(feet) as large as trees, and where the European grains are cultivated. They passed by Tasco, by Cuerna Vaca, to the capital of Mexico.—This city of 150,000 inhabitants, is placed upon the ancient site of Texochtitlan, between the lakes of Tezcuco and Xochimilca lakes which have lessened somewhat since the Spaniards have opened the canal of Hucheutoca, in sight of two snow-topped mountains, of which one, Popocatepec, is even now an active volcano, surrounded by a great number of walks, shaded with trees, and by Indian villages.

This capital of Mexico, situated 1160 toises above the sea, in a mild and temperate climate may doubtless be compared to some of the finest towns in Europe. Great scientific establishments, such as the Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Engraving, the College of Mines, (owing to the liberality of the Company of Miners of Mexico), and the Botanic Garden, are institutions which do honour to the government which has created them.

After remaining some months in the valley of Mexico, and after fixing the longitude of the capital, which had been laid down by an error of nearly two degrees, our travellers visited the mines of Moran and Real del Monte, and the Cerro of Oyamel, where the ancient Mexicans had the manufactory of knives made of the obsidian stone. They soon after passed by Queretaro and Salamanca to Guanaxoato, a town of fifty thousand inhabitants, and celebrated for its mines, more rich than those of Potosi have ever been. The mine of the count of Valenciana, which is 1840 French feet perpendicular depth, is the deepest and richest mine of the universe. This mine alone gives to its proprietor nearly six hundred thousand dollars annual and constant profit.

From Guanaxoato they returned by the valley of St. Jago to Valladolid, in the ancient kingdom of Michuacan, one of the most fertile and charming provinces of the kingdom. They descended from Pascuaro towards the coast of the Pacific Ocean to the plains of Serullo, where, in 1759, in one night, a volcano arose from the level, surrounded by two thousand small mouths, from whence smoke still continues to issue. They arrived almost to the bottom of the crater of the great volcano of Serullo of which they analized the air, and found it strongly impregnated with carbonic acid.—They returned to Mexico by the valley of Toluca, and visited the volcano, to the highest point of which they ascended, 14,400 French feet above the level of the sea.

In the months of January and February, 1804, they pursued their researches, on the eastern descent of the Cordilleras they measured the mountains Novados de la Puebla Popocatepec, Izzihutle, the great peak of Grizaba, and the Cofre de Petrote; upon the top of the last Mr. Humbolt observed the meredian height of the sun. In fine, after some residence at Xalappa, they embarked at Vera Crux, for the Havannah. They resumed the collections they had left their in 1801, and by the way of Philadelpha, embarked for France, in July, 1804, after six years absence and labors. A collection of 6000 different species of plants (of which a great part are new) and numerous mineralogical, astronomical, chemical, and moral observations, have been the result of this expedition. Mr. Humbold gives highest praises to the liberal protection granted to his researches by the Spanish government.

Baron Humboldt was born in Prussia, on the 14th of September, 1769.

*Vomito prieto.

FROM THE AURORA.

SPANISH AGGRESSIONS!

No. II.

The Political Register of the 4th inst. contains an article (professedly!) from a merchant at Madrid, dated July 16, 1804, which we think it our duty to copy, that our remarks thereupon may be perfectly understood.

WAR WITH SPAIN INEVITABLE.

The following communication is received by a merchant of this city from a source upon which perfect reliance may be placed:

Madrid, July 6, 1804.

"The application of the American minister on the subject of the Convention, has at length drawn from this court the following propositions, upon the acceptance of which only will that instrument be ratified:

First, That time be allowed to give notice to their subjects of the Convention, which has not yet been done, as they considered the business totally abandoned by the American government.

2d. That the article relating to prizes, carried into Spanish ports by French cruisers be totally expunged, and all claims upon the Spanish government, on that account, be for ever relinquished.

3. That the act of the United States, authorising the president to establish one or more ports on the river Mobile be immediately repealed.

After a proper remonstrance by the American minister, on this subject, he demanded his passports, and will actually depart from hence in the course of the ensuing week.

It is expected too that all the Americans will be obliged to leave this place in a few days.

Nothing of course but war is spoken of. Nevertheless Mr. Yrujo, is entrusted with full powers, and it may happen that what could not be obtained here, will be granted at Washington.

The people of this country affect to treat with contempt any opposition on the part of the United States, as they have (from your side) such information as leads them to believe that America is only a great merchant who calculates upon the probable loss or gain by a war or peace, and will determine as the balance of interest may preponderate, without regard to national honor."

The three last paragraphs of this article we look upon only as a *blind*. The whole article is easily understood—the source from whence it comes cannot be mistaken—and the *sapient* Major Jackson is made the instrument of this piece of *diplomatic skill*.—His malice towards the executive, has caused him to be *used* —and the object is to obtain as far as practicable a *diversion* of party in favor of the measures which the Spanish court may have directed her agents to pursue.

