

NILES' WEEKLY REGISTER.

FOURTH SERIES. No. 11—VOL. XIV.] BALTIMORE, MAY 14, 1836. [VOL. L. WHOLE No. 1,286

THE PAST—THE PRESENT—FOR THE FUTURE.

EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. NILES, AT \$5 PER ANNUM, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

Our pages are so filled with articles we felt it a duty to hasten the publication of, that many others, of a miscellaneous character or of more remote interest, have been postponed. A *multitude of matter* is lying over.

United States bank stock. At Philadelphia, 124 7-8 @125 1/4—at New York, 125 1/4 @125 1/2.

“*Measures not men*” Fifty tailors have just arrived at New York from Liverpool, in the ship *Star*.

A tie. The new board of assistants made *thirty-four* ballottings yesterday for president, without effecting a choice. They then adjourned till Thursday.

In the board of aldermen the number of ballottings was *thirty-nine*, without effecting a choice, the strength of parties being exactly equal. The candidates were Benson (W.) and Varian (J.) The board then adjourned till Thursday. [N. Y. Jour. of Com.

A panic! A report prevailed at Nashville that the public deposits, or a part of them, were to be removed from the Union bank. That is—that the bank would be required to pay a certain portion of the debts which it owed! This seems to have caused much *alarm*; and the *Nashville Union* of April 28, an *entire* “government paper,” thus notices the report:

“We only await the reception of a document, which we expect to receive to-day, in order to lay before our readers, an authoritative refutation of the insidious and mischievous statements and misrepresentations which have been made by the Banner, Franklin Review and other papers of kindred opposition politics, in relation to the alleged removal of a portion of the government deposits from the Union bank of this city. Suffice it to say, until our next, that *no part of the deposits have been removed—that the amount within a few days has been greatly increased—and that, in all probability—unless it becomes imperiously necessary for the public service—no part of the deposits will be called for by the treasury department during the season.*”

Again! The *Globe*, which speaks only the views of the ruling party, yesterday issued the following order to the deposit banks—those of New York in particular:—

“The present state of the currency imposes upon the leading deposit banks the obligation of lessening their loans, calling upon other banks for regular settlements and payment of balances in specie, and thus give a check to their too extended operations; to the raging mania for wild speculations and overtrading; and thus restore a more wholesome state in the currency of the country.”

There is an *awful* pressure for money, in most of the cities. The shavers exact their pounds of flesh. The deposit project, we think, has completely failed.

Hear ye, representatives in congress from the old states! Hearken to the voice of the oracle which foretels your destiny, if ye be not wise in time! The *Detroit Free Press*, the organ of the spoils party in Michigan, cries out against the passage of Mr. *Clay's* land bill, and predicts its defeat—arguing against present action upon it in the following terms: [Nat. Int.

“When both Michigan and Arkansas shall become members of the union, the *new states will be strong enough in the senate to defeat any measure which may be injurious to their interests, if not powerful enough to accomplish what will promote them.* It is highly important for the new states that Mr. *Clay's* bill, now before congress, *should be defeated.*”

The *Washington Globe* of Monday, states that authentic information has been received of the payment to our agent at Paris of all the instalments due from France under the treaty of the fourth July, 1831. Its amount in all is over three and a half millions of dollars.

“We understand says the *Globe* that the money received is in the course of transmission to this country in gold, at the rate of about two hundred thousand dollars in each packet and that the utmost diligence is employed in the bureaus of the treasury department, so far as consistent with the pressure
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of the current business and the calls of congress, in comparing the names of the debtors to the United States with those in whose favor awards have been made, for the purpose of retaining such sums as may appear to be due to the government from all such claimants. Scrip for the proper amounts will then be issued to all such as are entitled to the indemnity under the awards.

“If congress do not pass the bill before them, authorising an immediate payment of all the instalments, the net proceeds of the whole amount received from France will be paid over as soon as it arrives and as the amount due each claimant can be ascertained.

“It is expected that the scrip will be ready some time before all the money arrives.”

From the Globe of Monday. We are informed that several members of congress have made inquiries of the president in relation to the fact stated by Mr. Adams in debate, that he had consulted him (then a major general in the United States army), in regard to the limits stipulated in the treaty of 1819, for the south western frontier of the union. We are informed that the president, in reply to these inquiries, has said, that Mr. Adams must have fallen into some mistake; that he has not the slightest recollection of having been consulted on the subject; that he could not have expressed an opinion in regard to the topography of the country, or the nature and extent of the claim set up for it by our government, and because the only point in the treaty with which his duties as a military man made him acquainted being Florida, he presumes, if consulted at all, in relation to the treaty, of which he has no recollection, it must have been in regard to that territory.

[See Mr. *Adams's* replication in Tuesday's proceedings of the house of representatives.]

From the National Intelligencer of Monday, 9th of May. A debate of great interest sprung up in the house of representatives on Saturday last; of which a brief outline will be found in our report of that day's proceedings. [See congress news.] Brief as it is, however, it will serve to give our readers some idea of the topics and course of the debate. We entreat the attention of all our readers to it. If we mistake not, they will find in it much matter for very serious thought. They will be pretty generally surprised at some of the disclosures made, and not least, that, when the most suspicious amongst us never dreamt of it, we should have been deliberately taking steps which, as is proved by the very military appropriations now required from congress by the executive, it has been anticipated *might* lead to difficulties, if not hostilities, between the United States and Mexico.

It is satisfactory, however, meanwhile, to learn that the arguments in favor of assembling troops on the Sabine, drawn from the employment of Indians by the Mexicans against the Texians, and from the near approach of the Mexican troops to the border, are deprived of all the force to which they were entitled by the positive contradiction of the reports to that effect which have been lately circulated.

We are happy to infer, almost certainly, from the Mexican official papers that the whole story of the massacre of colonel *Fanning's* command is, from beginning to end, a fabrication, and that colonel *Fanning* and his men are now prisoners of war in the Mexican territory.

The *Richmond Enquirer*, whose editor is likely to be well informed on the subject, gives it as its impression, that, if the president felt himself at liberty to indulge his private feelings, he would not hesitate one moment to speak liberty to Texas, and an affiliation with the *United States of America.*

From the National Intelligencer of May 10.

The Texian subject has assumed an aspect entirely new so far as the government of the United States is concerned

since the debate in the house of representatives on Saturday last, in connection with the documents which were read on that day, and which we have copied into the preceding columns from the Globe of yesterday.

From these documents, &c. it will be seen that the executive has undertaken to claim, as being within the limits of the United States territory over which the Mexican government has heretofore exercised jurisdiction, including "old Fort Nacogdoches;" and has authorized gen. Gaines, under such interpretation of the rights of the United States, to cross the Sabine and occupy that post. Of this determination on the part of the executive, communicated to gen. Gaines by a letter from the war department dated the 23rd ult. the secretary of state (Mr. Forsyth) apprized Mr. Gorostiza, the Mexican minister, in a conversation on the 20th of April, assuring him that the measure 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."

What the Mexican minister said, if he said any thing, in reply to this communication from the secretary of state, has not been communicated to congress. The executive has left congress in doubt on the subject, unless it may be inferred, from nothing being said of it, that the minister had not a word to say in reply to what Mr. Forsyth communicated to him. Such may have been the case. But we doubt it. Be that as it may, however, we should be wanting in our duty to our readers, if we did not warn them, in time, of the imminent danger of our being involved by this measure in a war which cannot be otherwise than disastrous to the whole western frontier, however fortunate we may be in its prosecution or victorious in its termination. We earnestly hope that the danger may pass away, that the Mexican government will be satisfied with the assurances of the secretary of state, that the military occupation of the Mexican territory is from an amicable motive, and will continue no longer than until the line is run and the true limits marked—notwithstanding the demonstrable proposition that no line that can be run, according to the terms of our treaty with Mexico, can include the said old Fort Nacogdoches. We hope that the government of Mexico will avoid coming into a collision with the United States, which, however it be brought about, would be at least as disastrous to Mexico on her maritime border as it would be to the United States on our western frontier, and would be justly a subject of reproach, in the community of nations, to both countries.

We have assumed it, above, as demonstrable that no line that can be run under the treaty can include the old post of Nacogdoches, which gen. Gaines has been instructed to occupy. We will now state the grounds of this assumption on our part.

But, first, let us state, without reference to our treaties with Spain and Mexico, the material points in this question of boundary:

1. The sources of the Sabine, properly so called, rise near the south side of Red river, and head over all the sources of the river Neches.

2. The Sabine, where intersected by latitude 32 degrees, is a river, which is, at high water, navigable by pirogues and small bateaux. The line of latitude 32, extended westward, would strike only the head-crecks of the Neches.

3. Nacogdoches, situated some fifty miles west of the Sabine, is an ancient Spanish establishment, made long previous to the French colonization of Louisiana. The land-grants of all the country from the main river Sabine westward, and some of them east of that stream, emanated from the land office in San Antonio de Bexar (of which the Alamo was the citadel). Consequently all the country west of the Sabine river has, at all times since the colonization of Louisiana by France, and of Texas by the Spaniards, been regarded, up to the present time, as part of the Spanish (now Mexican) territory.

So clear, indeed, is this question, that no person, even moderately acquainted with the geography of the countries on both sides of the Sabine would any more regard the Neches as the main stream of the Sabine, than they would the Shenandoah as the main stream of the Potomac, or the Juniata as that of the Susquehanna.

Let us now refer to the solemn recognition by treaty of the boundary of Texas, whilst that province, with all the other states of Mexico, was still considered a province of Spain. The treaty with Spain (Feb. 23, 1819) recognizes the boundary between the two countries, west of the Mississippi, as follows: It "shall begin on the Gulf of Mexico, at the mouth of the river Sabine, in the sea, continuing north, along the western bank of that river, to the 32d degree of latitude; thence, by a line due north, to the degree of latitude where it strikes the Rio Roxo of Natchitoches or Red river; then following the course of the Rio Roxo westward to the degree of longitude 100 west from London and 23 from Washington; then, crossing the said Red river, and running thence, by a line due north, to the river Arkansas; thence, following the course of the southern bank of the Arkansas to its source, in latitude 42 north; and thence, by that parallel of latitude, to the South Sea. The whole being as laid down in Melish's map of the United States, published at Philadelphia, improved to the first of January, 1818."

The same treaty further stipulates, in reference to the boundary thus recognized, as follows: "The two high contracting parties agree to cede and renounce all their rights, claims and pretensions to the territories described by the said line; that is to say: the United States hereby cede to his Catholic majesty, and renounce forever, all their rights, claims and pretensions

to the territories lying west and south of the above described line;" &c.

As between the United States and Spain, nothing can be plainer or clearer than this definition of boundary.

But, still later, after the recognition of the independence of Mexico, that is to say, on the 12th of February, 1828, we made a treaty with Mexico (the ratifications of which were exchanged as late as April 5, 1832), in which was a new recognition of boundary, word for word, in the very terms (Melish's map and all) of the article of the treaty of 1819 with Spain.

Again: only on the 20th of the last month (the very day of the conference between the secretary of state and the Mexican minister) were exchanged the ratifications of a supplementary treaty, the sole object of which was to recognize and carry into effect the stipulations of the treaty of 1828 concerning the boundary line between the two countries.

Whatever doubt existed as to the boundary line was ended by the treaty of 1819 with Spain, not contradicted but solemnly renewed and corroborated by subsequent treaties with Mexico.

But, to prevent the possibility of the language of those treaties being subjected to different interpretations, Melish's map of January, 1818, was made a part of each of these treaties; and the line marked on that map, thus recognized, must be the true line, whatever any one may now think ought to have been the recognized line. According to that map, the post of Nacogdoches is, by measurement, forty-eight miles west of the western boundary of the United States, south of its intersection of the latitude of 32 degrees, and is of course so many miles within the Mexican territory.

This is a plain statement of the case as we understand it.

We do not pretend to deny, the reader will readily perceive, that it would be a very convenient thing to have the boundary line of the U. States extended as far west as it is claimed—(though such an extension would not embrace the principal settlements made in that country, by emigrants from the United States)—but it is an acquisition which can be made in one only of two ways; that is, with the consent of Mexico, or by conquest. To the former mode of obtaining it we have no objection: to the latter we have all the repugnance of those who have a due regard either to the faith of treaties or the law of nations.

Nor do we deny that, in the event of any hostile inroad into the territory of the United States, the invaders, whether Indians, Mexicans or Texans, may be pursued into Texas. What we object to is the authority expressly given to our commanding general on that frontier to advance into the Mexican territory as far as Nacogdoches; considering such an authority, under present circumstances, as one very liable, and very likely, to be construed into an order—and, consequently, an authority which ought not to have been given. Still less would we be understood as differing in opinion from those who deem an addition necessary to the existing means and material for the defence of the western frontier. It is due to the people of that frontier, not only that they should be protected from actual danger, but secured from the apprehension of it. All proper measures, having that end in view, and no latent ulterior purpose, will receive our cordial assent and approbation. But, of all conceivable ways of disposing of our surplus revenue, we protest against bringing into the field, upon the plea of defending the frontier, large armies of militia, should obvious necessity and propriety not require it.

From the same. From Tennessee we learn that governor Cannon, as soon as he received the requisition of gen. Gaines from Natchitoches, issued his proclamation calling for volunteers, in companies of 64 rank and file, one captain and three subalterns each. Thirty companies will be received, who will, when assembled, elect their own field officers. We are very glad to observe that the object for which these volunteers are invited is distinctly stated to be "for the purpose of protecting our western frontier, and preserving the neutrality between Mexico and our government."

From a postscript to the same. After our paper was ready for press, last evening, we were happy to learn that a letter had just been received in this city from an officer of the army of the highest rank, at New Orleans, stating that there was not the least danger of any hostilities on the Texian frontier, either from Indians or from the Mexican troops, and that the governor of Louisiana concurred fully in that opinion, founded on the most recent information from the frontier. We infer from this that general Gaines has been misinformed and entirely mistaken as to the fears expressed in his letter to the secretary of war, which we publish to-day.

It has been for some time generally reported that propositions had been made on the part of the Mexican government to the United States, treating of the sale of Texas to our government.

The rumor originated from a story that our minister, Mr. Butler, at Mexico, had caused it to be reported that the secretary of relations in Mexico had conferred with him on the subject of such sale. We find in the government paper of the Mexican republic, published in Mexico, under date of March the 7th, a correspondence between the secretary of Mexican relations and Mr. Butler, in which our minister in replying to the letter addressed him by the secretary, states explicitly, that no proposition or suggestion as emanating from the secretary, in relation to the selling or transferring of Texas, or any part of the Mexican territory, was ever made to him, and charges

the author of such communication as culpable of a direct falsehood.

So far as we can learn from a perusal of the government paper, the disposing of Texas to the U. States is very far from the intentions or wishes of the existing authorities of the Mexican republic.

[New Orleans Bul. April 26.]

From the Delaware Journal of May 10. It is with deep regret we announce to our fellow citizens the death of our venerable townsman Caleb P. Bennett, governor of the state of Delaware. He departed this life yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock, in the 78th year of his age, after a painful illness of about four weeks.

Governor Bennett was the last surviving commissioned officer of the gallant regiment of Delaware, and like all the officers of that distinguished corps, bravely and faithfully discharged his duty to his country. He entered the service when about eighteen years of age as an ensign, and with the uncalculating and enthusiastic patriotism which distinguished that period of our history, he embarked his all in the venture and bravely persevered to the end. Major Bennett was present in all the general engagements which were fought in the middle states—at Trenton, Princeton, Long Island, Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, in all these engagements he was with the Delaware regiment, and, of course, in the thickest of the fight. At the battle of Germantown, he was severely wounded in the attack upon Chew's house. When general Gates was appointed to the command of the southern army, major Bennett accompanied his regiment under the orders of the brave De Kalb; and in the desperate conflict at Camden, his company was almost annihilated. He was then detached on the recruiting service to Delaware, and having completed his complement of men, joined the army of Washington, and closed a brilliant series of military services, by participating in the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Since the close of that eventful war, major Bennett has principally resided in Delaware, and for the last twenty years, in this, his native town. He was remarkable for all the qualities which constitute a good citizen: a tender and affectionate husband and father, a warm hearted friend and neighbour, a devoted patriot and an honest man. Amidst all the exasperations of party contention, major Bennett was popular and respected—and those who differed from him in political sentiment, did full justice to the excellence of his heart, the ardor of his patriotism and the integrity of his life and motives. In the year 1832, he was elected by his fellow citizens to the office of governor of this state—being the first executive elected under the amended constitution. He died as he had lived, with the composure of a Christian and the intrepidity of a soldier. He has gone from works to rewards—the last of that gallant regiment whose deeds and services will live as long as the records of our country endure.

