any thing there contradicting his assertion, unless it be the solitary and vague indication contained in Mr. Butler's note of the 21st December, 1834, already mentioned by the undersigned in one of his late communications. The undersigned, in consequence, finds himself now under the sad necessity of addressing the honorable John Forsyth, secretary of state of the United States, for the purpose of protesting against the authorisation given to general Gaines to go with his troops to Nacogdoches, because he considers it essentially, and with regard to its possible effects, as a positive violation of the territory which is known to be Mexican.

The undersigned had the honor already, on the 23d and 28th of April last, to inform Mr. Forsyth under what point of view he considered the communication made to him by the secretary of state in the conference held on the 20th of that month; and if he, in a manner, engaged to await the orders of his government on the subject, it was assuredly not because he yielded his right, but because neither, from the memorandum of the conference, nor from the written communications of Mr. Forsyth, could the undersigned having gathered that general Gaines had already been instructed as to the ground which he might overrun with his troops, and the point where he was to stop.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the honorable John Forsyth the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Department of state, Washington, 9th April, 1836.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States, has received the note which Mr. Gorostiza, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, did him the honor to address to him on the 4th instant, accompanied by extracts from newspapers, showing that, in despite of the laws of their country, Felix Huston, esq. of Natchez, contemplated raising and equipping troops, and that a company was to be raised at the expense of the ladies of Nashville, to aid the Texans. Mr. Gorostiza also intimates that other projects of a like character are on foot in Tennessee and Kentucky, and requests that such measures as may be necessary to arrest them may be taken by this government.

Mr. Gorostiza is aware that the attorney of the United States for the eastern district of Tennessee has already been instructed to prosecute any persons in his district who have offended, or who may offend, in the manner complained of. He will likewise be directed to do whatever may be necessary and proper to frustrate the schemes of Mr. Huston and the ladies of Nashville, and the attorneys of the United States for Mississippi and Kentucky will be enjoined to enforce the law against similar wrong-doers within the jurisdiction of their districts.

The undersigned offers to Mr. Gorostiza renewed assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His exc'y Don Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza, &c.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Sanders.

Department of state, Washington, 9th April, 1836.

SIR: It appears from an article in the Western Journal, containing what purports to be an extract of a letter of Felix Hus-

ton, esq. of Natchez, that he is in the act of raising and equipping a volunteer company for military service in Texas.

You are requested to satisfy yourself by proper inquiries; and should you find that either he, or any other person, has, in regard to the transaction alluded to, violated the laws within the Kentucky district, you will institute such proceedings as may be necessary to bring the offender to punishment. You will also see the laws enforced with respect to any other similar violation of the neutral relations of the United States.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH,
Lewis Sanders, esq. U. S. attorney, Frankfort, Kentucky,
Same to Richard M. Gaines, esq. U. S. attorney, Natchez, Miss.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Grundy

Department of state, Washington, 9th April, 1836.

SIR: It has been represented to this department that a volunteer company is in the act of being raised and equipped at Nashville, for military service in Texas. This also appears from an article quoted as having been published in the Kentucky Gazette.

You are requested to satisfy yourself, by proper inquiries, as to the truth of this representation; and should you find that any persons have, in regard to the transaction alluded to, violated the laws, you will institute such proceedings as may be necessary to bring them to punishment.

Enclosed is the copy of a letter addressed, on a similar occasion, to your late predecessor, Mr. Brown. I am, sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN FORSYTH.

James P. Grundy, esq. U. S. attorney, Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Department of state, Washington, April 11, 1836.

The secretary of state, in reply to Mr. Gorostiza's note of the 10th instant, on the subject of the publication of the memorandum of the conference of the 20th of April, has the honor to inform him that the communication of the memorandum to a committee of congress, by the department of war, was made without the knowledge of the department of state; that the memorandum has not been published by any branch of this government; but has been made known incidentally, through the public journals, as a part of the proceeding of congress. How far, under these circumstances, a compliance with Mr. Gorostiza's request to have the correspondence, which grew out of the memorandum of the 20th of April, made known, is required by justice to Mexico or her representative, is rendered unnecessary by the call which has just been made by the house of representatives, including that correspondence; which call will be answered as soon as the papers can be prepared. The secretary of state hopes that, in the mean time, the well-understood devotion of Mr. Gorostiza to his country will shield him from the effects of any injurious misconception.