There can be no doubt of the good wishes of the Spanish ambassador towards our government; but at the same time, it is very well understood (and it is to his honor) that his most ardent feelings are embarked in the duties of his function.

So far then as there can arise advantage to a negociation from the intelligence and uprightness of the Spanish minister here, every thing stands as it should do.

We shall therefore take the article to be authentic, as it appears in the Register—we shall consider it as if communicated "from a source upon which perfect reliance may be placed."

It appears then that the aspertions cast out by Major Jackson and others on our minister at the court of Madrid are unfounded; for it appears that he has not neglected the interests of his country, nor have his efforts been limited to "a single effort—an abortive convention." —It appears that (beside other matters which are withheld) he has pressed the concerns of his country with zeal, and resented the wrong with dignity. He has pressed a reparation for wrongs—and when equivocation has been substituted for the usual magnanimity of Spain, he has delivered his ultimatum. These we apprehend are the facts.

We suspect that the propositions have been the cause of his ultimatum.

From the terms of the third article of the convention, of which we gave an abstract in a preceding number it appears to us that the first proposition is in the extreme of absurdity—for the article says that "the commissioners shall meet at Madrid, where, within the term of 18 months (to be reckoned from the day on which they assemble) they shall receive all claims, &c."

Now eighteen months alone would be sufficient to convey and receive information from any part of the Spanish colonies; and before the meeting six months would expire at least in addition thereto, so that if the propositions are authentic, as we are willing to believe, the government of Spain must be intent not only to deny us justice for the past, but to commit wanton and aggravated aggression.

The *second* proposition partakes of the same character; it has reference to the sixth article of the convention.

This article is of the declaratory character, by which it is provided that neither the demand of compensation on one hand, nor the omission to demand on the other, shall be considered as invalidating nor recognising claims which may thereafter be made and discussed.

Here was a liberal suspension of claims, which Spain might postpone to a period more favorable to her views of justice; when she might obtain from France a compensation for the loss to which she was exposed by the abuse of French cruisers and agents. But to this liberality it seems the court of Spain is not disposed to listen—and the only reason for such gross conduct we are informed is, that "our relations are changed with Spain since the acquisition of Louisiana."

How are our relations changed? The territory did not belong to Spain! How are our relations changed? Justice and reparation have not been done for the insults committed by the Spanish intendant!——How are our relations changed? Spain has not made reparation for the aggression committed by her cruisers! Is it because her agents or subjects have done us wrong, and we have relied upon Spanish magnanimity. According to a federal member of the Senate—"Spain has ranked high for good faith, and in my opinion higher than any nation in Europe. Slow to promise she has always fulfilled her agreements with honor, according to the spirit, without cavilling about the words of treaties." But it seems Spain has departed from this high character, and she has become a *caviller* about words, she has called upon us to relinquish totally, a right of which we have voluntarily suspended the litigation; and she has denied us a restitution of property, and a reparation for wrong, under this disgraceful cavil.

But the third proposition contains perhaps the point of the epigram—and in the same spirit it demands that to be undone which is not done at all.

The act alluded to was passed on the 24th February last, and forms the XIII. chapter of the laws of last session, page 26. It is the act for laying duties on imports and tonnage in the territory ceded by France.

To repeal this act would be to abandon the whole of the revenue law of the United States now established in that territory; a circumstance that proves the proposition to be very improperly translated, or that the writer did not understand the force of the proposition.

(*To be continued.*)

For the NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

TO THE PEOPLE. THE DEFENCE.

No. III.

Albert Gallatin was named Secretary of the Treasury. The duties of this station are in some respects scarcely secondary, while in others they are superior to those attached to the Department of State. By the laws establishing the office, the Secretary is required not only to superintend the collection and disbursement of the revenue, but likewise to present such new, or alterations in existing plans, as the public good requires. It will be perceived that this requires a comprehensive knowledge of the resources of the country, united with habits of close application; and in addition to this rare union of qualities a stern integrity. In a government whose chief resource depends upon trade, which itself depends upon our relative situation with the European world, it is essential that the Secretary should superadd to these attainments, a sufficient knowledge of foreign powers, to anticipate the arrangements likely to be adopted by them and their effects upon the United States. For the discharge of these high and complicated duties the President named Albert Gallatin.

This gentleman, it is well known, was born in a foreign land; but it is likewise known that the air he there inhaled was that of liberty. The republic, in whose bosom he was educated, had, for ages, been no less distinguished by the justice of its laws, than the equality of its citizens. Uncontaminated by the avaricious passions of trade, the powers of the human mind sought the proud distinctions of science and refined art. Hence this little spot not only rivalled, but surpassed the fame of those small states, which, animated by a Grecian spirit, atchieved those prodigies of valor which were deemed by surrounding nations miraculous. There was, however, this difference between them. While the states of Greece exhausted their energies in invading the rights of others, the Swiss Cantons exerted theirs in defending their own. The one therefore, was as much the terror as the other was the admiration of the world.