By the death of governor Bennett, the office of governor devolves upon Charles Polk, esq. speaker of the senate.

We have about a—quarter of a peck of articles and scraps relating, or said to relate, to the affairs of Florida and Texas—but only notice a few of them, at present. It is very difficult to distinguish between the probable and the fabulous. The avidity of the newspaper press for articles of intelligence, no matter much from what source, greatly tends to confuse and confound matters of fact.

A Natchez paper of the 26th April says—

Major McCall, aid to gen. Gaines, passed here on Saturday evening direct from Fort Jessup. He is the bearer of despatches to the president of the U. States. He contradicts the rumor that the Indians had taken up arms against the Texans, and states that gen. Gaines is satisfied he has been misinformed, and has consequently recalled the troops he ordered to the Sabine. Major McCall also states that capt. Quitman had spent some days in assisting the fleeing women and children, as he was also led to believe the rumor; but, being disabused of the error, had gone on to join Houston. We hope that the timid and credulous will be satisfied with this information, and no more prevent aid from reaching the Texans by means of giving currency to idle reports.

But a N. Orleans paper of the 27th has the following:

"In camp, Sabine, April 23, 1836.

"DEAR SIR: In my last letter I told you there would probably be 'war in the west.' General Gaines has just learned that an emissary from Santa Anna has been in the camp of Indians, and what the result of this will be we shall see by and by. In the mean time he has despatched capt. Hitchcock, of the U. S. army, and a file of 25 men, with a flag of truce, to the head quarters of the Mexican general, to warn him of the consequences, and to stay his hand, if possible, from the indiscriminate and inhuman slaughter he is committing upon our devoted countrymen."

FOREIGN NEWS.

From London papers to the 3d of April.

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The two houses of parliament adjourned for the Easter holidays on the 30th of March. The house of lords to the 12th and

that of commons to the 11th of April. Mr. P. M. Stewart gave notice that on the 15th of April he should call the attention of the house to the late outrageous proceedings at Cracow, and also to certain quarantine regulations newly established by the czar, the effect of which would be to close the mouth of the Danube against the British trade with the Black Sea. Mr. Stewart also adverted to the commercial negotiations with Portugal. Lord Palmerston, in answer to a question of Mr. Stewart, admitted that the Portuguese government displayed an unfriendly feeling towards the reciprocity system, and intimated that corresponding measures would probably be resorted to, from necessity, by the British government.

The corporation reform bill for Ireland was read a third time and passed on the 28th of March, by a majority of 61, the division being 260 to 199. The bill had its first reading in the house of lords on the 29th, and lord Melbourne gave notice that he should call it up again on the 18th of April.

The evidence taken before the committee on military punishments continued to occupy a large share of public attention. The duke of Wellington's testimony, for flogging was very much quoted and commented on. The effect of solitary confinement, as ascertained by experiment in the United States, forms a prominent topic of discussion and remark in the London papers. One answer of the duke is worth quoting as a perfect illustration of the mechanical point of view in which soldiers are considered by commanders. The question related to the efficacy of the English army at a particular time, in reply to which the duke stated that "it was impossible to have a machine more highly mounted and in better order than that army."

We regret to say that accounts of outrages, robberies and murders in Ireland, continue to be dreadfully frequent.

The marquis of Waterford, well known to the New York press, got a sound drubbing at Nottingham from three poor glee-singers on whom he attempted to play off some practical jokes not of the most gentle quality.

American stocks. March 31. United States bank £22 10s, Pennsylvania fives, 101½ a 103; Maryland sixes 108, Ohio sevens 107, Louisiana 100 a 101, Mississippi Planters bank 26½, Tennessee Planters £3 10s, New Orleans canal and banking company 22 15, New York Life and Trust 93, New Jersey canal bonds 104½.

FRANCE.

The principal item of news found in the Paris papers, is that of the payment of eighteen millions four hundred and sixty thousand six hundred and sixty-six francs, fifty-two centimes, by the French government to Messrs. Rothschild, on account of the American indemnification. Two instalments yet remain to be paid, which will be due, the first February 2, 1837, and the other February 2, 1838.

A grant of 1,200,000 francs for secret service, equivalent to a vote of confidence, was voted in the chamber of deputies, on the 25th March, by the large majority of 152.

The Trocadero, a hundred and twenty gun ship, was destroyed by fire, at Toulon, on the 23d March.

From the London Times of March 28.

The French papers of Friday are again nearly wholly filled with matters relating to the proceedings of the chamber of deputies. A very long and animated debate had arisen on Thursday, on the subject of the supplementary grant for secret service money applied for by the new minister of the interior. Some of the most distinguished speakers, Messrs. Guizot, Odilon Barrot and De Sade, addressed the chamber at great length, the first in favor of, and the two latter against the grant. On the question the respective parties in the chamber seem to have resumed the stations they occupied previous to the late change of ministry, by which change they were for a time, in appearance at least, quite ministerial. The debate, however, was adjourned till Friday, when it was expected to close by a vote in favor of the grant.

In virtue of powers received from the United States government by Messrs. Rothschild & Brothers, of Paris, these gentlemen have applied to the French treasury for the payment of the instalments due, conformably to the convention of 1832, and have received the sum of 18,000,000 francs. The remaining instalments amount to 7,000,000 francs. Thus all remaining doubts as to the possibility of any misunderstanding again arising about the settlement of this long pending suit is removed.

The precise amount paid on account of the American indemnity is 18,460,666f. 52c. There remain yet two instalments to be paid, which will fall due respectively on Feb. 2, 1837, and Feb. 2, 1838. The payment of these instalments will entirely liquidate, with its interest, the debt of 25,000,000, which had well nigh given rise to a collision between France and America.

A rail road between Calais, Paris and Brussels is said to be in contemplation.

A petition signed by the duke of Padua, Massena, prince of Essling, Ney, prince of Moscow, and several other illustrious names, and praying for the revocation of the law of banishment against the family of Napoleon, has been presented to the chamber of deputies.

SPAIN.

An address expressing the firmest confidence in M. Mendizabal, and signed by more than 500 grandees of Spain, merchants and manufacturers, has been presented to the queen.

The war had been successful, on the part of the queen regent.

A despatch from Madrid, dated March 22, announces that on that day at 3 o'clock, the queen had opened the session of the cortes in person.

The speech from the throne declares that the vote of the electoral law is the only legal means of affecting a revival of the fundamental institutions of the kingdom and of the principal object of the meeting of the chambers; that other important matters will be laid before them, especially that of the negotiation that is opened with the states of South America.

Madrid enjoys the most perfect tranquility.

PORTUGAL.

The prince consort of Portugal embarked at Portsmouth (England) for Lisbon, on the 29th March, on board a steam vessel, hired by the Portuguese government, and escorted by a Portuguese frigate which had been lying some time at Portsmouth for the purpose. The marriage was to be solemnized on the 4th April, on which day her majesty would attain her 17th year.

RUSSIA.

Letters from the Russian frontier say that the troops in Besarabia, having been gradually augmented, now amount to 100,000 men.

AFRICA.

We copy from the letter of the Morning Herald correspondent, the following paragraph, relating to the supposed desire of our [the American] government to obtain a portion of the territory in Africa.

The letter is dated Lisbon, March 19.

I stated to you in a former letter that there is an American squadron expected here to consist of the North Carolina, 90 gun ship, Potomac and United States frigates, John Adams corvette, and two other smaller vessels. On their arrival the commodore is to shift his flag from the Constitution (now in this port) to the North Carolina. The ostensible object for which they come is the protection of their trade in the event of a war with France; but it is believed, upon very solid ground, that the purpose aimed at is far different. The United States government have been long endeavoring to induce the emperor of Morocco to sell one of his ports to them: and in order to put him in good humor, have made him presents at different times amounting altogether to the value of 150,000 dollars. The frequent visits of American ships of war to the Moorish ports, having begun to awaken in the minds of our rulers some suspicion of what was going forward, and it being guessed that England would not fail to throw every obstacle in the way of any arrangement of that nature, the Yankees (it is surmised) have only withdrawn their squadron from the Mediterranean in order to be able to pursue their object in that quarter unobserved, by feigning to have given it up. The emperor it seems, though for a long while reluctant, on the plea that it would displease England, has lately begun to manifest some disposition to accede to the proposal. The conclusion I drew from the above stated premises was our naval force in this river would be considerably strengthened; and the fact which only came to my knowledge subsequently, that some more ships of the line were in train of equipment in the British ports, appears to corroborate my conjecture.

LATEST FROM FRANCE.

The decree for the payment of the American indemnification was published in the *Bulletin des Louis* on the 2d of April. The following is a translation.

Palace of the Tuileries, March 19, 1836.

Louis Philippe, king of the French.

By virtue of the law of June 14th, 1835, relating to the treaty concluded on the 4th of July, 1831, between France and the U. States, which authorises the minister of the finances to take the necessary measures for the execution of that treaty, under the condition expressed in the 1st article of the same law;

Considering that the condition has been satisfied, and upon the report of our minister of the finances, we have ordained and do ordain as follows:

Art. 1. Our minister of the finances will cause to be paid to the government of the United States, or to the bearer of its authorization, eighteen millions, four hundred and eighty-six thousand, six hundred and sixty-six francs, fifty-two centimes, being the amount due on the 2d of February, 1836, of the twenty-five millions, the payment of which was stipulated in the treaty of July 4, 1831, as follows:

Sum of the instalments of principal for 1833, 1834, 1835 and 1836, deducting one million on account of the fifteen hundred thousand francs applicable to French claims, 15,666,565fr. 64c.
Interest computed to February 2d, 1836, 2,819,999 88

Total, 18,486,565fr. 52c.

Art. 2. The said sum of 18,486,565 francs 52 centimes, shall be carried to the account of appropriations for 1836, and placed against the extraordinary credit provided by the law of the 15th June, 1835. It will form the subject of a special article in the account of those appropriations.

Art. 3. Future provision will be made for the execution of the 2d article of the law above cited, as regards the million deducted from the amount due to the United States.

(Signed) LOUIS PHILIPPE.

By the king,
The minister of the finances. (Signed) Count D'ARCOUR.
[350,000 of the indemnity has arrived at New York.]

LATER NEWS.

From Liverpool to the 8th of May.

The French government has issued a decree forbidding the exportation of arms and ammunition from France, except upon special license: the object is to prevent Don Carlos from receiving his supplies from that country.

The actual surplus revenue of Great Britain and Ireland, beyond the actual expenditure, for the year ending January 5th, 1836, was \$1,620,940 pounds, 4 shillings and 11 pence.

It appears to be well established that Roman Catholic establishments are increasing in number, and that very rapidly in England as well as Ireland. One cause of this is stated to be the breaking up of monastic establishments in Spain and other continental countries.

The king of the French has signed an ordinance removing the incertitude heretofore existing as to the perpetual emancipation of a slave who sets foot upon the soil of France, with the consent of the master. Hitherto it has been claimed that the rights of the master were restored, on the return of the slave to the colony. Now those rights are declared to be gone forever the moment the slave lands in France.

A letter from Rome states that Don Miguel, having offered rudeness to the beautiful princess Aldobrandini Borghese, (formerly Miss Talbot) was challenged by the prince, but refused to fight on the plea of superior rank, and that but for the interference of the pope himself he would have been cudgelled by the indignant husband. The insult was offered in the chapel of the Vatican, during the performance of a solemn religious ceremony.

A memorial of a painful and touching character was presented to the queen of Spain on the 23d of March. It was signed by colonel Don Manuel Fontineras, and stated that his young wife had been shot, with twenty-nine other females, by order of the Carlist chief Cabrera, in revenge for the execution of his mother, shot as a spy.

INDIAN WAR—OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS.

From the Globe.

Despatches from major general Scott, dated April 12, at Tampa Bay, have been received at the adjutant general's office, from which the following extracts are made:

"I have the honor to report, for the information of the secretary of war, and general-in-chief, that I reached this place, with the greater part of the right wing under brigadier general Clinch on the 5th instant. Brigadier general Eustis came in with half of the left wing the same day, and colonel Lindsay, who commands the centre, the day before. This approximation of the greater parts of the three columns was the result of no particular instructions. Each found itself compelled to come in for subsistence.

"The reports of those principal commanders, under me, are herewith enclosed and marked respectively, A, B and C.

"It will be seen that although no general battle has been fought, many combats and sharp affairs have taken place.

"The report states that, so far from the enemy having been beaten, and compelled to sue for peace, on the contrary, the small parties which have been met with, almost every where, have fiercely resisted until put in danger of the bayonet. The war, on our part, is, in fact, scarcely begun."

"The report farther states that the horses, draft, pack and saddle, were much reduced—many broke down on the march, owing to the bad state of roads, hot weather, great loads and indifferent grazing. Sickness, (measles and mumps) had considerably reduced the effective force.

"The general states that colonel Smith, with his Louisiana regiment, was about to proceed to Charlott's harbor and Peace creek. There he is to be joined by a naval officer, and proceeding up the creek, land on the left bank. On the 14th April, colonel Goodwin's mounted South Carolina volunteers, (five hundred strong), were to march from Tampa Bay for the upper part of Pear creek, followed by the foot of general Enstis' wing. The object of the combined movement is 'to strike at the negroes, women, children and warriors, who have settlements on the upper and lower part of the creek, and who are now in security, supposed to be engaged in planting, fishing and hunting.'

"Colonel Lindsay, with a battalion of United States artillery, a company of Georgia mounted men, the Alabama regiment, and an independent company of Louisiana volunteers is, at the same time, to march northwardly, in pursuit of the Indians, as also general Clinch with his command, both by different routes. Colonel Lindsay will enter the forks of the Wyulacoochee, and thence penetrate if practicable, as far as the head of the cove, while general Clinch enters it below. Colonel Lindsay is to scour the country, and penetrate the cove farther than has heretofore been in the power of troops to do.

"Farther operations of course, will depend upon events not yet developed.

During the recent movement of the several columns, and the various operations of their troops, 13 were killed, and 26 wounded. The number of Indians killed, is supposed to be 24.

"The face of the country interspersed with hammocks, cypress swamps and marshes, almost impenetrable to the white man, presents serious obstacles in the prosecution of a campaign in Florida; and while these fastnesses constitute the natural defence of the wily Indians, they present difficulties almost insurmountable to the ir indefatigable pursuers.

"399 friendly Indians, (one-third warriors), are reported to be on board the transports, for their destination in the west."

THE FLORIDA CAMPAIGN TERMINATED.
From the Charleston Patriot.

Latest from Florida. Termination of the Indian campaign. Lieutenant Van Buren, aid to general Scott, and captain Finley, aid to general Eustis, arrived here this forenoon from Pico-*lata*, via Savannah, in the steam packet Wm. Seabrook, from Savannah. We have conversed with both these gentlemen, who have politely imparted to us all the information they possessed.

Lieutenant Van Buren states that, owing to the commencement of the warm weather, the campaign had been brought to a close. The regular forces had gone into summer quarters at St. Augustine. There were supposed to be about 200 on the sick list at Tampa Bay and 70 at Volusia.