The secretary of state embraces this opportunity to offer Mr. Gorostiza renewed assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH,

His exc'y senior Don Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Memorandum for Mr. Gorostiza of what was said to him by Mr. Forsyth in their conference on the 20th April, 1836.

Mr. Forsyth stated to Mr. Gorostiza that, in consequence of the contest in Texas, the movements of some citizens of the United States on the Red river, and apprehended hostile intentions of those Indians in Mexico against the United States, and of the Indians within the United States against Mexico, orders would be given to general Gaines, to take such a position with the troops of the United States as would enable him to preserve the territory of the United States and of Mexico from Indian outrage, and the territory of the United States from any violation by the Mexicans, Texans or Indians, during the disturbance unfortunately existing in that quarter, and that the troops of the United States would be ordered to protect the commissioners and surveyors of the two governments, whenever they should meet to execute the instructions to be prepared under the treaty of limits between the United States and the United Mexican States. Should the troops, in the performance of their duty, be advanced beyond the point Mexico might suppose was within the territory of the United States, the occupation of the position was not to be taken as an indication of any hostile feeling, or of a desire to establish a possession or claim not justified by the treaty of limits. The occupation would be precautionary and provisional, and would be abandoned whenever (the line being run, and the true limits marked) the disturbances in that region should cease; they being the only motive for it.

21st April, 1836.

[TRANSLATION.]

Reply of the undersigned, Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza, to the communication made to him verbally by Mr. Forsyth, in the conference between them held on the 20th of April, 1836, at the department of state; of which conference he received a memorandum from the said department, on the 21st of the same month.

In the conference of the 20th of April Mr. Forsyth thought proper to communicate to the undersigned a certain measure which the American government proposed to take respecting the affairs of Texas; and the undersigned immediately consi-

dering that communication of great importance, frankly acknowledged his imperfect acquaintance with the English language, and requested Mr. Forsyth, with a view to prevent any misunderstanding on the part of the undersigned, to do him the honor to repeat to him in writing, and in form of a simple memorandum, what he had just communicated. Mr. Forsyth acceded to this request, with his accustomed politeness, and on the ensuing day sent to the undersigned the memorandum requested.

From this memorandum it appears that Mr. Forsyth stated to the undersigned at the said conference, that, in consequence of the contest in Texas, the movements of some citizens of the United States on the Red river, and apprehended hostile intentions of the Indians in Mexico against the United States, and of the Indians within the United States against Mexico, orders would be given to general Gaines to take such a position with the troops of the United States as would enable him to preserve the territory of the United States and of Mexico from Indian outrages, and the territory of the United States from any violation by the Mexicans, Texans or Indians, during the disturbance unfortunately existing in that quarter; that the troops of the United States would be ordered to protect the commissioners and surveyors of the two governments whenever they should meet to execute the instructions to be prepared under the treaty of limits between the United States and the United Mexican States; that, should the troops, in performance of their duty, be advanced beyond the point Mexico might suppose was within the territory of the United States, the occupation of the position was not to be taken as an indication of any hostile feeling, or of a desire to establish a possession or claim not justified by the treaty of limits. The occupation would be precautionary and provisional; and that the position would be abandoned whenever (the line being run, and the true limits marked) the disturbances in that region should cease; they being the only motive for it.

With regard to the first point, the undersigned acknowledges the justice of the views of the government of the United States, in desiring to preserve its territory from any species of violation, and no observation can be made on the subject, as long as general Gaines remains within the known limits of the United States. He, however, thinks it his duty to observe to Mr. Forsyth, availing himself with pleasure of this opportunity, that the Mexican government recognizes the sacredness of the territory of every neighboring nation too much not to have given the most particular orders to the commanders of the national troops in Texas to respect and cause to be respected the frontiers of the territory of the United States. He also avails himself of this opportunity to express thanks, in the name of his government, for the instruction given to general Gaines to preserve the Mexican territory from the outrages of the Indians of the United States; and he flatters himself that, in like manner, and in accordance with this principle of equity and good feeling towards Mexico, orders will be given at the same time to that general to oppose the entrance into Texas of any American citizen who may attempt to pass the frontiers armed, or as a colonist, for the purpose of joining the ranks of the rebels.