This was the school in which Gallatin was bred. It was here, that his earliest impressions inspired him with a love of liberty, instructed him in the subordinate estimation in which a virtuous mind should hold wealth, and taught him the value of industrious habits, as the only guardians of independence and true greatness. These were the instructions that prepared the *youth* for usefulness. At an early period, he was animated by the feelings and views of the *man*— These at the age of nineteen, before he had formed any political or interested associations, offered to him the new world as a nobler sphere for those intellectual powers, of which he could not have been intirely unconscious. Perhaps, with prophetic sagacity, he pierced the dark cloud that hung over his country, and foresaw its liberty and happiness a prey to foreign violence. Be this, as it may, the first act of manhood was an exchange of his native country for the United States. Here, he was the plain, laborious, and unoffensive citizen. He successively, instructed youth, bore arms, and cultivated the soil. No man impeached the regularity of his life, his honesty or his morals. He did not live a stranger among us. He immediately became a citizen, took the oath of allegiance, and married an American wife. At this period of his life, it does not appear that any ambitious views agitated his bosom. Like those around him, he enjoyed, with contentment, peace, liberty and happiness.

His talents, however, could not be concealed. His neighbours marked them, and in the year '89, or '90, he was sent by his fellow-citizens to the Convention that formed a new Constitution for the state of Pennsylvania. It would appear, from his modesty and silence in this body, that a public station had been little in his thoughts; else he would have courted distinction by a more active participation of its duties. But neither in the records of that body, or co-temporaneous recollection, are any traces to be found of a discharge of more than the ordinary duties of a member. His advice may have enlightened its deliberations, but if so, it was in parted in privacy and silence, and ministered to swell the fame of some less unostentatious legislator.

In the next, and for several succeeding years, he occupied a seat in the legislature of Pennsylvania. The period was troubled with the storms of party; and no man, not even himself, had escaped its rage. He entered the legislature, the predestined victim of an intolerant majority. It was impiously sworn, that if he dared to disturb the views of the dominant faction, he should be humbled; and such was the barbarous fury of the times, that one member, no less distinguished for his federalism than his private immoralities and pugilistic powers, doomed him to an early vengeance.

He took his seat, apparently regardless of the hostility that surrounded him. His principles were not the offspring of a temporising or a timid policy. The path of duty lay plainly exposed to his view; and his purpose was to pursue it. Without, therefore, making any unnecessary and ostentatious professions of his faith, or invidious reflections upon the professions of others, he delivered his opinions with a simplicity and candor that disarmed hostility; while the strength of his arguments, and the variety and appositeness of his information insensibly and irresistibly produced a general conviction. An empty treasury, and a dilapidated state of the finances, required research and labor. He applied himself to their elucidation, with a vigor that soon dissipated the chaos in which a defaulting officer had involved them. Political attachment had united him to this officer. But with a virtue, not unworthy of the Roman school, he impeached, and ejected him from office. For this, there were those who called him cruel; but friendship had no claims on him that were not founded in virtue.

After this bright display of integrity and talent, his enemies united with his friends to raise him to the Senate of the United States; exhibiting in this act, a rare, and almost an unprecedented triumph of principle over prejudice. Here he found himself in the strong holds of federalism. That body, at that time concealed in darkness, had affected a daring irresponsibility to public opinion. Gallatin, impressed with the power of truth and reason, did not abandon himself to an inglorious ease. Here too, however unpromising the state of affairs, he did his duty, and in the short time, during which he was a member, carried dismay into the ranks of his opponents. He did not shake the leaders of party, but he shook those honest, easy souls, who had hitherto upheld their power; and he surprised no less his friends than his enemies by actually carrying some important points. It was this alarm that dictated his exclusion from the body. It was pretended that he was not qualified to hold a seat; a majority declared the pretence valid; and he was excluded.