Captain Finley has communicated to us the following intelligence:

"The left wing of the army of Florida arrived at Tampa Bay on the 5th of April, left there on the 17th, and marched to Volusia, by Pilalukaha. The active operations of the campaign have ceased, from the sickly season having commenced. The South Carolina volunteers left Volusia on Friday, 29th, to march to St. Augustine, where col. Brisbane's regiment would be discharged, and sent by transports to this city. Col. Goodwin's mounted men would be discharged at Jacksonville. The regulars, it is believed, will be kept in Florida, to garrison posts which may be important in the commencement of the next campaign. The Indians were no where in any force, and are supposed to be scattered all over the territory."

TWENTY-FOURTH CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

May 6. Several reports from committees were made. The bill providing for the salaries of certain officers and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading.

The general appropriation bill was further considered. After which the senate spent some time on executive business. Adjourned till Monday.

May 9. Mr. Webster, from the committee on finance, reported the act making appropriations for the army for the year 1836, with two amendments.

Which amendments were read and explained by Mr. Webster, and the bill read a third time and passed.

Other business being attended to—

Mr. Preston rose to present a memorial from a number of citizens assembled in Philadelphia on the affairs of Texas, and recommending an early recognition of the independence of that country.

Mr. Preston accompanied the presentation of the petition with some remarks, which produced a debate of much animation and interest, in which Messrs. Preston, Webster, Walker, Brown, Moore, Buchanan and Shepley participated.

Mr. Buchanan presented other memorials in the course of his remarks; and the whole were laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

The senate, on motion of Mr. Benton, took up the bill from the other house, authorising the president of the United States to accept the services of volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of dragoons or mounted riflemen.

There was some discussion in reference to this bill, in the course of which the bill was amended so as to authorise the number of volunteers to be raised at 10,000 men, and to confine themselves to repelling Indian invasions.

On motion of Mr. Preston, the authority given to the president in these words: "and shall appoint the necessary officers," was amended by adding "above the rank of captain, which appointments shall be submitted to the senate for its advice and approval, at its next session."

Mr. Safford moved to recommit the bill.

It was recommitted, and the senate adjourned.

May 10. There was received to-day a message from the president of the U. States, communicating the fact of the payment by France of the due instalments of the sum adjudged to be due to the U. States as indemnity under the late treaty; which was laid on the table.

The amendments made by the house to the naval appropriation bill, were taken up for consideration, and all concurred in without opposition, with an amendment to one of the amendments of the house on the subject of the exploring expedition to the South Seas, striking out such words as give to the president a discretionary power as to sending out the expedition.—The question on striking out the words was taken by yeas and nays, and decided as follows:—yeas 26, nays 3—Messrs. Hill, King, of Geo. and Wright.

Mr. Clay moved to suspend the previous orders for the purpose of taking up the bill to carry into effect the convention between the United States and Spain; and the bill being taken up, The bill being amended, on the motion of Mr. Clay, was ordered to a third reading.

Many private bills were disposed of, and then the senate adjourned.

May 11. Mr. Clay, from the committee on foreign relations, to which was referred the message of the president of the United States concerning an additional article in the treaty with

Mexico, reported a bill to provide for carrying into effect the treaty of limits with the government of Mexico which was read, and ordered to a second reading.

Mr. Clay said that the bill was in exact conformity with the former one, and was intended to revive the commission which had expired in consequence of the expiration of the treaty. The committee on foreign relations were desirous that it should pass without delay. There was a peculiar propriety in so passing it, resulting from our existing relations with Mexico. A survey was to be made; and we were endeavoring to ascertain, as precisely as possible, the true boundary line between that country and our own. In the mean time the general commanding our forces in that quarter had taken up a position in or near this disputed territory. Existing circumstances were such as to make it absolutely necessary that proper officers should be authorised to carry out the provisions of the treaty, thereby evincing the sincerity of our intentions, and the fidelity with which we adhered to our engagements.

The bill provided for the services of a commissioner and surveyor, but not for those of a clerk. A provisional appropriation was introduced, however, to pay the salary of such officer, and the executive empowered to appoint him if it was deemed necessary.

The bill was then read a second time, and was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Webster, from the committee on finance, reported a bill from the house, to provide for the defence of the western frontier, with an amendment; which was ordered to be printed.

Much other business having been disposed of—

On motion of Mr. Benton, the senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill making appropriations for the erection of fortifications, purchase of sites, &c.

Numerous amendments were proposed and adopted, when, after some remarks, the further consideration of the bill was postponed, and the senate proceeded to executive business, and then adjourned.

May 12. Among other business—

A bill to carry into effect the treaty of boundary with Mexico, &c.;

A bill authorising the enlistment of boys into the navy of the United States; were severally read a third time, and passed.

On motion of Mr. Clayton, the senate took up for consideration a bill to extend the western boundary of the state of Missouri to the Missouri river; which was considered, and ordered to be engrossed.

A discussion on the amendments of the fortification bill, occupied the remainder of the day.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, May 6. Mr. Cambreleng, from the committee on ways and means, reported a bill making an appropriation of one million of dollars for the protection of the western frontier, and sent to the chair a letter from the secretary of war, dated the 5th of May, communicating facts in relation to the state of things on that frontier, and urging the necessity of the appropriation called for.

The bill was twice read and committed, and, with the above-mentioned letter, ordered to be printed.

Mr. Craig, from the committee on public lands, reported a resolution making the bill for the graduation of the price of public lands the special order for Monday next.

Mr. Vinton moved to amend the resolution by embracing the bill from the senate for the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands among the several states.

Mr. Patton moved to lay the resolution and amendment on the table. The question was taken by yeas and nays, and there appeared, yeas 91; nays 91.

The speaker voting in the affirmative, the resolution was laid on the table.

The house proceeded to the consideration of the "bill for the relief of the corporate cities of the District of Columbia," in pursuance of the special order of the 1st of April.

The amendments made in committee of the whole were concurred in.

Mr. Wm. B. Shepard spoke, at length, in support of the bill. Mr. Hardin opposed it, at great length.

Mr. Mercer followed in support of the bill.

Mr. Underwood made a proposition to the friends of the bill to this effect—that, if they would modify it so as to provide merely for the payment of the Holland loan, and the transfer, unconditionally, of the canal stock to the United States, he and his friends would vote for it, otherwise they would vote against it.

Mr. Hawes moved a call of the house. Lost.

Mr. Mann, of New York, then renewed the call for the yeas and nays on the final passage of the bill which were ordered, and were as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Chilton, Allan, H. Allen, Anthony, Ashley, Bailey, Bockee, Borden, Briggs, W. B. Calhoun, G. Chambers, Childs, Cleveland, Corwin, Cramer, Crane, Cushing, Darlington, Denny, Doubleday, Everett, Fairfield, Farlin, Fowler, Fry, jr. Philo C. Fuller, R. Garland, Glascock, Granger, Grennell, Haley, J. Hall, Hamer, Harlan, S. S. Harrison, Hazeltine, Henderson, Heister, Hoar, Hunt, Huntington, Ingersoll, Ingham, W. Jackson, J. Jackson, Jones, Jarvis, Jenifer, R. M. Johnson, Henry Johnson, Kilgore, Kinnard, Klingensmith,

Lane, Laporte, Lay, Leonard, Logan, Love, Lucas, J. Mann, M. Mason, Jr. S. Mason, McKeenan, McKim, Mercer, Miller, Milligan, Mulkenberg, Page, Patterson, Pettigrew, Phelps, Phillips, Pinckney, Potts, Jr. Ripley, Schenk, Wm. B. Shepard, Shinn, Sickles, Slade, Spangler, Steele, Storer, Sutherland, Tahaferro, Taylor, Thomas, Turner, Underwood, Vanderpool, Vinton, Wagener, Ward, Wardwell, Washington, Webster, White, E. Whittlesey, T. T. Whittlesey—102.

NAYS—Messrs. Ash, Bran, Beaumont, Boon, Bouldin, Boove, Brown, Buchanan, Bunch, Eynum, Carr, Carter, Casey, Chapman, Nathaniel H. Claiborne, Clarke, Coffee, Coles, Connor, Cushman, Deberry, Dromgoole, Dunlap, French, Wm. K. Fuller, J. Garland, Gillet, Grantland, Graves, Hardin, Hawes, Haynes, Holsey, Hopkins, Joseph Johnson, Cave Johnson, B. Jones, Lansing, Lawler, L. Lea, Lyon, Abijah Mann, Martin, William Mason, Maury, McCooms, McKay, McLene, Morris, Owens, Parker, Patton, F. Pierce, Peyton, John Reynolds, Joseph Reynolds, Roane, Robertson, Rogers, Russell, Seymour, Aug. H. Shepperd, Sprague, Standefer, J. Thomas, Toucey, S. Williams—69.

So the bill was passed.

Mr. W. B. Shepard said, as there were a number of other important bills connected with the District of Columbia, he moved that to-morrow be set apart for their consideration.

Mr. Hour suggested Monday.

Mr. Jarvis remarked that they had now been in session seven hours, and had appropriated a million and a half of money; and he therefore moved an adjournment, but he withdrew the motion, to enable the speaker to present the following executive communications:

To the senate and house of representatives:

Believing that the act of the 12th of July, 1832, does not enable the executive to carry into effect the recently negotiated additional article to the treaty of limits with Mexico, I herewith transmit to congress copies of that article, that the necessary legislative provisions may be made for its faithful execution on the part of the United States.

(Signed)

ANDREW JACKSON.

Washington, 6th May, 1836.

A communication from the secretary of the treasury, transmitting a statement of the amount of the public moneys deposited in the deposit banks, by the several officers thereof, on the public account, on the 1st of April last; which was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Also a communication from the same, transmitting a statement of the number of clerks employed in the treasury department; which was also laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Jarvis then renewed his motion, and the house adjourned.

Saturday, May 7. After a good deal of minor business—

On motion of Mr. Cambreleng, the house went into committee of the whole on the state of the union, (Mr. E. Whittlesey in the chair), and took up the "bill making an appropriation of one million of dollars for the protection of the western frontier."

The letter of the secretary of war, published in the Intelligencer on Saturday, and the following documents were read: 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 gen. 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 obedient servant,

LEW. CASS.

Hon. C. C. Cambreleng, chairman com. ways & means H. of R.

Mr. Cambreleng sent to the clerk some further communications from the war department, embracing all the information in possession of the department on the subject; which were read.

Mr. C. also communicated from the secretary of state an account of a convention between Mr. Forsyth and the Mexican minister on the subject of the orders given to gen. Gaines; which was also read.

Mr. C. stated that it appeared from the New York papers that Santa Anna had made an official report of the capture of the Alamo, and demanded an additional force of 5,000 men and 400 officers, and a further supply of money, to carry on the war in Texas.

[A paragraph was read by the clerk from the Courier & Inquirer, making the above statement, and commenting upon it in the strongest language of reproach.]

Some remarks having been made upon the phrase "our Texians," as read by the clerk in the communication of general Gaines.

Mr. Cambreleng said it should read "our Texian neighbors," the last word having been accidentally omitted in the copy.

While the paragraph of the newspaper above referred to was being read,

Mr. Finton objected to having the documents of a newspaper read to influence the action of the house; but, by consent, the clerk read on.

Mr. Storer called for the reading of a paper referred to by gen. Gaines, which had influenced his opinions, and which ought to be known to the house.

Mr. Cambreleng said he had laid before the house all the papers and information in possession of the government, and he had done so that the house might perceive the necessity of acting promptly, and he hoped they would pass the bill that day.

Mr. Underwood rose to make a proposition. He thought this a matter of great importance, and wished to understand the subject fully before he acted upon it, in any way. He wished to have an opportunity to read the documents, and was not prepared to act without. He then proposed that the committee should rise, and have the documents printed. He further wished a call upon the secretary of state, for he wanted to know what the Mexican minister said in reply to the remarks of the secretary. It seemed, he said, that the president had authorized, and the commanding general had declared his intention to take up a position within what was heretofore considered the boundary line; and he thought such an act must lead to bloodshed and war.

Mr. Cambreleng repeated that he knew it was a matter of importance, and with a view that the committee might act promptly, he had brought the documents to the house.

Mr. Adams wished to ask of the chairman of the committee on foreign relations, or of the chairman of the committee of ways and means, whether the report of Santa Anna is in possession of the government, which was commented on by the editor of the newspaper in New York.

Mr. Cambreleng said he had no more information than what had been read in the house. His object in bringing the newspaper was to show that the force is not sufficient on that frontier to protect our citizens in case of aggressions either by the Mexicans or Indians.

Mr. Adams also wished to know why the remarks of the minister of Mexico were not sent to the house. He wished to know whether it was to be inferred that the Mexican minister, during the conversation, stood mute and said nothing; whether, in fact, there is any thing to communicate. He thought, if there was any thing more, it was important that it should be communicated to the house, and they ought to be in possession of full information. He asked this the more readily, because a most extraordinary power had been given to the commanding general to cross the boundary of a foreign state, and take up a position within their territory; in other words, to make war. And after the communication of this intention had been made to the minister from Mexico, we are not told what answer he made. If he has not assented to the act—if he stood mute—then there is an after consideration of great moment, as to the constitutional power of the president; whether he could authorize a commanding general to march into a foreign country; to commit an act of hostility; to make war, without the consent of congress.

This was the first intimation the house had had of the views of the executive upon this subject of a Texian war, except what was said some days since by the chairman of the committee of ways and means, that the country was already at war upon that frontier, and that gentlemen need not be troubled about a disposition of the surplus funds, for they would all be wanted there. Now, he said, he was not disposed to go into a war with Mexico, or with any other nation, unless in defence of our frontier; but he could see something more than defence in the authority given to the commanding general; it was an invasion of the territory of a government with which we were on terms of amity. If the commanding general has been thus authorized, there ought to be more complete and perfect information before the house. He had said that this was the first day on which any communication had been made of this authority to invade a friendly territory, or of the difficulties between this state and Mexico; and he asked if it was not fitting and proper, when the house was called upon to declare war, that it should be informed how the cause arose.

Have we not, (he asked), seen American citizens going from all parts of the country to carry on the war of this province against the united government of Mexico? Who were those who fell at Alamo? Who are now fighting under the command of the hero of Texian fame? And have we not been called upon in this house to recognise Texian independence? It seems that gen. Gaines considers this a war in defence of "our Texians."

Mr. Cambreleng explained that the word neighbors was left out.

Mr. Adams said he understood it. This was, he continued, an intention to conquer Texas; to re-establish that slavery which had been abolished by the United Mexican States. If that was the case, and we were to be drawn into an acknowledgement of their independence, and then, by that preliminary act, by that acknowledgment, if we were upon their applica-

tion, to admit Texas to become a part of the United States, then the house ought to be informed of it.

He should be for no such war, nor for making any such addition to our territory. Taking it altogether, it was very important that this and the other house of congress should have all the information that could be given upon the subject; and that report of Santa Anna, which was described in a New York paper, not in the language of the governor of Mexico, but in the comments and insinuations of an editor, ought to be before the house. Why, said he, there is in New York a high and confidential officer of the government of the United States, who has called upon the people to go and enter Texas; and to aid in carrying on the war against the government of Mexico. To be sure, this is contrary to the order of the president to the commanding general. He has directed him to preserve strict neutrality; and he, (Mr. Adams), would have been glad if the other parts of the instruction had been consistent with that.

He hoped congress would take care to go into no war for the re-establishment of slavery when it had been abolished; that they would go into no war in behalf of "our Texans," or "our Texian neighbors," that word was quite enough; and that they would go into no war with a foreign power, without other cause than the acquisition of territory.