The undersigned considers it also very proper (*conveniente*) that general Gaines' troops should protect, in case of need, the operations of the commissioners and surveyors, who are to settle and mark the dividing line between the two countries, and to meet for that purpose at Natchitoches within one year from the 20th of April, 1836, the date of the signature of the convention imposing that obligation; and the undersigned can moreover immediately give assurance that the Mexican troops will also contribute to the same object, whenever it may be deemed necessary, as the interests of the two governments are the same, and as they are consequently equally called on to do whatever may be requisite for carrying it into effect well and speedily.

But with regard to the supposition contained in the third point of the communication, the undersigned cannot conceive that it could be realized, being, as he is persuaded, that the government of the United States cannot desire to insist upon an act which, if done, would be clearly injurious to the rights and interests of an independent and friendly nation. The undersigned conceives that any position which general Gaines may take beyond the known limits of the United States cannot be upon ground other than that belonging to the Mexican territory, and which should belong to it, until the commissioners and surveyors (the sole judges in the affair by the treaty of 1828) should decide against Mexico, and adjudge a portion of that territory to the United States, on the ground that it is comprehended within the line agreed upon. In the mean time, Mexico has in its favor the right of a constant possession, during which it has exercised there all the acts of sovereignty, has legislated, has appointed the authorities, has kept garrisons, has disposed of lands, &c.

And if it be said that the United States have, at periods since the cession of Louisiana, claimed such or such parts of Texas, or that there are still doubts as to the nature or denomination of such or such locality, the third article of the treaty of 1828 puts an end to all pretensions of the contracting parties, by fixing a dividing line, and confiding to arbiters, by giving them the power to lay down that line, the faculty of resolving all doubts, and removing all difficulties. With them, therefore, rests the decision, and it is only after such decision that the present *in statu quo* can justly terminate. This was doubtless the understanding of Mr. Butler, the charge d'affaires of the

United States, when urging the minister of [foreign] relations of Mexico on the 21st December, 1834, respecting the necessity of speedily carrying into effect the said third article of the treaty of limits, he added, "he would only observe, that Mexico was actually occupying a large territory, which the government of the undersigned considered as justly belonging to the citizens of the United States, according to the rational construction of all the treaties concluded on the subject; and as it was well known that not only the government of Mexico, but that of the United States had already granted a large part of this territory to various natives and foreigners, the prompt conclusion of this affair became every day more urgent."

Can there be a more explicit confession than this of Mr. Butler's, respecting the possession by Mexico of the part which he considered to belong to the citizens of the United States, and of his conviction that the only means of legally terminating the state of things of which he complained was by carrying the treaty into full effect?

That the measure in question would not only affect the rights of Mexico as an independent nation, but also injure its interests, it is most easy to prove. The presence of a body of neutral troops in the very theatre of the war cannot fail to embarrass the operations of the Mexican army to favor the Texans indirectly, and to create a constant risk of collision. The farther general Gaines advances, the more restricted will be the circle within which the belligerents can move, and the greater will be the necessity for approaching the cordon formed by the troops of the United States. And in a country so vast and unpeopled as Texas, how impossible will it be to determine well the line of such a cordon, by a chain of military posts linked together. Who can then prevent the Texans, if they find themselves pursued at any time by Mexican detachments, from taking refuge behind the troops of the United States, by passing a line which is unguarded? How can the Mexicans know where they are to stop so as not to violate the said line? And what will the troops of the United States do with the Texans who thus in a manner place themselves under their protection, or with the Mexicans, who, impelled by the ardor of the fight, should pursue in order to take them? The undersigned shudders at the idea of the evils which the slightest incident may occasion in either of these cases, to two countries which have so many motives for esteeming each other, and whose relations are now so frank and so amicable.

If the undersigned cannot now admit (as he has shown, and for reasons which he has given), the supposition that general Gaines may take a position on a territory possessed by Mexico, until the dividing line between the two countries be marked out according to the terms of the 3d article of the treaty of limits, how can he admit the supposition with which Mr. Forsyth's communication ends?

That general Gaines should not abandon the position taken, even though it be included within the assigned limits of Mexico, until the disturbances of Texas should cease, would be equal to a real military occupation of a part of the territory of Mexico, and to an indirect intervention in its domestic affairs; and the United States can by no means desire this, nor view it with satisfaction, considering the state of their existing relations with Mexico.

The undersigned concludes by hoping that the American government will take these remarks into consideration, and that no case will occur which might authorise general Gaines to assume the advanced position to which this reply alludes.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Mr. Forsyth's informal reply to Mr. Gorostiza's answer to the memorandum of the conference between them on the 20th instant.

