in opposition to the pretended claim of Spain which extended to the whole of America. Although strenuously engaged in extending those colonies westwardly, these, in the year 1751, twenty years only before Cook's third voyage, hardly extended beyond the Mississippi. What immediate interest could then have impelled either France or England to enter a formal protest against the antiquated claim of Spain to a country with which they had never attempted even to trade? And what opportunity had occurred for doing it prior to Cook's voyage?

But, what is still more conclusive, the country in question was equally neglected by Spain herself. Some exploring voyages, few of which are authentic, were indeed made by Spanish navigators; and the claims which may be derived from their discoveries have now been transferred to the United States, so far as discovery alone can give a claim, and no further. But, during more than two centuries that Spain had no competitor on the Pacific, there was on her part no occupancy, no settlement, or attempt to make a settlement. She had some missions on the western coast of the peninsula of California; but her missions or settlements in Northern or New California are of quite recent date; that of the most southern (San Diego) in 1769, and that of the most northern (San Francisco) in 1776, two years only before Cook's arrival at Nootka Sound.

In point of fact, the contested territory had been utterly neglected by Spain. All the energies, such as they were of her Mexican colonies were much more advantageously applied to the improvement of the vast and rich countries which they had conquered, principally to the discovery and working of the richest and most productive mines of the precious metals as yet known.

Anson's expedition was purely military, and confined to southern latitudes. But the narrative drew the public attenion towards the Pacific ocean, and gave a new impulse to the spirit of discovery.—Almost immediately after the peace of 1763 voyages were undertaken for that purpose by the Governments of England and France: the Pacific was explored: the Russians on the other hand had, more than thirty years before, ascertained the continuity of the American continent from Behring's Straits to Mount St. Elias. It was then, and not till then, that Spain, or rather the Mexican Government, awakening from its long lethergy, extended its missions to New California. In the year 1774, Perez, with his pilot, Marrinez, sailed as far north as the northern extremity of Queen Charlotte's Island, having anchored in Nootka Sound, and, as Martinez asserts, perceived the entrance of Fuca's Straits. New and important discoveries were made by Quadra and Heceta in the year 1775. The sequel is well known.

But on what foundation did the claim of Spain rest? If she had indeed an absolute right to the whole country bordering on the Pacific, derived either from natural or international law, or from usages generally recognized, it matters but little, as respects right, whether other nations had acquiesed in, or opposed, her claim. If there was no foundation for that absolute and exclusive right of sovereignty, Spain could transfer nothing more to the United States than the legitimate claims derived from her discoveries.

The discovery gives an incipient claim not only to the identical spot thus discovered, but to a certain distance beyond it.—It has been admitted that the claim extends generally, though not universally, as far inland as the sources of rivers emptying into the sea where the discovery has been made. The distance to which the right or claim extends along the sea shore may not be precisely defined, and may vary according to circumstances. But it never can be unlimited; it has never been recognised beyond a reasonable extent. Spain was the first European nation which discovered and occupied Florida. A claim on that account to the absolute sovereignty over the whole of the Atlantic shores as far as Hudson's Bay, or the 60th degree of latitude, would strike every one as utterly absurd. A claim on the part of Spain to the sovereignty of all the shores of the Pacific, derived from her having established missions in California, would be similar in its nature and extent, and equally inadmissible. It cannot be sustained as a natural right, nor by the principles of international law, nor by any general usage or precedent. The claim of Spain rested on no such grounds.

It was derived from the bull of the Pope Alexander VI, which the Spanish monarchs obtained in the year 1493, immediately after the discovery of America by Columbus. By virtue of that bull, combined with another previously granted to Portugal, and with modifications respecting the division line between the two Powers, the Pope granted to them the exclusive sovereignty over all the discoveries made or to be made in all the heathen portions of the globe, including, it must be recollected, all the countries in America bordering on the Atlantic, as well as those on the Pacific ocean. Yet, even at that time, the Catholic Kings of England and France did not recognise the authority of the Pope on such subjects; as evidently appears by the voyages of Cabot under the orders of Henry VII. of England and of Cartier under those of the King of France, Francis I.—Subsequently, the colonies planted by both countries from Florida to Hudson's Bay were a practical and continued protest and denial of the Spanish claim of absolute sovereignty over the whole of America: whilst the acquiescence of Spain was tantamount to an abandonment of that claim where it was resisted. Ridiculous as a right derived from such a source may appear at this time, it was not then thus considered by Spain: and the western boundary of Brazil is to this day regulated by the division line prescribed by the Pope.