Mr. Peyton said he had heard with no less astonishment than deep mortification, the remarks of the gentleman from Massachusetts. He thought it strange, that now, while we hear of danger to our frontier from savages and a Mexican army no less barbarous, that the gentleman should have introduced the subject of slavery into the discussion. He should have thought he might have held his hand for a moment until some means could be provided for defending the helpless women and children of the Texian frontier from the most horrible butcheries. The gentleman, (Mr. Adams), had seen great cause of alarm in the power conferred on the commanding general to take up a position suitable for defence. Sir, (said Mr. P.) that gentleman does not know, living, as he does, far from such scenes, the vivid feeling of southern and western men, when they see hostile savages hovering around their villages, and lying in ambush, to murder the old and the young, both by stratagem and in open fight. All the power granted was to take up a position on either side of the line, as might be necessary; and, he asked, is an imaginary line to be so much respected in a time of peace, when a most unmerciful tyrant, at the head of an army of savages, threatened our frontier? What respect would he have for that line, when pursuing the conquered Texans, and taking vengeance upon all he could reach? And it is when we hear this news of savage warfare, when our people are driven from their villages, which are burnt, and when they are caught and butchered—it is in this emergency, that the gentleman from Massachusetts wanted to stop to ask what the Mexican minister might think of it. He, (Mr. P.) in such a case would not stop to ask what any minister might think of it. He would defend the people instantly, and at every hazard. On our side of the line, he remarked there might be no proper position for an efficient defence; but on the other the fort may be impregnable, and its possession might afford certain security to the frontier. The gentleman says, if the commanding general goes there, it will be making war upon a sister republic. He did not so understand it.

Mr. Hamer remarked that the whole tract in which the fort of Nacogdoches stood was in dispute; and there was a clause in the instructions of the president, that gen. Gaines should, in no case, go beyond the line, which we claim to be the true line.

The clause having been read,

Mr. Bell said, if the house was not prepared now to act fully upon the subject, the most strict course would be to grant what was recommended on the responsibility of the executive. In addition to the clause which directed the commanding general not to cross the line we claim to be the true one, he was directed, if the commissioners now acting should decide that Nacogdoches was not in our territory, immediately to recede. He considered it not proper now, or at any time, to discuss the question introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts; and he hoped that exciting topic would be left out of consideration. They had not, he remarked, any positive information of the commencement of hostilities; but it was known that agents were at work among the Indians who might excite them to hostilities; should that take place, we have no sufficient armament to protect the frontier, or prevent their encroachments even to the Mississippi; and he would ask if it was proper, under such circumstances of alarm, to stand quietly by and refuse to put at the control of the president the sum of a million for necessary security? Or should any man stop now to discuss the question of slavery, or of addition to our territory, when the cause of humanity calls for prompt relief?

It would seem proper, before any final decision of the question involved in the subject, that the house should have more full information; but that could be had hereafter; and now he was willing to put a proper supply at the control of the executive, to enable him to meet any expected emergency.

Mr. Thompson, of South Carolina, said that now general Gaines had no proper force or supplies to resist the threatened depredations upon our frontiers; and he asked if the house could hesitate about making an appropriation, or about making it on the instant? This was a subject, he said, upon which he felt much excited, for he was aware of the extreme peril of the frontier settlements.

Mr. T. had received information from a gentleman of high character, just returned from a residence of some months in Mexico, that the prospect of a war with this country was the most common topic of conversation; that Mexican officers of high standing habitually talked of the easy conquest of Louisiana; that nothing more was necessary than to approach the confines of that state, and proclaim emancipation, and that the work would be accomplished by the insurrectionary slaves. Santa Anna is now within two days of Natchitoches, thence to New Orleans only two more. Let him siege our army in the arsenal at Baton Rouge, and excite and arm the slaves, and what scenes of horror and atrocity may not be locked for. He would not envy any man his feelings who should, under all these circumstances, refuse to take all proper measures for the security of our frontier. He desired to protect the southern frontier from the combined atrocity of a Spanish, Indian, and African army.

Mr. T. alluded to the most inopportune introduction into this debate of the subject of slavery, by the gentleman from Massachusetts; a subject always exciting beyond any other. He asked if the gentleman thought it wise or safe to refuse the proper aid and protection to the country, because it might lead to an addition to the political power of the slave states. That gentleman had negotiated away Texas—it was natural that he should be disposed to guaranty the peaceable enjoyment of what he had conveyed. It was said at the time that treaty was made, by the enemies of that gentleman, that a leading motive for ceding to Spain this valuable territory was to prevent the addition which it would make to the slaveholding interest. Mr. T. had not joined in those charges, but he regretted that the gentleman, by his avowal to-day, should have furnished such strong evidence of the existence of such feelings on his part.

Mr. Adams said this was not the first time since he had had the honor of a seat in this house, nor the first time this session, that when he had made any remarks, his observations were not answered by a replication to his arguments, but by personal attacks upon him, the individual. The rules of the house was, that gentlemen should confine themselves to the question before it, and not indulge in personalities. He had heretofore sat in silence and heard these attacks, for the reasons that though he had a right to occupy the attention of the house upon the business before it, he had no right to occupy it for himself.

Gentlemen seemed to infer, from what he had said, that he was going to oppose the appropriation. He had not said so. He wanted more information. When we found ourselves involved in war, as if a thunderbolt had fallen from a clear sky, he wanted to know the cause of it; and when he had asked a question of the chairman of the committee of ways and means, he was answered by a personal attack. The gentleman, (Mr. Thompson) says (while the Mexican minister is residing here under the hospitality of our country, and secure by the laws of nations), that he is an able man, and a great intriguer; and that he is intriguing against the United States. Was that proper? asked Mr. Adams; or was it an answer to his inquiry, why the Mexican minister's answers were not given by the secretary of state? Another gentleman, (Mr. Peyton) gives a very pathetic picture of the distresses of the people on the frontier; but that was not an answer to a call for information. He (Mr. A.) would vote for millions upon millions, as much as that gentleman; he would pour out the whole treasury, if it were necessary for the defence of that frontier; but he wanted to know why he was called upon to do it, and to have all the requisite information. He had objected to the order to the commanding general, which authorised him to invade the territory of a friendly government; and it was no answer to say that it was a disputed boundary. By the laws of nations every thing in dispute must, during a contest, remain *in statu quo*; and any act taking possession of the disputed territory is an act of hostility.

Mr. Adams then adverted to the intimation that he had negotiated so as to exclude Texas from our border, with a view to the abolition of slavery; and he would tell the gentleman, (Mr. Thompson), a little of the history of that transaction. When he negotiated the treaty settling the boundary between the United States and Mexico, he acted by the instruction of Mr. Monroe; and nothing was done, not a line of the treaty written, but in accordance with the directions of James Monroe. And he, (Mr. Adams) was the last man in the cabinet who assented to the treaty, with the boundary as now established. He was for including Texas; and was the last member of the cabinet, he would repeat, who assented to the treaty with the present boundary in it. And he would further inform the gentleman that, by direction of James Monroe, before the treaty was signed, he (Mr. A.) took it to general Jackson, he being then in this city, and asked him if it ought to be signed with that boundary, and he said yes. General Jackson had the treaty before him with that boundary, and approved of it; and he (Mr. A.) did at last, and reluctantly, assent to it. He then asked if the gentleman's insinuations were answered?

Mr. Thompson was glad that he had given the gentleman (Mr. Adams) an opportunity of setting himself right before the country on a subject upon which injustice has certainly been done him. Mr. T. disclaimed the slightest intentional disrespect to the Mexican minister. He was incapable of such a violation of courtesy and decorum. He had always heard that the Mexican minister was a man of high character and great ability, and he meant the term intriguer in no disparaging

sense: all diplomatists were more or less so. He was sure the Mexican minister was a faithful and able representative of the interests of his country.

Mr. Ripley made a detailed statement of the condition of the country and the state of the frontier. He said that, by the treaty, the boundary commenced at the mouth of the Sabine river, on the Gulf of Mexico, and that river formed the line of boundary, till it came to the latitude 32 deg. when the line was to run north to the Red river. Since the formation of the treaty, a dispute had arisen as to which of the two branches of the Sabine was the true line. The one running to the south included the fort of Nacogoches; but if the northern branch should be decided the true one, it would leave that fort in the Mexican territory. Then, the line from the Sabine to the Red river had not been run, and was now merely an imaginary line.

The debate continued, Mr. Reed was unwilling to assume the Texian war, though ready to defend our own country. He would not trust the power to make war in the hands of gen. Gaines—he had no confidence in him. He wished for time to investigate the documents and gather information. Mr. Williams went into a statement of the cruel and inhuman conduct of Santa Anna towards the Texians whom he had conquered, and insisted upon the duty of this government to provide adequate forces to defend the frontier, and upon any aggression on the part of the Mexican commander, to conquer his forces and cut off his head. He would not hesitate, upon the slightest possible pretext, to enter the territory of Mexico, and separate Santa Anna's head from his body. Mr. Garland, of Louisiana, said he did not want any war of aggression; and he would call upon the house not to take any steps that would endanger the safety of the people of the frontier settlements hereafter. The frontier should be defended now, but, if ill blood was roused, they would be liable hereafter to constant attacks. His home, where he had lived for many years, was near the Sabine river, and the very first act of hostility or aggression upon our part would bring ruin upon his own home. If the course proposed, of entering the territory of Mexico, was adopted, there will be a war at once; and he should not remain here to give his aid, however humble, to the councils of the nation, for he had a higher and more imperative duty to perform. A newspaper had been read, the editor of which was deeply engaged as the organ and agent of the Texian land company. The house ought not to be led away by any such appeals to the interests or passions of the people. He would charge gentlemen not to carry out the Quixotic notions of these land speculators, who were not engaged in promoting the cause of constitutional liberty, but in land speculations of a selfish character. He religiously believed that speculations in land engaged their attention as deeply as any desire to establish constitutional liberty. He would warn gentlemen again against these exciting efforts of interested editors; for this house ought not to countenance or encourage such Quixotic undertakings. In relation to the cruelties said to have been perpetrated by Santa Anna, he remarked that it was not the duty of this government to punish all acts of barbarity; if it were, they might have found enough to do in the Mexican revolution of 1811. He thought a proper defence should be established, and a strict neutrality observed, or the whole order would be deluged in blood. Mr. J. Y. Mason made some remarks in vindication of the course proposed to be pursued by the executive, in relation to the defence of the frontier, and went into a statement of the existing relations between the United States and Mexico, with a view to show that the instructions to general Gaines were not inconsistent with the terms of the treaty between the two governments. Under the treaty, the two contracting parties were bound to refrain from hostilities the Indian tribes within their respective limits. One of our most distinguished officers, a man of known prudence and discretion, states that the case is about to arise for exerting the restraining power imposed on each party. He states that the discontented spirits among the Camanches are about to be incited to hostilities, which we were bound to prevent. He goes further, and states that if the Indian tribes make an incursion into Texas, and join in the hostilities there, great danger will ensue to the citizens of the United States on our frontier. What was the government to do? Every gentleman who had spoken agreed that the appropriation ought to be granted in order to enable the executive to take precautionary measures. Mr. Underwood was not alarmed by the insinuations of want of patriotism which were thrown out against those who wished to act deliberately on this momentous question. He was not eager to involve this country in a long, expensive, and bloody war. If one thousand men, well appointed and equipped, could effect as much mischief on our borders as the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. Ripley) says they can, and if the Mexican minister here is as shrewd and vigilant as he is represented to be, Santa Anna will soon be advised to act accordingly. If gen. Gaines went into the recognized territory of Mexico with his forces, what was he to do when he got there? Will he say to the Mexicans, I have only come to keep the peace? Whatever he may say, will not the Mexicans order him to go back forthwith? Will he then retire? No: his communications show the spirit and feeling which will govern his course in regard to any Mexican force or authority which he might encounter. His language was hardly less exceptionable than that of his colleague, (Mr. Williams), who talked of cutting off Santa Anna's head. He was sorry to hear language of that kind applied, on this floor, to the head of a

republic on terms of amity with us. It had a direct effect to create feelings unfavorable to peace and friendship. Should a conflict take place between gen. Gaines and the Mexican force, what consequences might not ensue? He did not believe that Santa Anna could reach New Orleans, nor even the Mississippi; but he believed that a war would follow which would devastate the frontier, and deluge it in blood. He looked upon the course proposed by the instructions as a violation of the treaty. It commanded the general to make war in order to prevent an invasion of our territory. It violated the treaty on pretence of an intended violation of our neutrality. Ought we not to remonstrate first against any encroachments on our rights? Mr. Johnson, of Louisiana, after some preliminary remarks said—in voting for the bill he was not influenced by the accounts contained in the New York paper, so freely commented on, nor was he influenced by the proceedings of the public meetings held in different parts of the union in favor of the Texians, which had been alluded to, or by the sympathy he felt, in common with the whole American people, for the brave men, and helpless women and children, who have been basely butchered, as is believed, by a ruthless tyrant, contrary to the usages of civilized warfare. He acted from information entitled to the highest respect, and should vote for the bill because it contained an appropriation to pay the necessary expenses of the troops now actually employed on our western frontier, and of the militia, called for from several of the states, to aid in checking any hostile incursions of the Indians on that frontier, and in order to preserve the neutrality of the United States. Could any man view the present state of things on the western borders of Louisiana, and contemplate the events daily transpiring in the neighborhood, and not believe that a strong military force should promptly be placed there by our government.

It would be recollected, (said Mr. J.) that in addition to the numerous warlike tribes of Indians residing west of Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri, a large body of Indians had been recently removed (by the policy of our government) from the east side of the Mississippi, and located on the western borders of Louisiana and Arkansas, who have been for some time in a restless state, and evidently dissatisfied with their situation. To keep them in check, and to prevent them from committing hostilities within our limits, and of waging war among themselves, a large military force, in his opinion, would be constantly required on our western frontier. But at this moment, when all the tribes alluded to are greatly excited, and when we have the strongest reasons to believe, from information received from different sources, that Santa Anna has, in violation of the treaty existing between the United States and Mexico, actually engaged those Indians to aid him in the war he is now waging in Texas, is it possible for any man not to believe that the people of Louisiana and Arkansas are not at this moment in imminent peril? Indeed, he apprehended, that a force of from ten to twenty thousand men might be immediately required on that exposed frontier, not to make war against Mexico, but to protect American citizens, and to defend our own country. * * * * *

Are we not called upon then (said Mr. J.) by every consideration of duty and patriotism, to pass this bill, and to pass it promptly? With respect to the people of Texas he had but little to say. He thought, however, that great injustice had been done to them. No doubt many unworthy men had emigrated to that country, some of whom perhaps had fled from their own country. All new countries had been settled in the same way. But that many gentlemen of talents, wealth and of high respectability of character had been induced to settle in that country, is as certain. They had been invited there under the establishment of liberal institutions, but in fighting to maintain them they had evinced a courage and patriotism worthy any age or country. The progress of the war in that country, marked as it is by a spirit of the most ferocious and sanguinary barbarity on the part of the Mexican commander, must shock every man of common humanity. Was it not natural then that the sufferings of the people of that country should excite the sympathy of those of the United States?

Mr. Sutherland thought this a proper precautionary measure. He was averse to any war of aggression, but there was certainly danger of disturbances on our borders, if they had not already taken place; and while such dangers existed, he should be willing to afford the means of defence and protection to the frontier settlements.

Mr. Cambreleng expressed his surprise that, after all the efforts that had been made by the government to preserve a strict neutrality, and to prevent, even, our citizens from taking a voluntary part in the contest, it should be said that it was the endeavor of the executive to produce a war.

Mr. Mason, of Ohio, made some remarks, at length, upon the impropriety of being excited by the cry of war which had been set up all over the country; and especially by the newspaper paragraph which had been read, coming, as it did, from an incendiary paper, for there were more incendiary papers than one, and on more than one subject, and he considered the paper which was read of that character.

He spoke of the necessity of having further documents before any course of action was determined upon. He did not put confidence in the rumors and stories which were circulated by interested speculators; but he thought it all had some remote connexion with the distribution of the public funds. He had voted for other bills of defence, especially that for defending

the frontier of Missouri, but he must stop somewhere, and he had determined not to vote for this bill.

Mr. *Bynum* made some remarks at length in opposition to the idea that there was no urgent necessity for action upon this subject. He said he was sorry to be a member of an American congress when such sentiments were uttered; and went on to show the great danger to the frontier settlements from the present state of hostilities, and the immediate necessity of passing the bill.