Mr. Gorostiza has obviously not comprehended clearly the observations made to him by Mr. Forsyth on the 20th instant, or he would not have thought it necessary to make the extended reply which has been informally submitted. Mr. Gorostiza seems to take it for granted that general Gaines will be ordered to take a position in Texas on territory known to be beyond the limits of the United States. By referring to the paper given to him at his request, Mr. Gorostiza will see that the expression is, "should the troops of the United States, in performance of this duty, be advanced beyond the point Mexico might suppose was within the territory of the United States, the occupation of the position," &c. &c.

This notice to Mr. Gorostiza was not intended to express the intention to occupy a post within the acknowledged known limits of Mexico, but apprise Mexico that if gen. Gaines should occupy a position supposed by each government to be within its limits, that occupation would not be used either as the foundation of a claim or to strengthen a claim—the sole purpose being to enable this government to do its duty to itself and to Mexico; and the concluding paragraph with respect to the abandonment of any post thus occupied which might be found within the territory of Mexico was intended to convey the information that that abandonment would take place as soon as that fact was ascertained, unless the disturbed condition of the country at that time should render its continued possession indispensable to the safety of the United States, and under circumstances which would justify the occupation, if not in the judgment of the Mexican government itself, at least in that of every impartial power. Mr. Gorostiza must not understand that the government of the United States intends to interfere in

any manner in the disturbances of its neighbors. The troops of general Gaines will be employed only in protecting the interests of the United States and those of the Mexican territory, according to the obligations of the treaty between the two powers. Whether the territory beyond the United States belongs to the Mexican government, or the newly declared Texian state, is a question into which the United States does not propose to enter. It is a territory protected by the treaty of limits between Spain and the United States, subsequently recognised by the treaty between Mexico and the United States. In this view it will be considered; and while this government sees with great regret the sanguinary struggle which is carried on there, it does not permit itself to look to the result, being prepared, whatever that may be, rigidly to perform its own engagements.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Washington, 26th April, 1836.

Translation of a letter from the Mexican minister.

Washington, April 28, 1836.

To the hon. J. Forsyth, secretary of state.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, having received the reply addressed to him informally on the 26th instant, by the honorable John Forsyth, secretary of state of the United States, to his answer to the memorandum of the conference held on the 20th instant, has the honor now to assure the secretary of state, with the utmost sincerity, that he has never for a moment entertained the idea that the United States could seek to interfere in any way in the disturbances of their neighbors; and that, on the contrary, he had been induced, by his conviction of the rectitude of the principles which have at all times guided the policy of this government, to extend his reply somewhat beyond the bounds assigned by custom to that class of documents; being assured that all other considerations would be unnecessary, as soon as the undersigned shall succeed in demonstrating to Mr. Forsyth how just it was to Mexico, and how mutually convenient for both countries, that, in the present state of things in Texas, former possession should be the only rule for the mutual determination of respective limits, until the commissioners and surveyors shall have marked out the true dividing line.

Fortunately, if the undersigned has rightly comprehended Mr. Forsyth's reply, the opinion of the secretary of state coincides essentially on this point with that of the undersigned, so far as regards the assurance that general Gaines' troops will not take a position on any ground known to be beyond the limits of the United States; and as a natural consequence from this principle, that such position can in no case be on ground previously possessed by Mexico, and of course within its known limits. The undersigned would thank Mr. Forsyth to have the kindness to let him know whether he has been mistaken on this point, in order that, if not, he may immediately inform his government accordingly, and communicate to it this new proof of the justice and good faith which characterize the American government in all its relations with Mexico.

The undersigned, as little as Mr. Forsyth desires to enter into the question, apparently so obvious, whether the territory of Texas, which lies adjacent to the United States, belongs to Mexico and to the Mexicans born in Texas, or to the foreigners who have risen in insurrection there. Nor does he consider it proper at present to insist upon discussing hypothetically what might be suitable for both countries, after the line shall have been marked, with respect to the position which the troops of the United States may then occupy, as the undersigned has reason to hope that the necessity for the said occupation will ere that time have disappeared, and as even, though this should unfortunately not be the case, it is by no means probable that the Mexican government will consider the question then occurring in a light different from that in which it would be viewed by any impartial power.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the honorable Mr. Forsyth, secretary of state of the United States, the assurances of his distinguished consideration.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Department of state, Washington, May 3, 1836.