These unworthy measures of his opponents only served, by rendering his talents more conspicuous, to increase his popularity: and he was, at the ensuing election chosen a member of the House of representatives of the United States. He here found a field for the display of all his powers; and he displayed them in a manner that placed their depth and variety beyond the reach of question. He opposed the adoption of the British treaty and upheld the memorable call for papers: he opposed the alien and sedition bills; he supported the enquiry into the conduct of Mr. Adams in the case of Jonathan Robbins; he opposed the prodigal expenditures of the government; and above all, he opposed the rash measures that pointed to war. On these several occasions, he was generally unsuccessful in frustrating the measures proposed by the administration. The most sanguine mind could not flatter itself with this triumph. But, what was of infinitely greater consequence, he succeeded in awakening the public mind, in illuminating it, and in eventually accomplishing the great revolution atchieved in public opinion. His speeches on the above great constitutional questions were read by the nation. In diction they were perspicuous and easy of apprehension, in style temperate and exempt from all personal allusion, in argument profound, in fact various and instructive. Attacked with fury by violent partisans eager to crush him, he, on no occasion, suffered the calmness of his judgment and his respect for the body he addressed to be disturbed by the fiery ebullitions of the Daytons, the Harpers, and the Sedgwicks of the day. He did not content himself with opposing the leading measures of the administration; like a good citizen he gave a helping hand even to his enemies. No man in congress so well understood the principles of finance, and no one was better acquainted with the national resources and wants in all their details. He assisted the formation of correct plans, and exposed errors whose effects might have been no less injurious to the reputation of the administration than fatal to the welfare of his country. To him we are indebted for the existing system for the sale of public lands. Secretary Hamilton proposed opening the land office on low terms. It is believed his idea was to sell the public lands at 25 cents an acre. The effect of this plan would have been the immediate monopoly of the public lands by a few leviathan speculators, and a scene of speculation more extensive, and of course more injurious than all the pre-existing sources of speculation taken together. Gallatin arrested this portentous evil by obtaining the sanction of Congress to the present plan; under which the *minimum* price of land is fixed at two dollars an acre. By comparing the present state of things, with that which would have existed under the system of Mr. Hamilton, had it prevailed, we may form an incompetent idea of the evils that have been averted; and by estimating the gain derived from the sale of lands for two dollars, instead of twenty five cents, we shall perceive the extent of the national advantage, when we recollect that the unlocated territory of the United States is computed at five hundred millions of acres.

These are the talents, and these the services, which recommended and justified the elevation of Gallatin.

With the public career of General *Dearborn*, we do not profess to be intimately acquainted. We know, however, that he was a warm and efficient advocate of the revolution; that during the whole of its vicissitudes, he was actively engaged in the councils or the armies of the country; and that he invariably sustained the character of a brave and able officer. For several years previous to the presidency of Mr. Jefferson, he was a member of the House of Representatives; in which he took a distinguished lead in all the military arrangements. He has been, without intermission, the decided whig, the firm republican, and the strenuous adversary of all invasions of liberty. Possessed of a spirit, that disdains to yield to circumstances, he never wavered in his political faith, even in the days of the greatest infatuation. But his manliness was tempered with a moderation that, while it asserted its own rights, left undisturbed the rights of others. Quick in his perceptions, and prompt in his decisions, he had been long considered as the man of business, and, of consequence, so far eminently qualified for the discharge of duties not admitting of delay.

The appointment of the head of the Navy department produced considerable difficulty. It was successively offered to three citizens respected for their talents; whose declension evinced the disinterestedness of their patriotism. *Robert Smith* was, at length named.

This citizen had distinguished himself by his talents as a lawyer and a legislator. In the city of Baltimore, the seat of great commerce and wealth, he had early gained an equal eminence with any member of the bar, and had by the reputation of talent and integrity, raised himself above the frowns of fortune. Notwithstanding, however, the laborious duties of his profession, he had, for several years, accepted a seat in the legislature of Maryland. During the greater part of this period, he was in the minority, and although the period was marked with unusual violence on the side of the dominant party, he manifested a dignity and moderation that earned the esteem even of his opponents. It is true, that this moderation was shielded by spirit, and that while he scrupulously respected the feelings of others, he compelled others to respect his own. No man, perhaps, had a more powerful agency in accomplishing the revolution in public opinion which took place about the period of the Presidential election. To powers of mind highly cultivated by study, he added habits of the closest application, with which he united manners of the greatest urbanity and politeness.

Levi Lincoln, a citizen of Massachusetts, was appointed Attorney General. This gentleman had just received an evidence of the confidence of his fellow citizens, by an election as their representative in Congress. The short period, during which he held his seat, had not admitted of a developement of his talents. But he entered the body with the reputation of eminent talents. The competence, acquired by his legal labors, proved the estimation in which they were held in a state distinguished by an eminent bar. Without invidious comparison, he had long stood along side of a Parsons and a Sullivan. These qualifications for the first legal officer of the government were crowned by manners the most simple, and a disposition the mildest that ever fell to the lot of man. The spirit of liberty and reform often inspires the heart with audacity; in the heart of this man the purest philanthropy was mingled with the sweetest amenity.

Such was the administration, which the chief magistrate formed as the depositary of his confidence, and as worthy to guide the great departments of the Republic. On a late occasion, Mr. Nicholson, on the floor of the House