After a few observations from Mr. *Graves* in favor of deliberate action upon this subject, an amendment having been offered providing that the funds should be applied by the secretary of the treasury under the several acts of 1795 and 1832.

Mr. *Ashley* suggested that it would be better to provide for the disbursement of the appropriation under the act passed a few days since, which made better provisions for the pay of the militia and volunteers. He had not intended, he said, to make any remarks upon this bill; but if he had been opposed to it, he thought the arguments of its opponents would have induced him to vote in its favor. He thought it a safe precautionary measure, which ought to be adopted without delay.

The question was taken on the amendment, and it was adopted without a division.

The committee then rose, and reported the bill to the house, with an amendment, which was concurred in.

Mr. *Wise* requested leave to explain his reasons for voting in favor of the bill. He said there were current rumors of dangerous disturbances on the boundary of Texas, and he thought the people should be protected on that frontier. There was also rumors and fears that Santa Anna had been sending agents to excite the Indians to warlike movements, and they would not, if once excited to action, recognize or respect either side of an imaginary boundary, but would as soon wield the tomahawk or take a scalp upon one side of the line as the other; and it was known that the people of the frontier settlements were fleeing in terror. He hoped the authority given to general Gaines would be so exercised as not to disturb the harmony between this government and Mexico; and as a measure of prudence and precaution, he was willing to vote for the appropriation.

The question upon ordering the bill to a third reading, having been taken by yeas and nays, was then put and decided in the affirmative—yeas 146, nays 3.

After which the bill was read a third time and passed, when the house adjourned.

[A variety of documents, in relation to Texas, were submitted this day, which must lie over until next week, when a record shall be made of them.]

Monday, May 9. By unanimous consent, Mr. *Ezerett* offered the following resolution; which lies over one day:

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to communicate to this house, if, in his opinion, it shall not be incompatible with the public interest, the instructions which have been transmitted from time to time, since the 1st day of January, 1835, to the representative of the United States at the government of Mexico, relative to the boundaries between the two nations, and relative to the setting on foot military expeditions by citizens of the United States against the Mexican province of Texas, and relative to the military occupation or contemplated occupation, under the authority of the president, of any post or place within the said province of Texas; and all correspondence and communications which have passed, at Washington or at Mexico, between the two governments, respecting the same; and all information in possession of the executive respecting the same. And, also, that the president be requested to communicate to this house all orders and instructions issued to the military or other officers of the United States, or of the states, relative to the defence of the western frontier, and all correspondence between them and the government respecting the same.

The unfinished business of last Monday, being the preamble and resolutions of the legislature of Kentucky in favor of the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the several states, was taken up.

The question being on the motion of Mr. *Williams*, of Kentucky, to commit the same to the committee of ways and means, with instructions to report a bill in conformity with the resolutions, and Mr. *Williams* being entitled to the floor,

Mr. *Graves* asked his colleague to give way for a moment to enable him to notice a charge that had been made against himself in the Globe this morning.

Mr. *Williams* yielded the floor, and,

Mr. *Boon* rose to a point of order. He wished to know whether the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. *Williams*) had not lost his right to the floor.

The speaker replied that if any objection was made, the gentleman could not resume the floor, after yielding it.

Mr. *Williams* said if that was the case he would not yield the floor, and proceeded with his remarks.

Mr. *Boon* followed in opposition to the motion.

Mr. *Graves* took the floor, and the special order was then called for.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill making appropriation for the naval service of the United States for the year 1836, which had been returned from the senate with amendments, and acted on in committee of the whole.

The question being on concurring with the committee of the whole in the following amendment to the senate's amendment, providing for an exploring expedition to the South Seas;

A long debate followed, in which Messrs. *Patton*, *Hamers*, *Reed*, *Hawes*, *Phillips* and *Sutherland* took part.

Mr. *Cambreleg* begged the house not to postpone any longer a decision of the question. He said he was not opposed to the expedition, but he was sorry the senate had proposed it as an amendment to the navy appropriation bill. The senate's amendment had already postponed the passage of the bill a month, and he hoped the amendment would be either accepted or rejected at once.

On motion of Mr. *Hawes*, the yeas and nays were ordered on the adoption of the amendment; and the question being taken, it was decided in the affirmative—yeas 92, nays 68.

On motion of Mr. *Cambreleg*, the house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, for the purpose of considering the bill making appropriations for the support of the army for the year 1836, returned from the senate with amendments.

The amendments were concurred in.

On motion of Mr. *Mercer*, the bill to authorize the Shenandoah Bridge company to erect a bridge over that river at Harper's Ferry, was taken up and passed.

The house then adjourned.

Tuesday, May 10. Mr. *J. Q. Adams*, by general consent, made some statements in relation to the article which appeared this morning in the Globe, on the subject of his declaration that the Florida treaty, with the present boundary between the United States and Mexico, was submitted to general Jackson and approved by him.

Mr. *Adams* repeated, in substance, that he was himself opposed to the relinquishment of Texas, and that no other man in the cabinet of Mr. *Monroe* sustained him. He negotiated the treaty with Don *Onis*, under the immediate direction of the president, (Mr. *Monroe*) and never exchanged any communications with that minister which Mr. *Monroe* did not see. He (Mr. *A.*) was the last man in the administration who assented to the treaty. The treaty was concluded on the 22d of July, 1819. At that time general Jackson was in the city, attending the proceedings of congress on the Seminole question. After the treaty had been agreed to, and before it was signed, Mr. *Monroe* requested him (Mr. *Adams*) to submit it to general Jackson and obtain his opinion upon it. It was accordingly submitted to him, not as a military commander, but as a distinguished citizen. He called upon general Jackson at the hotel then kept by Strother, now Fuller's, and handed him the treaty, directing his attention particularly to the boundary. General Jackson kept it a day or two, and then returned it with his approbation.

The senate bill to distribute the proceeds of the sale of the public lands among the several states was read twice, by its title, and Mr. *Williams*, of Ky. moved that it be referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union.

Mr. *Gillett* moved its reference to the committee on finance.

Mr. *Carr* moved its reference to the committee on public lands.

The subject was debated till 1 o'clock, when the special order was called for.

Mr. *Morris* moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of continuing the consideration of the above subject, and thereupon he asked the yeas and nays.

Mr. *Adams* suggested that it would be better not to take the yeas and nays, lest it should appear that there was no quorum. For what reason so large a portion of the house was absent he could not say; perhaps it was because the business before the house was so unimportant.

[N. B. The members had adjourned informally to the race field.]

The call for the yeas and nays was withdrawn and the motion was rejected.

The following message was received from the president of the United States, by the hand of Asbury Dickens, esq. and read:

Washington, May 10, 1836.

To the senate and house of representatives:

Information has been received at the treasury department that the four instalments under our treaty with France have been paid to the agent of the United States. In communicating this satisfactory termination of our controversy with France, I feel assured that both houses of congress will unite with me in desiring and believing that the anticipations of a restoration of the ancient cordial relations between the two countries, expressed in my former messages on this subject, will be speedily realized. No proper exertion of mine shall be wanting to efface the remembrance of those misconceptions that have temporarily interrupted the accustomed intercourse between them.

ANDREW JACKSON.

The fortification bill was taken up, and considered. The amendments of the senate to the navy bill were concurred in. And the house adjourned.

Wednesday, May 11. Mr. *W. Jackson*, of Massachusetts, from the committee on roads and canals, reported the following joint resolution:

Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the U. States of America in congress assembled, That the secretary of the navy be authorised and requested to cause an experiment to be made for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of applying steam power to the navigation of canals, pursuant to a plan invented by Dr. *Plantou*, provided he deems the same expedient; and that four thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated therefor, out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

A great deal of minor business being attended to—

The house resumed, as the unfinished business of yesterday, the consideration of the motions pending in relation to the reference of the bill from the senate for the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands among the several states.

The bill was debated—but the house passed to the special order of the day, the fortification bill.

The question being on the motion of Mr. *Cambreling* to amend the bill by inserting a clause making an additional appropriation of \$700,000 for the armament of the fortifications—

Mr. *Townes*, who was entitled to the floor, rose and addressed the committee about two hours, on the various topics heretofore brought into the debate. He maintained that the amount of the surplus revenue had been greatly overrated; that the public lands, as had, he said, been before confidently stated by the honorable gentleman from Tennessee, (Mr. *Bell*), would not, hereafter, yield more than a million of dollars annually; and that the state of things on the southern and western frontier, and the general condition of Europe, admonished us to reserve whatever surplus we might have, whether it was ten or twenty millions, for the great purpose of national defence. He adverted to several of the political topics heretofore discussed in the committee, compared the merits of the different candidates for the presidency, and vindicated the present administration from some of the charges brought against it. The proscriptive policy was, he undertook to show, established and acted upon, in the administration preceding that of general Jackson, and before that time, while general Jackson's immediate predecessor was in the office of secretary of state. He adverted, particularly, to some transfers of public printing made by that secretary of state.

Mr. *Adams* rose to explain. He said he had never, while he acted as secretary of state, made a single change of a public printer from political causes. While he was before the country as a candidate for the presidency, there were many of the printers of the laws, who were as much opposed to him as any editor could be to any candidate; but he never changed one of them from any political motive. He did make one change at gen. Jackson's personal suggestion; though, whether gen. J. would recollect it or not, he could not tell. It was in the case of an editor at Nashville; and when gen. Jackson and his colleague in the senate came and personally requested it as a favor, for it was supposed the editor was favorable to gen. Jackson, he did make the transfer; but it was without knowing either of the editors. The motive for this change was afterwards the subject of much misconception. He did not mean to charge the present or any secretary of state with political motives in relation to changes of this kind; but he did mean to say, that he did not remove one printer while he was secretary of state for political considerations; and further, that while he held a more elevated situation, he never removed one person from office for political causes; and that, he believed, was one among the principal reasons why he was not more successful as a candidate for a second election.

Mr. *Townes* resumed, and spoke till after 3 o'clock.

Mr. *French* took the floor, and expressed a wish to address the committee on the subject.

On motion, the committee then rose, and the house then adjourned.

Thursday, May 12. Statements were made by Mr. *Rice Garland* and John Q. *Adams* relative to mistakes, or misrepresentations, made by the reporters for distant papers.

Mr. *Haynes* moved the suspension of the rules for the purpose of taking up the joint resolution of the senate, fixing a day (the 23d of May) for the adjournment of the present session of congress.

Mr. *Mann*, of New York, asked the yeas and nays on the motion, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, it was decided in the negative—yeas 82, nays 107.

The house resumed the consideration of the motions pending in relation to the reference of the bill from the senate, "providing for the distribution, for a limited time, of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands"—and it was further discussed.

The fortification bill came up, in its course, and was further considered.

RAFT OF THE RED RIVER.

Report of the chief engineer, to the war department, on the removal of the raft in Red River.

Engineer department, February 20, 1836.

SIR: I have the honor to hand you, herewith, in duplicate, a communication from captain *Shreve*, of the 18th ult. relating to the removal of the raft in Red River, which is submitted in continuation of his report on the same subject, transmitted to congress by the president, with his message at the opening of the present session.

I am, very respectfully, sir, your most obedient servant,

C. GRATIOT.

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

Steamer "Java," great raft of Red River, Jan. 18, 1836.

SIR: I have to inform the department that I arrived at the "raft," on the 2d inst. where the force now employed had been at work since the 7th ult. Since my arrival here, I have made an examination of the entire remainder of the raft, and have

had in my power to make more minute observations than I had hitherto been able to do, the water being lower than it was last spring. After I had reached the upper section of the raft, I find it to be from where I left off work last year, to Benwares bayou, six miles, and the distance between Coates and Benwares bayou, to be fifteen miles instead of twelve, as stated in my report of the first of July last; from Benwares bayou to Willow chute ten miles, from thence to the head of the raft, seventeen miles; the raft having accumulated since last May about five miles. The very unusual high stage of the water in Red River, in September and October last, brought down treble the quantity of timber that usually drifts in its annual freshets.

On the arrival of the boats at the raft where the operations were closed on the 25th May last, nine miles above Soda bayou, the water was found to be flowing upon the river from the mouth of Soda bayou to Benwares bayou, a distance of fifteen miles. This was caused by so great a quantity of the water from the river being forced out over its banks, and through the numerous bayous above the raft, and passing down the Cado lake and Soda bayou into the river below, that its bed was filled at the mouth of that bayou to a greater elevation than at the mouth of Benwares bayou, consequently the water seeking its level, a portion of it flowed the old bed of the river, and escaped through Benwares bayou. This circumstance has made it impracticable to pass any timber down from the raft.

The whole six miles of raft up to Benwares bayou, has been loosened from its bed and nearly all cut short by saws. In that distance, one and a half miles below Benwares bayou, there was a mass of timber which filled the whole bed of the river for several hundred feet, solid to the bottom, leaving but small spaces for the water to pass between the logs. A part of that timber was cut away last spring, but when the steamboat *Souvenir* arrived at that point, it was found impossible to find water to pass a small boat over.

It has required the labor of one hundred and twenty men and one steamboat, sixteen days, and will yet require the aid of thirty men with a crab, (which I have caused to be erected on the shore) to haul out the logs that will not float, six days longer.

This day 90 men with one steamboat will begin to pass the raft into Benwares bayou, and by filling it with timber, will, in a few days, give a current down the old bed of the river sufficient to carry off the raft below.

The fifteen miles between the two bayous above named, has been more difficult to remove, and has cost more labor, than sixty miles below.

The next ten miles will be difficult but not by any means so much so as the last fifteen miles. From the Willow chute to the head of the raft, the quantity of timber is greater but the river is wider, and no compact masses of timber is to be found in that part of the raft.

The department may calculate on my completing the whole of the work, that is the removal of the raft so as to open a navigation for steamboats, by the 25th of May next, unless prevented by some unforeseen calamity among my men.

After the raft is removed and a good navigation has been opened, I am of opinion that for several years, say five at least, it will be necessary to keep a boat in the river so constructed as to be able to raise and remove any snag that may make its appearance in the river, either from the timber that will rise from the old bed of the river, or from trees that fall in from its banks; and keep the river clear from raft that will be liable to lodge and make in its bed, until the channel is worked out to its original size by the action of the water, which will require from five to ten years. Such a boat would cost the government about \$15,000; to keep her at work eight months in each year will cost about an equal sum. I would, therefore, recommend the appropriation of a further sum of thirty thousand dollars, and above the forty thousand dollars, which I have estimated for this year's work. The department may rely on the necessity of such an appropriation and expenditure being indispensable to effect the design of the government, and that without it, the people will not have confidence in the permanency of the work, and will not pay so high a price for the lands when offered for sale by three times the amount it will require to keep the raft open on the plan I have proposed.

I view it as the most economical plan that can be pursued by the government to make immediate provisions for keeping the river open after the raft is out.

As far as the work has progressed, the navigation is good, and the land on the banks of the river in the immediate vicinity, worth at least five times the amount of the whole expenditure, over and above any value that they would have had without the removal of the raft.

This is a great speculation to the government, without taking into consideration the immense tract of first rate land that bounds on the river for six hundred miles above the raft, every acre of which is equally benefitted by the improvement when it is completed.

I have to inform you that no communication has been received by me from the department since I left Louisville, Ky. on the 26th of November last. I hope, however, that the funds for which I estimated about that date, is at Natchitoches. The department will please inform me as early as practicable, of the passage of a bill making appropriation for the continuance of the work for the present year.

I must also inform you that no account of expenses for any of the western rivers, can be made out by me for the last quar-

ter, as my location makes it utterly out of my power, correctly, to attend to such parts of my duty, as is required to furnish the regular quarterly accounts. However the interest of the government does not suffer, in the smallest degree, by such delays of time.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
HENRY M. SHREVE, superintendent, &c.
Brig. gen. Charles Gratiot, chief engineer, Washington.

THE RED RIVER RAFT.

Extract of a letter from capt. Henry M. Shreve, dated Red River raft, 20th March, 1836.