In reply to Mr. Gorostiza's informal note of the 25th ult. Mr. Forsyth has the honor to state that, except in case of necessity, general Gaines will not occupy ground not indisputably within the limits of the United States. In case of necessity, whether the possession of the ground he may occupy is now, or has heretofore been, claimed by Mexico, cannot be made a question by that officer, he will take it to perform his duties to the United States, and to fulfil the obligations of the United States, to Mexico. The just and friendly purpose for which he does occupy it (if he should do so) being beforehand explained to Mexico, it is expected will prevent either belief or suspicion of any hostile or equivocal design on his part. It is not intended to be the assertion of a right of property or possession. Whether the post occupied shall prove to be in Mexico or the United States, it will be abandoned whenever the necessity ceases by the restoration of tranquillity to that distracted neighborhood.

Mr. Forsyth avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Gorostiza the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His excy senor D. Manuel E. de Gorostiza, &c. &c.

[TRANSLATION.]

Washington, May 4, 1836.

To the hon. John Forsyth.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has learnt with sincere regret, from the informal note which the hon. John Forsyth, secretary of state of these United States, did him the honor to address to him on the 3d instant, that the American government has not thought proper to take into consideration the observations which the undersigned believed it his duty to direct to the department of state on the 25d and 28th of April last, respecting the position which the troops of general Gaines might assume in a certain case therein stated; and that consequently the question as regards the United States still remains the same as Mr. Forsyth considered it to be in the conference of the 20th of April. The undersigned, therefore, conceives that nothing is left for him to do, except to inform his government of the determination of the American government, and to await its orders. This he will do by the first opportunity, transmitting to the minister of [foreign] relations of the republic of Mexico literal copies of the correspondence which has passed on the subject between the department of state and this legation extraordinary. The undersigned will only add, that it would be very desirable, in any event, that the general-in-chief of the national army in Texas might receive, in proper time, from his government, the necessary instructions with regard the possible advance of general Gaines beyond the known limits of these United States; as the former would thus know the real object of such an advance in case it did take place, and would then adopt, without doubt, such measures as might be within his attributes and faculties, for avoiding on his part any cause of discontent or quarrel (*compraviso*) between two nations so intimately friendly as the two republics.

The undersigned, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, has the honor to repeat to the honorable John Forsyth, secretary of state of these United States, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

Mr. Forsyth to Mr. Gorostiza.

Department of state, Washington, May 10, 1836.

The undersigned, secretary of state of the United States having submitted the note of Mr. Gorostiza, envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the Mexican republic, of the 9th instant, to the president, has now the honor, by his instructions, to reply. The president did not expect that any orders given by his authority would have produced either surprise or regret in the mind of a representative of a friendly power. He observes, however, that Mr. Gorostiza has not perceived the peculiar force of the terms used by the authority of the executive. General Gaines is not authorized to advance to Nacogdoches, but he is ordered not to go beyond that point. To Mr. Gorostiza the distinction may not seem to be so, but in the view of the president it is important. The terms used limit the authority given, and were chosen with the express intention to avoid misconstruction of the motive of the advance. To effect one of the great objects for which general Gaines is sent to the frontier, i. e. to fulfil our treaty with Mexico, by protecting its territory against the Indians within the United States, the troops of the United States might justly be sent into the heart of Mexico, and their presence, instead of being complained of, would be the strongest evidence of fidelity to engagements and friendships to Mexico. Nor could the good faith and friendship of the act be doubted if troops of the United States were sent into the Mexican territory to prevent embodied Mexican Indians, justly suspected of such design, from assailing the frontier settlements of the United States. With the full explanation of the design of the movement as far as Nacogdoches, if it should be made, which it is hoped will not be necessary, the president did not apprehend that any room was left for dissatisfaction or complaint; and he thinks that the course Mr. Gorostiza has thought it his duty to pursue is the result of an apprehension of consequences that cannot ensue if all the parties are just to the designs and pretensions of each other. Mr. Gorostiza's protest obviously springs from the idea that the advance of general Gaines is to be founded on a claim of territory by the United States; and hence his anxiety to argue the question of right to the possession of Nacogdoches and the territory in its vicinity. Contrary to his wish, the president finds himself compelled to require the undersigned to remind Mr. Gorostiza that Mexico is not in possession of the territory bordering on the U. States, wherever the true line may be. Whether the government of Mexico will obtain, and can maintain possession of it, are questions now at issue by the most sanguinary arbitration. Until they are decided, the undersigned understands Mr. Gorostiza to maintain that the possession of Texas is the possession of Mexico, and that any advance upon the territory claimed as part of Texas by its self-constituted authorities is considered essentially and in its effects a positive violation of the known territory of Mexico. The Mexican government must be aware that portions of the territory ever admitted to belong, as well as that claimed to belong to the United States, are represented in the Texian government. The known territory of the U. States is, then, now violated by Mexico, since the government of Mexico is, upon the principle involved, responsible for this usurpation of a right over the jurisdiction of the United States, and this attempt to limit the extent of their territorial posses-