I am not aware of any other principle by which the claim ever was or can be sustained, unless it be the idle ceremony of taking possession, as it is called. The celebrated Spaniard who first discovered the Pacific ocean' "Balboa, advancing up to the middle in the waves with his buckler and sword, took possession of that ocean in the name of the King his master, and vowed to defend it, with his arms, against all his enemies."—*(Robertson.)*

I have dwelt longer on this subject than it may seem to deserve. The assertion of the solidity of this ancient exclusive Spanish claim has had an apparent effect on public opinion fatal to the prospect of an amicable arrangement. I am also fully satisfied that the resort to vulnerable arguments, instead of strengthening, has a tendency to lessen the weight of the multiplied proofs by which the superiority of the American over the British claim has been so fully established.

ALBERT GALLATIN.

Productions of the West. The St. Louis Price Current contains some important statistical matter relative to the productions of the West, from which we condense the following information:

TOBACCO.—The crop of the past season was probably superior to any ever produced in Missouri; and cultivators were well paid for their labor, as prices have ruled high throughout the season.

LEAD.—The production of this article is rapidly on the increase. The shipments from the Galena mines alone, the past year amounted to 778,461 pigs, being an increase of 159,560 pigs over the previous year. The increased production at the lower mines has been in an equal ratio—the total product being estimated at 150-000 pigs. The actual demand has kept pace with the increased production; and the stock on hand at the close of the year amounted only 31,500 pigs, which has nearly all changed hands, and is now on board to be sent forward on the opening of navigation. The total receipts from the Galena mines for the past 5 years were as follows:

In 1841	463,404 pigs,
1842	473,599 "
1843	661,431 "
1844	621,900 "
1845	757,906 "

WHEAT.—The crops of 1845 in this section, embracing the State of Illinois and Michigan, and the territories of Iowa and Wisconsin—have been remarkably good, better both in quantity and quality than any crop since 1842. The quantity produced the past year in this section is, however, greatly over estimated by some of the Eastern papers—setting that of Illinois alone at eight millions of bushels for *export!*—when the truth is, the State does not *produce* this quantity. The quantity of Wheat received here this season, up to the 1st inst. is 986,696 bushels, & at the same period last year 805,738 bushels. We predict a great demand for this staple on the opening of navigation in the spring, but at lower rates than have been paid for some time past.—This demand will be principally from the Ohio river, as it is now a well ascertained fact that the crop of that state (Ohio) is very little over what it was in 1844. The market of Europe will not begin to feel the *want* of Wheat and Flour till April or May and by that period the actual deficiency of breadstuffs in all the Continental markets will have developed itself. The quantity of Wheat here is estimated by some at 200,-000 bushels. Our own opinion, founded upon considerable inquiry; is, that there are not over 70 or 80,000 bushels in the market, including all in the millers' hands, and we question whether true statistics can make it over 50,000 bushels. The comparative receipts for the past three years, were as follows, viz:

In 1843	70,777	131,427
In 1844	54,887	257,632
In 1845	77,150	382,323

THE FOREIGN GRAIN MARKETS—*Interesting Statistics.* The state of the foreign markets for grain is a matter of some interest at the present time, in anticipation of an open market for grain in England.—We copy the following from the New York Morning News:

The ports of Belgium have been open for grain since September, but the trade does not in consequence appear to have greatly increased. The quantities in the warehouses of France England and Belgium on the 1st November were as follows:

Quantities of Grain in Warehouse, Nov. 1, 1845.