I had hoped to have seen you or lieutenant Bowman in the raft ere this, as an examining officer. I am getting on with the removal of the raft slowly. I find a much more difficult task to perform than I had anticipated. The fact is, the work is of such a nature, as to make it impossible to judge of the amount of labor required to perform any given portion of it, until after it has been done; but as I progress up, I leave behind a good steamboat navigation. Two old boats have been sunk in the raft, but neither of them fit to navigate, from age and decay, and come up with emigrants. Fifteen boats have been up through the former location of the raft 115 miles since the first of January, and the emigration of the country is immense.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. M. SHREVE, superintendent, &c.
L. G. Dutton, U. S. engineer, Washington, D. C.

DEBATE IN THE SENATE,

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4,

On an amendment offered by Mr. Benton to a bill to increase the army.

Mr. *Lin* expressed his hope that the bill would be taken up at once for consideration, as some immediate action of congress was necessary, in consequence of the state of things on the frontier, and its exposed condition.

Mr. *Ewing*, of Ohio, hoped that the amendments would be allowed to take the usual course, and lie for consideration; and that the land bill, which was the order for yesterday, would now be taken up and disposed of before any other subject should be taken up.

Mr. *Lin* added a few words in addition to what he had before suggested, and which we regret that our position prevented us from hearing.

Mr. *Preston* stated that the amendments proposed the addition of a regiment of dragoons, and also a considerable augmentation of the army. It was suggested that strange occurrences had taken place on our frontier; that an army, flushed with conquest, and rendered furious from the taste of blood, was rapidly approaching our frontier. Rumors of this character were well calculated to produce a certain degree of anxiety in the bosoms of American citizens. His own imagination had been startled—his feelings deeply pained; he had been sensible even of something of indignation at the rumors of outrages, appalling to humanity, which had reached him. His feelings had been roused; our countrymen, our friends, our relatives massacred in cold blood, and, as report says, in violation of every sort of pledge—massacred after surrendering to a powerful force, acting under an able military commander. But the rumors went still further. It was said that there had been negotiations with the Indians on the frontier, for the purpose of eliciting their hostility against our citizens on the frontier. True, there was no other foundation for these statements but these rumors, and these rumors were in themselves contradictory. Gentlemen who are well versed in the geography of the country, had been unable to trace the operations on the map. The whole was a mass of great confusion. We are all possessed with some vague ideas that something horrible has happened. In this state of things, perplexed by vague and general rumors, we are presented with a case of possible necessity, to urge us to hasten a measure, in reference to which it seems to be particularly desirable that the senate should have the most exact information on the subject. There may be gentlemen who had better information than he had, and, if so, they should come forward and communicate it.

Rumor says that a distinguished officer, a major general in the American army, on the frontiers, has made a call on the executive of three states for a force of militia, and that the militia, to the number of 7,000, have been embodied. It is supposed that a still stronger measure will become necessary, and that the executive arm will have to be extended before a more tranquil state of things can be produced. He was as willing as his friend (Mr. *Lin*) to protect the frontier. He was as ready to go as far whenever the exigencies of circumstances should require it. But he hoped that gentlemen would not suffer their feelings to be excited and urged beyond what the law of nations would justify. He hoped that gentlemen would concur with him in opinion that they did not come here to indulge private and personal feelings, but to shape their course so as to insure the greatest advantages to those whom they represented. He could not sit down without saying that his feelings had been pained, and he would repeat that he was ready to go as far as his friend from Missouri to protect the frontier, and, in all circumstances, to go as far as he would in doing that which was right. He hoped that some gentleman would take the necessary steps to obtain the information so much desired on the subject. As a member of the military committee, he would be

glad that all possible information should be before the senate, and that the measure should not be pressed until that information should be obtained. He did not come into the senate today prepared to go into this question. He should be ready at any time to go into the consideration of the subject, but he thought the best course now was to dispose of the land bill, and afterwards to consider this bill.

Mr. *Clay* said, the proposition, if he understood it, was to take up a military bill from the house, passed this morning, providing for an increase of the army, and authorizing the calling out of ten thousand volunteers. Every senator here was undoubtedly as willing as the gentleman from South Carolina, to go whatever the honor, interest and tranquility of the country required to be done. But he must see a very different state of things from any that had yet presented itself, before he should be willing to interrupt the pacific relations of the government, and precipitating it into a war with Mexico.

If there was a cause, a just and righteous cause, for such a step, he trusted we should act promptly and manfully; but, as yet, we had but rumors of the inhuman scenes which were said to have been enacted. As yet, so far as respected this country, there was no ground for engaging in hostilities with any foreign power.

It was not yet the proper time to go into the consideration of this subject. It should be taken up deliberately, and with all the information that could possibly be obtained. It was proposed to augment the military force of the country; and it was proper to consider by how large a number of men, and of officers capable of commanding them. Perhaps an increase of both was necessary; but without a great and controlling necessity, there should be an increase of neither.

He came into the senate this morning under the full expectation that a final disposition would be made of the land bill, before proceeding to the consideration of any other subject. There was time enough to look into this measure. There was no particular urgency for considering it at this moment. He had been told that we had lately at Tampa Bay 7,000 men, engaged in a contest with 6 or 700 miserable Indians: these we had neither conquered nor found; and unless we could show a somewhat better capacity for war, we had better refrain from engaging in one.

If Santa Anna should commence hostilities with us—if he should invade our frontier—and he had, as yet, shown no such intention—what was to prevent our transporting this force from Tampa Bay to the Sabine, to prevent any violation of neutrality and of existing treaties in that quarter? But unless there was an actual or threatened invasion, we were not called upon for any active measures. At any rate we wanted information. Has no communication been made to our government from that of Mexico? No assurances been given that existing treaties would be respected? If so, let us have them. A call, in his opinion, could not fail to bring us such facts as would, in a great measure, quiet the public apprehension. He had risen, however, for the sole purpose of saying, that when a final vote was expected on the land bill to-day, he was unwilling to have that measure put aside, as it had been repeatedly, and that, too, in a very unusual and unparliamentary manner. He hoped the senate would proceed to its consideration.

Mr. *Benton* said: Here we meet the land bill again. Call up what subject we will, we find the land bill in the way. Bills of the greatest importance are founded by coming into contact with the land bill. The fortification bill found the land bill too great an impediment to overcome. Every bill finds this land bill in its way. It is like the frogs of Egypt, which were found on the tables, and even in the nuptial bed.

Mr. *B.* then went on to state the course he had pursued in the progress of the land bill, and the efforts he had made to get up the fortification bill. He trusted that the officers and soldiers of the United States on the frontiers would not subvert their national feelings when they saw the Mexican troops committing such inhuman atrocities on Americans, but that they would strike, and leave it to the God of our country to direct the result. He wanted now to have the sense of the senate as to taking up this bill for consideration. He wished to see whether they would be ready to step forward to vindicate and save their bleeding country, in preference to scrambling for portions of the public money. He had read of accredited authorities who could not be made to show any regard for their bleeding country while they were engaged in dividing the public spoils. He had read of such instances in histories, and he would ask for the yeas and nays in order to see if such would be the case now.

Mr. *Porter* said he regretted extremely this discussion, as hours, nay, minutes had become precious if we hoped to go through the great mass of business which had been prepared for the action of congress. There had been as much debate on the precedence bills were entitled to, as was sufficient to pass one of them or reject it. He hoped we would continue to act on the bill which was made the special order of the day, until it was finally disposed of. That now proposed by the senator from Missouri had his approbation; and without pledging himself to all its details, he believed it would have his vote. Being friendly to it, he thought it was injuring its chance of adoption to press it on for discussion and decision without affording time for a proper examination of its provisions. That proper examination need not be a long one.

Mr. *P.* said he was compelled to dissent from what had fallen from the honorable senator from Kentucky in relation to our

military force. He (Mr. P.) thought it ought to be augmented. Its numbers were not greater now than they were ten years ago, and since that time our population had vastly increased, our frontier had been extended in the same space of time in a still greater proportion, and was necessarily weakened as it was enlarged. Another circumstance called for an augmentation of our army. Within a very few years (under a policy which Mr. P. said he should ever deplore) an immense body of Indians had been removed from the east side of the Mississippi, and thrown on the frontiers of Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri. In their original location they were circled on every side by a white population, which insured their good conduct, and restrained their propensity to war. They were now placed on an extended frontier, thinly settled, where, from causes he should not enlarge on, because they were obvious, a military force was indispensable to give security to our borders. Not less, he believed, than 250,000 Indians were now located between the west of the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, who, from ignorance and the influence of passions which constantly agitate man in a savage state, were liable to be excited to hostilities, ruinous to themselves in the end, but destructive to the borders exposed to their first outbreak. It was humanity, therefore, as well as true economy, to place a force on our frontiers which would hold them in check, and be ready to crush their first movements.

There was another element to be taken into the estimate we should make of the proposed measure, which had been glanced at in the debate, and which could not be properly disregarded. He alluded to the events daily transpiring on the western boundary of Louisiana. By the last intelligence received from that quarter, it appeared that the war which had for some time raged in one of the Mexican provinces, was about to be brought close to ourselves. The inhabitants of Texas were flying from their country, and taking refuge within the state of Louisiana, and their enemies, flushed with victory, were close and hot in their pursuit. He did not believe the Mexican troops would cross the Sabine and violate our territory. If Santa Anna had the wisdom and ability which his friends long since, and his enemies lately, gave him credit for, he would cautiously abstain from any such step. His true interests prompted him to respect our neutrality. He (Mr. P.) believed he would be governed by these interests. But while he believed it, it was impossible to shut our eyes to the danger of collision between the troops of the United States now on the Sabine, and those of Mexico. The people of this country had become painfully excited by the intelligence which had reached them of the war of extermination carried on in Texas. That excitement had been communicated to our troops; it required only a spark to put the combustible materials now on our frontier in a flame, and he was afraid it would soon be furnished.

It had been said that our officers there should have hearts and arms, but no heads; that is, that they should yield themselves up to the influence of their feelings, however their judgment might reprove the measures those feelings prompted them to. He had a better hope of their wisdom and prudence. A heavy responsibility rested on them. If, under the influence of passion, they involved the nation in war, they would have a severe account to render for their actions. And more especially if, at this moment, when the forces stationed on the frontiers of the state of Louisiana might be inadequate to its defence, they should, in their sympathy for Texas, draw the war into that state, he knew of no terms of reprehension too strong for such conduct. With all possible consideration for the inhabitants of Texas, and deep and sincere regret for the condition to which they were reduced, he could not help thinking that the citizens of Louisiana who had remained within their country had the first claim on the attention and protection of the federal government and the federal army. He hoped and believed this view of the matter was taken by the president, however it might be disregarded elsewhere; and that orders had been sent to the commanding officers not to compromise the safety of the state he had the honor in part to represent.

But apart from all considerations of prudence and safety, there were the higher ones of justice, which forbade our intermeddling in this contest. We were acting under the eye of the civilized world. It had heretofore been our boast and our pride that we faithfully maintained all our treaties, in letter and in spirit. He trusted that, under no impulses, however praiseworthy, would we leave the vantage ground we had so long and so honorably occupied, and expose ourselves to the imputation of considering compacts binding only so long as it suited our convenience and our interest. We were the oldest independent nation in the American continent; we were the strongest, too. It behooved us to aspire after the truest glory which a nation can acquire; to exhibit the example of power restrained by justice, and ambition directed, not to subjugate our neighbors, but to improve and to elevate them.

He believed these sentiments were those of the large mass of the American people, but there was danger that they might be forgotten under the excitement of generous feelings. He respected these feelings; he shared in them, but he felt it to be his duty, in the place he occupied, and if possible to induce others to do the same. No one had heard with deeper regret than himself, the intelligence of the dreadful massacres which had taken place in Texas. It was possible the statements were exaggerated. He hoped they were so. But if true, they

were disgraceful to the perpetrators. The people of Texas, whether right or wrong in their attempt at independence, had done nothing to place them out of the pale of civilization; and if it were true that a body of them, after capitulation as prisoners of war, had been basely shot in cold blood, their murderers should be held up to the common execration of mankind. He (Mr. P.) would rather have been one of the gallant, though misguided men who perished on that occasion, than the ruthless despot by whose orders they were assassinated.

But giving to these feelings their full scope, he could not see in this and other inhuman acts cause for war by the United States against Mexico. We should never be an hour at peace if we set out on a crusade to punish all the cruel deeds which were committed in the world. Their proximity to us, and their being inflicted on men of kindred blood, could not change or enlarge our obligations. In abandoning their own country, and becoming citizens of another, they had placed themselves in relation to that left as strangers, so far as claims for national interference were concerned. We had no more right to make war because they had been unjustly treated by the power to which they had attached themselves, than we had to intermeddle in the contests between the natives of the old states of Mexico.

Our unfortunate countrymen who settled in that portion of Mexico which is now the theatre of war, knew well what kind of people they were going among. In all periods of history, the Spanish race have been distinguished for cruelty in their civil wars: extending no quarter, and sparing neither sex nor age. The scenes now daily enacted in old Spain, of which accounts reach us every day, exhibit the same brutal ferocity and disregard of all the claims of humanity as those lately perpetrated by their descendants in Texas. Those which took place in South America, some years since, were, if possible, more frightful and revolting to humanity. We did not then throw ourselves into the conflict, and he trusted we would not now. A war for revenge he deprecated, as he did one for conquest. He saw as yet no just cause for expending our blood and our treasure, and he hoped that all who had a voice in the councils of the nation would aid in preserving our neutrality.

Mr. Preston said he was misapprehended, if it was supposed he wished to press the consideration of this matter now. He wished merely to draw the attention of the senate to it, and he had succeeded in so doing. The final action upon it might easily be deferred for a day or two.

We had rumors, to be sure, but he saw nothing in them to justify any act of extraordinary vigilance on our part. We need not operate defensively or on the offensive at present. Santa Anna had done enough to curdle our blood, and shock our sensibilities, but not enough to justify any warlike preparation. He would wish to know, however, why general Gaines had made this requisition for more men. It had been stated that the government were in possession of all the facts, but he could not think so. He does not intend to rush down at once upon the Mexican leader—considering him as a monster out of the pale of humanity. Such could not be his intention. Was there not something else? Had not a communication from Santa Anna to the Comanche Indians been intercepted? If so, the president is in possession of the fact.

We cannot interfere in Texas; it is beyond our reach. But if this ruthless desolator of that province has instigated the Indians to cross the frontier and descend upon our settlements, we should hold him responsible for every drop of blood that may be shed.

If such a movement is contemplated—if it is taking place—then, after the necessary information, let the senate act. He agreed with the senator from Louisiana, that an increase of our military was necessary.

Mr. Benton reminded the senate that this bill was not a new measure, and that it was a northwestern, not a southwestern measure. It had originated with one of the senators from Indiana, (Mr. Tipton) and one of the senators from Ohio, (Mr. Morris). These gentlemen made some insipient movements on the subject as much as three months ago, and before they could have had the least idea that general Gaines would be placed in a situation to act in the matter.

Mr. Buchanan said that he had no doubt the government would be guided in its course towards Mexico by that principle which had been established in the commencement of our political history; which had grown with our growth, and strengthened with our strength; which always had been, and he trusted always would be, strictly adhered to, viz: never to interfere with the domestic concerns of foreign nations.

General Washington had asserted and maintained that principle in his celebrated proclamation of neutrality; it had met, in theory and practice, with the approbation of the whole world; it regarded other nations as friends in peace, and as enemies in war, and should never, in any contingency, be departed from.

In his eyes, and he trusted in the eyes of all mankind, Santa Anna was a tyrant and a usurper. He had violated the federal compact which had been entered into by the Mexican states; he had overturned that constitutional system of government to which they had looked for the preservation of their peace and prosperity; and Texas, as one of the states of that confederacy, therefore, was justified in her rebellion. Whether her citizens had consulted a wise policy in declaring themselves independent, was not for him to decide; but as a man, and an American, he wished they might acquire and maintain their

independence; and he trusted in God they would be able to do so. He would leave them, however, most unwillingly, to their own bravery and exertions, with an ardent hope for their ultimate success.