sion. This fact of itself would justify an advance of general Gaines to any point necessary to the vindication of the rights of the United States, or to retort an injury upon Mexico, (or Texas, which ever is responsible), for the original wrong. But the president has not designed to vindicate a right, or retort a wrong, in the orders that have been given. He looks forward patiently to the period, which cannot be far distant, when the territorial rights of the United States will, according to long existing speculations, be authoritatively designated and marked by competent and trustworthy agents, so as to leave no room for further cavil and dispute; and in the meanwhile he desires to occupy no position by military force which the circumstances by which the general commanding the troops of the United States is surrounded do not justify.

The undersigned is instructed further to reply to Mr. Gorostiza, that the claims of the United States are founded upon the treaty of limits, and are to be maintained by the treaty of limits. If the true demarcation, according to that treaty, has not been fully made known to Mexico, it is because there has been, on the part of that government, a delay to proceed to the execution of that instrument. Questions belonging to the duties of the commissioners and surveyors could not be properly presented or considered until they met to enter upon those duties. A correspondence between the United States and Mexico for the adoption of the treaty of limits made between Spain and the U. States was no place to look for traces of the pretensions of the two governments, founded on a construction of that instrument; nor were they likely to be found in the correspondence for the additional article to provide for carrying that treaty into effect. It could only be when in the course of execution that the rival pretensions of the parties and the conflicting constructions could arise. To discuss them in advance would have been useless, if not suspicious. It is not, therefore, surprising that Mr. Gorostiza should have risen from the perusal of the correspondence to which he refers, without accurate knowledge of the claims of the United States. The undersigned is constrained, however, to express his surprise at the apparent want of information on this subject, derivable from other sources, in the Mexican envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. The indication in Mr. Butler's note of the 21st December, 1834, was, of itself, sufficiently distinct to have elicited inquiry. If not made, it is presumed it was because the allusion was understood. Whatever may have been done or omitted prior to that time, it is certain that want of information on this point, since November last, cannot be complained of by the Mexican government. The undersigned had the honor to give to the Mexican charge d'affaires, Mr. Castillo, in a conference in that month, the most distinct intimation of the claims and expectations of the government of the United States, under the treaty of limits and the additional article—a conference which the undersigned has supposed was the chief cause of the subsequent extraordinary mission of Mr. Gorostiza to the United States.

The undersigned is instructed by the president to decline any discussion, at present, of the claims or pretensions of the United States to the territory in question. The appropriate occasion for advancing them is approaching. The United States are preparing, and will hasten to be ready to execute, in perfect good faith, the treaty, according to the second additional article lately agreed upon, and they expect that Mexico will be equally prompt. Whatever the United States cannot maintain by reason and facts, according to a just construction of the treaty of limits, will not be insisted upon. In the mean time, the undersigned is instructed to report, in the most explicit terms, for the satisfaction of the Mexican government, that the orders given to general Gaines were not given because the United States believed they had claims to the territory beyond Nacogdoches, nor with a view to assert, strengthen, or maintain those claims, but simply and exclusively to prevent consequences likely to grow out of the bloody contest begun in that quarter, the end of which it is difficult to foresee.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to reiterate to Mr. Gorostiza the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

His excellency Don Manuel E. de Gorostiza, &c. &c.

[TRANSLATION.]

Mexican legation extraordinary, in the U. S. of America.
Washington, May 10, 1836.

To the hon. John Forsyth, &c.