What, (continued Mr. B.) was the state of our frontier? If this Mexican leader was rousing the Indians within our territories into action; if he was exciting and stimulating their brutal passions; if our defenceless women and children were to be murdered in cold blood, then he would hold him responsible. Should this prove to be true, he has violated our treaty with Mexico, and has clearly made himself the aggressor.

In any event, there was a necessity for sending troops at once—for making ourselves strong in that quarter; for we knew not to what excesses the savage feelings of Santa Anna might impel him.

In the policy of sending a sufficient force of dragoons to the western frontier, as proposed by the senator from Missouri, he entirely coincided; but he was opposed to departing in any the slightest degree from the settled policy of this government, even for the purpose of supporting the cause of the Texans. Thus much in regard to the general subject.

If it were left for him to decide whether the measure now before the senate or the land bill should now be acted upon, he should, other things being equal, give the preference to the former. It was a necessary measure. But he had been instructed, by an authority which he was bound to respect, to support the latter; and he should vote with its warmest friends till it passed or was defeated. He was willing, therefore, to proceed and dispose of the land bill, which had already been ordered to be engrossed for its third reading, until it should be finally disposed of, which he thought might be done to-day, or, at the latest, to-morrow; it would embarrass all our proceedings. We might then take up and pass the important measures of defence now before the senate, without further delay.

Mr. Clayton stated that he should vote for the land bill in preference to this bill, because the former would have still to pass the other house, while the bill now asked to be considered had passed that house. As far as he had seen of this bill, he was favorably disposed towards it. But he was desirous to have a day or two to consider of the amendments. He did not wish it to be said of him that he had thrown any difficulty in the way of the public defence, and he only desired so much delay as would enable him to become acquainted with the character of the amendments.

Mr. Linn referred to the journal to show that this matter had been moved early in March.

The motion to take up the bill was then negatived without a division, the call for the yeas and nays being withdrawn.

REPORT FROM THE NAVY DEPARTMENT.

Navy department, March 31, 1836.

SIR: In answer to so much of the resolutions of the senate of the United States of the 18th ultimo, as required information as to the probable amount of appropriations that may be necessary to supply the United States with ordnance, arms and munitions of war, which a proper regard to self-defence would require to be always on hand, and the probable amount that would be necessary to place the naval defences of the United States (including the increase of the navy, navy yards, dock yards, and steam or floating batteries) upon the footing of strength and respectability which is due to the security and welfare of the union, I have the honor to lay before you a report of the board of navy commissioners, of the 2d inst, which contains the best information upon the subjects referred to in the possession of this department; which is respectfully submitted.

MAHLON DICKERSON.

To the president of the United States.

Navy commissioners' office, March 2, 1836.

SIR: The board of navy commissioners have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo, requesting a report on the probable amount that would be necessary to supply the United States with the ordnance, arms and munitions of war, (so far as may be wanted for the purposes of the navy), which a proper regard to self-defence would require to be always on hand; and on the probable amount that would be necessary to place the naval defences of the United States (including the increase of the navy, navy yards, dock yards, and steam or floating batteries) upon the footing of strength and respectability which is due to the security and welfare of the union.

In conformity to these instructions, the board respectfully state, with respect to the ordnance for the navy, that, after a careful examination of the subject, taking into consideration the ordnance and ordnance stores now on hand, and the extent of force, for which it may be expedient to make early provision, they are of opinion that the sum of one million eight hundred thousand two hundred and fifty dollars will be required to supply the ordnance, arms and munitions of war which may be wanted for the use of the navy, and which a proper regard to self-defence would require to have prepared ready for use.—(See paper A, annexed, for the detail).

The board beg leave respectfully to observe, that, for the vessels which are now built, or have been specially authorised, armaments may be provided, with some partial exceptions, from the cannon and caronades already provided, and the deficient ordnance, arms and other ordnance stores will be prin-

cipally required for the vessels which are yet to be authorised or built. It is therefore respectfully recommended that an appropriation for this purpose, instead of being special or separate, should be included in an appropriation for "building and repairing vessels, and for the purchase of materials and stores for the navy."

The second object of inquiry, as to "the probable amount that would be necessary to place the naval defences of the United States (including the increase of the navy, navy yards, dock yards, and steam or floating batteries) upon the footing of strength and respectability which is due to the security and welfare of the union," embraces a wide range, requires an examination of several subjects of great importance, and the expression of opinions upon which differences of opinion may and probably will exist. Before any estimate can be formed of the probable amount that would be necessary for the purposes proposed, an examination must be had, and an opinion formed, of the nature and extent of the naval force which is "necessary to place the naval defences of the United States upon the footing of strength and respectability which is due to the security and welfare of the union;" and the time within which it ought to be, or might be, advantageously prepared.

Taking into view the geographical position of the U. States, with reference to other nations with whom we are most likely to be brought into future collision; the great extent of our maritime frontier, and the extreme importance of securing the communications of the whole valley of the Mississippi, through the Gulf of Mexico, and the intercourse between all parts of the coast; the efficient protection of our widely-extended and extremely valuable commerce, under all circumstances; and the great naval and fiscal resources of the country, the board consider the proper limit for the extent of the naval force to be that which can be properly manned, when the country may be involved in a maritime war.

In estimating this extent, it is assumed that about ninety thousand seamen are employed in the foreign and coasting trade and fisheries. As the navigation has been generally increasing, there is little reason to apprehend any immediate diminution during peace. In any war which would require the employment of all our naval force, it is believed that such interruptions would occur to our commerce as would enable the navy to obtain, without difficulty, at least thirty thousand seamen and ordinary seamen; and if it should continue long, it is probable that a larger number might be engaged. The number of thirty thousand, with the landsmen who may be safely combined with them, will therefore be assumed as the number for which vessels ought to be prepared, for the commencement of a state of hostilities.

With respect to the nature of the force which it would be most advantageous to prepare, there will undoubtedly be differences of opinion. The materials for the larger vessels, as ships of the line and frigates, would be obtained with great difficulty, under circumstances which should interfere with our coasting trade, whilst sloops of war and smaller vessels could be built with greater comparative facility, under such circumstances.

The preparation of a considerable number of steam vessels, ready to defend our great estuaries, to aid the operations of our other naval force, and in the concentration or movements of the military force, as circumstances might require, is believed to demand serious and early attention.

Having due regard to these and other considerations, the board propose that the force to be prepared, ready for use when circumstances may require it, shall consist of 15 ships of the line, 25 frigates, 25 sloops of war, 25 steamers and 25 smaller vessels; and that the frames and other timber, the copper, ordnance, tanks and chain cables shall also be prepared for 10 ships of the line and 10 frigates.

The force proposed to be prepared, ready for use, will employ, and can be manned by, the 30,000 seamen and others which have been considered available in a state of war. The materials for the 10 ships of the line and 10 frigates, will constitute a necessary reserve for increasing the number of those vessels, should they be required, or for supplying losses from decay or casualties.

To estimate the amount necessary to prepare this force, it is proposed to ascertain the whole probable cost, including ordnance, by the average cost of similar vessels already built, (steam vessels excepted), and of materials already procured, and then to deduct the value of the present force, and all other present available means.

The total cost of 15 ships of the line.....	\$8,250,000
25 frigates.....	8,750,000
25 sloops.....	3,125,000
25 steamers.....	5,625,000
25 smaller vessels.....	1,250,000

Total for vessels..... 27,000,000
For the proposed materials, as a reserve..... 3,315,000

Total amount required..... \$30,315,000
Deduct from this sum the value of the present force and available means, as follows:

In vessels afloat, valued at sixty one-hundredths of original value, about	\$4,440,000
In vessels building, at actual cost	2,455,000
In materials collected for building do.	2,945,000
In treasury for these purposes, 1st October, 1835	1,315,000

For three years' appropriation "gradual improvement," when due 1,500,000

Total of present value and available means 12,555,000

Leaves still to be provided for vessels.....\$17,760,000

In presenting any estimate for the amounts which may be necessary to place the different navy yards in a proper situation, the board can do no more than give very general opinions, as the objects of expenditure are foreign to their own professional pursuits, and they have no civil engineer to whom they can refer for the necessary detailed information.

From a knowledge of the cost of works hitherto completed, or in progress, and of the wants at the respective yards for the proper preservation of materials, and for extending the means for building, preserving, repairing and equipping vessels, they are satisfied, however, that the public interests would be greatly promoted, and, in fact, absolutely require an average annual expenditure of \$500,000 for some years to come, upon the different yards.

In New York the necessity of a dry dock is severely felt already, and its importance will increase with an increase of the navy. This, with its dependencies, will require nearly a million of dollars. At Pensacola, which nature has designated as one of the naval keys of the Gulf of Mexico, and of the immense commerce of the valley of the Mississippi, large expenditures will be necessary to secure adequate means for repairing and subsisting a naval force upon that station, and thus prevent the many evils which would be severely felt in a state of war, if the vessels were obliged to resort to the Atlantic ports for ordinary repairs or supplies of any kind. In other yards, there are objects of great and urgent importance.

Generally, the proposed arrangements for the preservation of all materials and vessels should precede their collection or construction. Whilst, therefore, the board propose \$500,000 as the average annual appropriation until the yards should be placed in proper order, they would also state that appropriations of \$700,000 annually for the next four or five years, and a less sum than \$500,000 afterwards, would, in their opinion, be most judicious.

The next subject for consideration is, the nature and extent of force proper to be kept employed in a time of peace, for the protection of our commercial interests, and to prepare the officers and others for the efficient management of the force proposed for a state of war.

Our commerce is spread over every ocean; our tonnage is second only to that of Great Britain, and the value of articles embarked is believed by many to be fully equal to those transported by the ships of that nation. In the safety and prosperity of this commerce all the other interests of the United States are deeply interested. It is liable to be disturbed and injured in various modes, unless the power of the country, exerted through its naval force, is ready to protect it. It is, therefore, proposed that small squadrons should be employed upon different stations, subject, at all times, however, to such modifications as circumstances may require.

Of these squadrons, one might be employed in the *Mediterranean*, and attend to our interests on the west coasts of Spain and Portugal, and southward to the western coast of Morocco and Madeira.

One in the *Indian Ocean*, to visit, successively, the most important commercial points east of the Cape of Good Hope, to China, thence to cross the Pacific, visit the northern whaling stations and islands, cruise some time upon the west coast of America, and return by way of Cape Horn, the coast of Brazil, and the windward West India islands.

One in the *Pacific Ocean*, to attend to our interests upon the West coast of America; keeping one or more vessels at or near the Sandwich and other islands which are frequented by our whale ships and other vessels, and, in succession, cross the Pacific, visiting the islands and southern whaling stations, China and other commercial places, and return, by the way of the Cape of Good Hope, to the United States.

A squadron upon the coast of Brazil, or east coast of South America, might be charged with attention to our interests on the whole of that coast, and upon the north coast, so far as to include the Orinoco. If a ship of the line should be employed on this station, it might be occasionally sent round to the Pacific.

A squadron in the *West Indies and Gulf of Mexico* will be necessary for, and may be charged with attention to the protection of our commerce amongst the West India islands and along the coast of South America, from the Orinoco, round to the Gulf of Mexico.

A small coast squadron upon our Atlantic coast might be very advantageously employed in making our officers familiarly and thoroughly acquainted with all our ports and harbors, which would be very useful in a state of war. The vessels would also be ready for any unexpected service, either to transmit information or orders; to reinforce other squadrons, or to visit our eastern fisheries. Besides this cruising force, it is recommended that a ship of the line be kept in a state of readiness for service, *men excepted*, at Boston, New York and Norfolk, and used as receiving-ships for the recruits as they are collected.—This would give the means of furnishing a considerable increase of force, with a very small addition to the current expense.

For the nature and distribution of this force, the following is proposed:

	Line.	Frigates.	Sloops.	Steamers.	Smaller.	Total.
Mediterranean....	1	2	2	-	2	7
Indian ocean....	-	1	2	-	1	4
Pacific.....	-	2	3	-	2	7
Brazil.....	1	1	2	-	2	6
West Indies.....	-	1	4	1	2	8
Home.....	3*	1	2	3	1	10
	5	8	15	4	10	42

Considering this force with reference to its power of giving experience to the officers, and qualifying them for the management of the force proposed for war, it appears that, for the force proposed to be *actually employed at sea*, in peace and in war, the peace force will require and employ about two-thirds the number of commanders of squadrons; about one-third the captains and forty one-hundredths of the commanders and lieutenants and masters, which the proposed war force would demand, and midshipmen sufficient to supply the additional number of these last classes which a change to a state of war would require.

Supposing the foregoing force to be that which is to be kept in commission, the next question is, what force will be necessary to keep *afloat*, to provide the necessary reliefs? The board believe that this force should be the *least* which will answer the object proposed, as every vessel when launched is exposed to a decay which is much more rapid than when left under the cover of a tight ship-house.

We have already six ships of the line *afloat*, which will be fully equal to our present wants, when they are repaired. A reserve of three frigates may be required, but only to be launched when the necessity for it shall arise; for the sloops of war and smaller vessels, it will probably be sufficient to merely keep up the cruising force as proposed, except some extraordinary demand should arise. The force of steam vessels proposed, when distributed at Boston, New York, Norfolk and Pensacola, would probably meet all the demands of a state of peace, and furnish useful schools for officers, to prepare them for the proper management of others, when they are required. The force to be kept *afloat*, then, will be assumed at 6 ships of the line, 11 frigates, 15 sloops of war, 4 steamers and 10 smaller vessels. The annual amount necessary to keep this force in a state of repair, and to supply the wear and tear of stores of cruising vessels, is estimated at \$950,000.

The estimated expense of the force which is proposed to be kept in commission, exclusive of the repairs as above stated, and for the pay of the officers of the navy yards, rendezvous, receiving vessels, of superintendents and civil officers, at all the shore establishments, and at the present cost of those establishments, is—

For pay of officers and seamen in commission, superintendents, and civil officers, and all others, at all the establishments; about.....	\$2,500,000
For provisions.....	750,000
For medicines and hospital stores.....	60,000
For ordnance stores, powder, &c.....	120,000
For contingencies of all kinds.....	390,000

Total for the navy branch.....\$3,850,000

If the marines are continued as a part of the naval establishment, instead of substituting ordinary seamen and landmen for them in vessels, and watchmen in navy yards, and transferring the marines to the army as artillery, as has sometimes been suggested, the sum of about \$405,000 annually, will be required for that corps.

To determine the *annual amount* which it may be necessary to appropriate to prepare the vessels and reserve frames and other materials which have been proposed some *time* must be assumed within which they shall be prepared. Believing that reference to the ability of the treasury to meet the probable demands upon it, for all the purposes of the government, must necessarily be considered in determining what amount may be allotted to the navy, the board have examined the reports of the secretary of the treasury, and respectfully propose to establish the ordinary annual appropriations for the navy, including the ordnance, at seven millions of dollars.

The operation of such annual appropriations may be seen by the following recapitulation of the proposed heads of expenditures:

For the force in commission, and its dependencies, as before stated.....	\$3,850,000
The average appropriation for navy yards.....	500,000
For the repairs and wear and tear of vessels.....	950,000
For building vessels and purchase of materials.....	1,300,000

Total for the navy proper.....6,600,000

For the marine corps.....400,000

\$7,000,000

By the adoption of this gross sum for the navy and its dependencies, and the other items as proposed, \$1,300,000 would be annually applied to increasing the number of our vessels and the purchase of materials; and, with this annual expenditure, the deficiency of \$17,760,000 would not be supplied sooner than between thirteen and fourteen years, or at about the year 1850.

*As receiving ships.

The board consider this as the most remote period at which the proposed force ought to be ready, and are of opinion that it might be prepared much sooner, should congress deem it necessary or advisable to make larger appropriations than have been suggested.

The board have expressed the opinion that no more vessels should be launched than are absolutely necessary to meet the demands for the force to be kept in commission; but, as a necessary consequence, they recommend that the other additional force should be in such a state of readiness, that it may be launched and equipped by the time that men could be obtained for it. This arrangement renders an early attention to the completion of all the building-slips, ship-houses and launching-ways, at the different yards, so that the ships may be built, and that our docks, wharves, workshops and storehouses should be finished; that our ships may be equipped with the greatest economy and despatch, whenever they may be required.

Before concluding this report, the board would respectfully offer some remarks upon the form of the appropriations, and suggest some attention to existing acts of congress.

By the separate acts for the gradual increase of the navy; for the gradual improvement of the navy; for building and rebuilding different vessels, altogether seven in number, each appropriation is rendered separate and distinct, although the general object is the same, and requires the use of the same kinds of materials. It is necessary, in conformity to the law of the 3d of March, 1809, that the vouchers, receipts, expenditures and accounts of each should be kept separately; and, in strictness, no article purchased for one can be applied to the use of another, however desirable or economical such use may be.

It is suggested, therefore, for consideration, whether it might not be very advantageous for congress to determine, by some general act or resolution, the number and classes of vessels which the president might be authorised to have been built, or for which materials might be procured; and then appropriate specially the amounts which might be devoted to those objects, and for keeping the force afloat in repair, under the general head of "for building and repairing vessels, and for purchase of materials and stores."

The adoption of some such plan, and removing the special restrictions which now exist, and requiring, as at present, detailed estimates for the current repairs, and reports of proceedings in building vessels and for purchase of materials, would, it is believed, greatly simplify and diminish the number of accounts at the treasury department, and in all the navy yards, without infringing in any degree the principle of special appropriations; would furnish to congress all the information they now receive, and would enable us at all times to use those materials which are best prepared, and most appropriate for the different objects for which they might be wanted.

The board, beg leave, also, respectfully to state their opinion of the necessity for the services of a competent civil engineer for the navy, to furnish plans and estimates for all hydraulic and civil objects, and to have a general superintendence of their construction, under the direction of the department. The particular character of these works requires the supervision of such a person, not less from motives of economy in the ordinary expenditures, than from the more important consideration of their proper arrangement, solidity of construction, and durability. All which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. ROGERS.

To the hon. M. Dickerson, secretary of the navy.

A.

Upon the supposition that the naval force to be so prepared that it might be equipped for sea at short notice, shall consist of—15 ships of the line, 25 frigates, 25 sloops of war, 25 steamers, 25 smaller vessels, and that the frames and other durable materials shall be provided for 10 ships of the line and 10 frigates, as a reserve, the following statement shows the total number and character of the armaments which the whole force will require; the number which can be furnished from the ordnance on hand; and the number which will be still required:

	Ships of line.	Frigates.	Sloops.	Steamers.	S. V.
Total number required	25	35	25	25	25
On hand, for	11	22	16	00	12
Deficient	14	13	9	25	13

Besides the bomb-cannon, guns and carronades for these armaments, there would be required shot, shells, small-arms, pistols and cutlasses, and a supply of powder sufficient for equipping a strong force, in case of a sudden emergency.

The cost of these objects may be estimated as follows:

Armaments for 14 ships of the line, at \$45,000 each,	\$630,000
13 frigates,	16,500
9 sloops,	6,000
25 steamers	3,000
13 smaller vessels	1,500
	19,500

For guns, bomb-cannon and carronades.....	993,000
100 shot to each gun, and 200 shells to each bomb-cannon, and shells for guns.....	427,000
8,000 muskets.....	100,000
3,500 pairs of pistols.....	43,750
8,000 cutlasses.....	34,000
9,000 barrels of powder.....	202,500
	\$1,800,250

A LATER REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

Navy department, April 27, 1836.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the senate of the 19th instant, requiring of this department "to inform the senate what is the maximum amount which can be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country; embracing, 1st, ordnance and ordnance stores; 2d, gradual increase of the navy, and collection of materials; 3d, repairs; 4th, navy yards and docks and other incidental heads of expenditure; provided the appropriations for the expenditure be made at once, for a series of years, to be drawn from the treasury annually, as needed;" I have the honor to state that the subject was referred to the board of navy commissioners, whose report is herewith submitted.

In this report they present estimates of much larger amount than those contained in their report of the 2d of March last, as the maximum which, in their opinion, might be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country, "without any limit in reference to the means."

It will be perceived that these estimates are based upon the supposition that our naval preparations shall have no limit, except that imposed by a due regard to the public revenues, and that the fixed, immovable fortifications of other maritime nations; and that the fixed, immovable fortifications of our country are to be kept within prescribed limits; and also upon the supposition that we shall erect six dry docks in addition to those already completed, to wit: one at Portsmouth, one at Boston, two at New York, one at Norfolk and one at Pensacola.

Should it not be deemed expedient by congress to increase our naval preparations to the extent contemplated by the commissioners; or should the estimates for immovable fortifications, now submitted, be adopted; or should it not be deemed expedient to provide, at this time, for the construction of six dry docks, a corresponding reduction in the amount of the estimates of the commissioners should be made.

It must also be observed, that the estimates of expenditures are made without regard to the effect they may have upon the commercial shipping interest of the country.

An expenditure of more than a million and a half of dollars annually, for the "gradual increase of the navy, and collection of materials," would, in my opinion, create such a demand for labor and materials as essentially to increase the expense of ship-building, which could not fail to give foreign navigating interests an advantage over our own.

I thought it due to myself, in presenting the report of the commissioners of the navy board, to make the foregoing observations. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MAHLON DICKERSON.

Hon. M. Van Buren, president of the senate.

Navy commissioners' office, April 21, 1836.

SIR: The commissioners of the navy have had the honor of receiving from your hands the resolution of the senate of the 19th instant, with directions, given personally, and by endorsement on the resolution, to report thereon.

The resolution requires that the senate be informed "what is the maximum amount which can be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country; embracing, first, ordnance and ordnance stores; second, gradual increase of the navy and collection of materials; third, repairs; fourth, navy yards and docks, and other incidental heads of expenditure; provided the appropriations for the expenditure be made at once, for a series of years, to be drawn from the treasury annually, as needed."

In the report which the commissioners had the honor of presenting to you on the 2d ultimo, it was proposed "that the force to be prepared ready for use when circumstances may require it, shall consist of fifteen ships of the line, twenty-five frigates, twenty-five sloops of war, twenty-five steamers and twenty-five smaller vessels; and that the frames and other timber, the copper, ordnance, tanks and chain cables shall also be prepared for ten ships of the line and ten frigates." It was further observed that "the force to be ready for use would employ thirty thousand seamen; the number assumed as that for which vessels ought to be prepared, for the commencement of a state of hostilities." In preparing that report, the board, unapprized of your views or those of the government upon the subject, looked to the fiscal condition of the country, as exhibited in the treasury reports, and thence drew the inferences expressed as to the sums which might annually and conveniently be applied towards completing our naval defences; confining their views to the supposed convenience of the treasury, and indicating rather the minimum of the amount of money necessary to place the naval defences of the U. States upon the footing of strength and respectability due to the security and welfare of the union.

But the resolution of the senate calls for the maximum amount which can be beneficially expended, annually, towards completing the naval defences of the country, without any limit in reference to the means. The question thus presented appears to be unfettered with any restriction, or any consideration, other than that which refers exclusively to the completion of the naval defences of the country.

Had the resolution given any intimation as to the amount of the naval force, or, in other words, as to the nature and extent of the force deemed necessary for the defence of the country, a satisfactory reply might more easily and with more certainty come within the professional ability of the board. Uninformed upon this material point as to the views of the honorable body

by whom the resolution was passed, the board must of necessity express their own, to show the basis of their calculations upon the subject.

If it be the settled policy of our government to consider the navy as "our first and best fortification;" if it be determined that our naval preparations shall have no limit except that imposed by a due regard to public revenues, and by the probable condition of other maritime nations; if the fixed, immovable fortifications of our country are to be kept within prescribed limits, that the naval defences, deemed more important because more efficient, may be enlarged to an extent necessary to defend our coast on the ocean, and guard it against invasion, the commissioners would, with great deference, though with entire confidence in its correctness, express the opinion that an increase of naval preparations beyond that proposed in their letter of the 2d ultimo may become a measure of wise precaution in reference to the high interests thus committed to the protection of the navy, and the solemn duties and responsibilities imposed upon it. Our means of naval defence and annoyance should surely be such as, when exerted against those possessed by other maritime nations with whom we may come in conflict, would fairly promise, if not secure, success.

Leaving, however, the nature and extent of our naval preparations to be decided by those with whom the decision rests, the commissioners will suppose that fifteen ships of the line, twenty-five frigates, twenty-five sloops of war, twenty-five steamers and twenty-five smaller vessels, with the frames and other timber, the copper, ordnance, tanks and chain cables for ten ships of the line and ten frigates, as a reserve force, may be considered as the amount of force which it may be the pleasure of congress to provide; and upon this hypothesis they base the reply to the resolution which they have now the honor to submit, observing here that, if a greater force be adjudged expedient, the means necessary to provide it must be proportionately increased.

In the opinion of the board, every ship belonging to the navy should be kept in such a state of preparation that her full equipment and readiness for actual service, on any emergency, may be secured by the time a crew can be collected for her. The hulls of those not in service at sea should be frequently examined and kept in good condition; their armament, masts, spars, boats, tanks, chain cables and perishable stores of every description, should be procured, and carefully preserved in a state of readiness for immediate use; and there should be always kept on hand a full supply of seasoned timber, of all kinds used in the construction of ships of war, and a full supply of spare ready-made masts and spars, of sizes and dimensions adapted to each of the various classes of our ships.

Our navy yards should possess all the conveniences and facilities of building and repairing ships of every class, with the greatest despatch and economy. They should possess ample means of seasoning and preserving timber, and of keeping in a state of perfect security and preservation, ready for immediate use, all the stores and munitions of every description essential in the equipment and armament of our ships. To place the yards in this condition, preparations involving large expenditures are indispensable. Dry docks, timber docks, seasoning sheds, building slips, launching ways, ship houses, store houses, smitheries, workshops, wharves, &c. must be possessed to an extent proportionate to the number and size of our ships, and the quantity of materials to be kept on hand. We cannot, in a state of peace, secure the services of our ships as promptly as would be desirable, without these conveniences. In war, when time is all-important, when celerity of movement and vigorous action are alike in constant requisition, the want of them would paralyze every exertion, and be felt as a heavy national calamity. Suppose a squadron coming into port after a long cruise, or after a serious engagement at sea, or after encountering usual storms, the ships composing it would require repairs, some of them probably very extensive; many might require docking, and they arrive at a port where there is but one dock; while one is in dock, the residue must wait and take their turn to be docked, and months, at least, may elapse before the squadron (possibly wanted for immediate service) can be repaired and put in a condition for further service. Golden opportunities of sustaining the honor of our flag and advancing the highest interests of our country may thus be lost.

But, without supposing a case, the present actual condition of our ships at New York may be cited as affording ample illustration of the value of these facilities and conveniences, and particularly in reference to docks. If we possessed them at that yard, the ships now there, particularly those of the line, which require extensive repairs, might be put in a condition for service in a much shorter space of time, more effectually, at far less expense, and without incurring any of the risks attending the process of heaving down.

With these considerations in view, the commissioners would observe that, in their opinion, the sum of one million and eight hundred thousand dollars might be "beneficially expended" in procuring ordnance and ordnance stores; that the maximum amount which could be expended in the first year, from the date of an appropriation, would probably not exceed \$300,000, but in the second and subsequent years at least \$500,000 might be beneficially expended in providing cannon, carronades, bombs, shot, bomb-shells, muskets, pistols, cutlasses, boarding-pikes, boarding-axes, powder or the materials for making it, and all the other various articles necessary to the armament of the ships. That for "the increase of the navy and collection of

materials," the sum of sixteen millions of dollars might be beneficially expended; that during the first year the expenditure for timber could not be very considerable. It might be contracted for in the course of a few months, but the trees should not be felled before the month of October next, and the contractors would not probably commence delivering the timber at the yards before April or May, 1837; and possibly such interruptions from Indian hostilities might arise in getting out the live oak as to postpone the operations of those engaged in that business for a still greater length of time. But the imperishable articles of copper, iron and lead, might be procured, probably during the first year; and it may be observed, as an inducement to procure them now, that the prices now asked for such articles are as low as they have ever been known to be. This observation is grounded upon the latest contracts made for copper and iron.

Under all circumstances, the commissioners believe that the sum of one million and a half of dollars might be judiciously expended "for the gradual increase of the navy, and collection of materials," during the first year after an appropriation, and that, in the six subsequent years, the residue of the \$16,900,000 (viz. \$14,500,000) might be expended; making in these years, an average expenditure of about \$2,417,000.

The probable inability to expend any considerable sum during the first year, for timber, is a circumstance not to be regretted, because we have not the means of seasoning and preserving it. The preparation of such means, which consists of timber docks and seasoning sheds, should precede the reception of timber. They may be prepared by the time the timber will be delivered; and when they shall be ready for the reception of the timber, the timber should be procured as early as may be practicable, in order to give it the longest time possible for seasoning, before it shall be actually used in the construction or repair of ships.

As to "repairs," the operations under this head would necessarily be protracted and limited, until we can have a sufficient number of dry docks, and other conveniences for repairing ships of war. We have now only two dry docks, one at Norfolk, the other at Boston; so that only one vessel can be taken into dock at a time at either of those places; and at other yards where we have ships of the line, it would probably be advisable rather to wait the construction of docks, before commencing any repairs which their bottoms may require. The commissioners, however, believe that under this head, nine hundred thousand to a million of dollars may be annually and judiciously expended.

Upon the subject of "navy yards, docks and other incidental heads of expenditure," the board would respectfully observe, that the plans for improving the yards, adopted under the act of congress of 1827, and approved by the president of the United States, contemplate expenditures to a large amount, the means of estimating which are not in the possession of the board. It is certain, however, that it will require a series of years to complete the improvements, and it is equally certain that the expense will unavoidably be very large. But, to confine our views at present to a portion of those improvements, say a dry dock at Portsmouth; an additional dry dock at Boston; two dry docks at New York; an additional dry dock at Norfolk, and a dry dock at Pensacola; with the number of timber docks, timber sheds, ship houses, slips, wharves, storehouses, &c. required for these and other yards, and adapted to the proposed force, and essential to keep it in a state of desirable preparation for service: one million and a half of dollars may be considered as the maximum amount which could be "beneficially expended" during the first year; but for each succeeding year, two millions and a half may be expended, and very beneficially, until the necessary improvements shall be completed.

These views present the following results; showing the maximum amounts which, in the opinion of the navy commissioners, might be beneficially expended, annually, for different series of years.

1st. "Ordnance and ordnance stores," during the first year \$300,000, and during the second year \$500,000; the third year \$500,000, and the fourth year \$500,000.

2d. "Gradual increase of the navy and collection of materials," during the first year, \$1,500,000, and each of the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh years, about \$2,417,000.

3d. "Repairs," about \$1,000,000, say one million of dollars annually.

4th. Navy yards and dock, and other incidental heads of expenditure, \$1,500,000 during the first year, and two millions and a half of dollars during the second year, and the like sum annually, till the necessary improvements be completed.

If an appropriation adopting these views were made, and the number and description of vessels recommended in our letter of the 2d ultimo were kept in commission without diminution or increase, then the annual naval expenditure, exclusive of the expenditure under "gradual improvement," but including \$400,000 annually for the corps of marines, would be—

For the first year.....	\$8,550,000
For the 2d, 3d and 4th years, each.....	10,667,000
For the 5th, 6th and 7th years, each.....	10,167,000
For the subsequent years, each.....	7,750,000

until the improvements in the navy yards should be completed to the extent desirable and necessary. All which is respectfully submitted. JNO. RODGERS.

The resolution of the senate is herewith returned.

Hon. M. Dickerson, secretary of the navy.