Sir: If the publication by itself of the memorandum containing the communication made to me by you in the conference of April 20th could have no other bad effect than to place me, as it has placed me, in a very disagreeable position with regard to the American public, I might perhaps, willingly sacrifice my own self-love, and pass by this circumstance, in order not thereby to involve farther an affair which is unfortunately becoming too complicated already. But you, Mr. Secretary of state, must know that the effects of this publication will not end there; and that from my apparent silence, it has been inferred, even in congress, that I have assented to the measure adopted by the United States, or, at least, that I have made no observations in opposition to it. This you, sir, know is not the case. You must also be aware that, if the newspapers which have entered upon this subject should by chance arrive in my country before my communications reach it, I might appear in the eyes of my fellow citizens, although but for a moment, under a light by no means favorable.

For these reasons, and having good grounds for confiding in the equity of this government, I am under the necessity of requiring you, sir, to adopt such means as you may consider most proper to rectify an error which may do me so much injury, as the representative of the Mexican republic in these United States.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Mr. Secretary of state, to repeat to you the assurances of my high consideration.

M. E. DE GOROSTIZA.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

Department of war, May 14, 1836.

Sir: In conformity with the resolution of the house of representatives of the 10th instant, I have the honor to transmit copies of all the orders and instructions of this department, and all the correspondence on its files relating to the defence of the western frontier of the United States.

Every measure taken or authorised by the executive upon this subject is disclosed by these documents. Agreeably to your views of the resolution, I have not sent copies of the instructions from the quartermaster general to the officers of his department, in order to execute the memorandum of May 9th for that officer. They contain merely the usual official directions, in detail, for carrying the orders into effect.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, LEW. CASS.
The president of the United States.

The principal documents referred to by the secretary of war have been heretofore published. The following letter from gen. Macomb is perhaps the only additional communication of interest:

New Orleans, La. April 25, 1836.

Hon. Lewis Cass, secretary of war:

Sir: I arrived here the day before yesterday. It was not long after my arrival that I had the honor of seeing his excellency the governor of the state, and learned from him that general Gaines had made a requisition on him for a brigade of volunteers, partly to be mounted and partly on foot. This force the general deemed necessary to be employed in checking the Caddo Indians, who, he had been informed, were about entering Texas to act against the citizens of that state, under the auspices of the Mexican authorities. The governor, examining the laws in reference to this call of general Gaines, conceived that he was not authorised by the laws of Louisiana, or those of the United States, to furnish the force called for, nor did he, from the information he had obtained, believe it necessary to send to the frontier of the state any troops, as the country was not invaded, nor likely, in his opinion, to be invaded, and, further, was impressed with the belief that it was a scheme of those interested in the Texian speculations, who had been instrumental in making Gaines believe that the Mexican authorities were tampering with the Indians within our boundaries, and at the same time exciting, by false representations here, the sympathies of the people in favor of the Texians, with a view of inducing the authorities of the United States to lend their aid in raising in this city a force composed of interested persons, which force should move to the Texian frontiers, under the call of general Gaines, and afterwards, under false pretensions, actually march into Texas, and take part in the war now raging between the Texians and the government of Mexico; and all this at the expense of the United States, and consequently with the implied sanction of the government; thus giving to the people of Texas the hope of relying on the government of the United States for their protection and support, and to the government of Mexico a positive evidence that the United States were actually engaged, contrary to the treaty stipulations, in a war against that government.

If I understand the instructions of gen. Gaines, as communicated to him before I left Washington, it was his duty to see that the treaty stipulations with Mexico were fulfilled; and further, as it regarded the contending parties, to preserve a perfect neutrality.

I met here col. Darrington, who was formerly in the army, and who gave me the information which you will find in the enclosed printed paper.

[Here follows a memorandum of current news.]

He is of the opinion that the Caddo Indians cannot be concerned in attacking the Texians, and that they are but few in number, and quite insignificant.

Gen. Gaines has at his disposal the 3d, 6th and 7th regiments of infantry, and the whole of the regiment of dragoons, which I should think sufficient, if he will properly dispose of them, to enable him to fulfil his instructions without calling for the brigade of volunteers from Louisiana.

From what I can discover, it appears to me that it would be better to extend our military establishment at once to 20,000 men, instead of 10,000, as it has been proposed. The conduct of the Seminoles will have its influence with the other nations and tribes; and knowing the restlessness of the Indians, and their proneness to war, I am persuaded it will be most prudent, as well as most economical, to raise and keep up at once a force capable of effecting promptly any course proper to be pursued towards the Indians or blacks in case of insurrection, and at the same time to defend the maritime frontier against foreign attack. I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

ALEXANDER MACOMB,
Maj. gen. commanding-in-chief.