	Wheat.	*Other Grain.*	*Flour.*	
Belg. kilo,	1,861,119	1,649 627		
France, "	236,294	2,990	28,478	
Eng. qrs.,	667,698	170,392	269,729	

The import of Belgium, Jan. 1. to Dec. 1, 1845, eleven months, were as follows:

Import of Grain into Belgium Jan 1 to December 1845.

Wheat, kilo	76,229 422
Rye, "	16,549 17
Indian corn,	122 400
Potatoes, hecto,	260 063
Barley kilo,	31,646 260
Buckwheat, kilo,	628 065
Oats, kilo,	5,000 575
Rice, "	7,892 582

About two-thirds of this quantity of potatoes was imported in the month of November free of duties, and also about 8,-000,000 kilo's of wheat in the same month and this under free trade in corn. The operations in France have been as follows for ten months ending Oct. 1, 1845:

Import and Export of Grain into France January 1 to November 1.

	Wheat.	*Other Grain.*	*Flour.*
Import,	383,591	21,373	664
Export,	93,641	301,013	43,606
In Warehouse,	236,294	29,990	28,478

This is not a very formidable movement in quantities. It is not a little singular that *all* the nations of Europe should be afraid of being ruined by the other in case of free trade. As thus, if France is afraid of the cheap food of England, why should England be afraid of the cheap food of France? Clearly one or the other is laboring under a false impression as to the ability of the other to undersell it.

Hogs killed in Cincinnati.—The Cincinati Chronicle says that the total number of hogs packed this season in that city will not be under 280,000; the largest number ever slaughtered there in one year.

CONGRESS.

Correspondence of the American.

WASHINGTON, Feb'y. 2, 1846.

The Baltimore cars which reached the city at half past eleven o'clock this morning brought information of a duel which took place this morning between Thomas F. Jones and Dr. David Johnson, both of Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Johnson was the challenged party. He was the family physician of Mr. Jones and was charged with improper intimacy as is said, with the family of his antagonist and for this the challenge was sent.—Johnson was killed at once by the first fire of Jones, and it is said, also, that he reserved his own fire and protested his innocence to the last of the crime with which he was charged. Some of the parties were arrested immediately after the duel took place. Both of the principals were men of high character at home, and were well known to many persons here.

Nothing was done in Executive Session to-day.

The Supreme Court passed over the Massachusetts and Rhode Island case for the day, in consequence of the illness of the Chief Justice. The argument in an important Patent case was commenced by Ex-Governor Seward of N. Y. Among the counsel of this case are Messrs. Webster, Johnson of Md. Henderson of Miss. Phelps of Vt. and others.

CONGRESS.—The two Houses of Congress are preceding with great deliberation in reference to the Oregon question, which from the space it occupies would seem to be the great business of the session—which certainly overshadows all other bussiness—though our readers must have perceived, every interest of the country would have been benefitted had the Executive not directed the attention of Congress so almost exclusively to it & indeed had he, and his predecessor, in regard to this question, "let very well alone," as President Jackson did, as President Adams had done before him, and as President Van Buren did after him. The only effect of agitating the question has been we believe to excite apprehensions in the minds of the peace-loving part of our people—constituting, we trust and believe, a large majority of the whole & thus to repress commercial enterprise & more or less embarrass all descriptions of business, with the result, already, of a loss to the country—a detraction from the common stock of wealth and prosperity—which we have seen estimated and we believe not overrated, at fifty millions of dollars.

The HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES yesterday received four new propositions and heard one speech on the subject, and finding itself without a quorum after being little more than two hours in session, spent the rest of the day's sitting in *trying* to adjourn, accomplishing that task at a little after three o'clock, having in the course of the sitting, refused by a decisive majority, to agree to a proposition to close the debate on Monday next.

In the SENATE, the Navy Increase Bill, supported and opposed as having some bearing on the same subject, was not even taken up yesterday.

Of the ultimate fate of the propositions relative to the Oregon question depending in either House of Congress, variant and discordant opinions are, we observe, expressed in the newspapers published out of this city, both editorially and by there Washington Correspondents. It is not possible certainly to predict what will be the specific action of Congress upon it. But whatever may the final action of the House of Representatives in the case, we now feel entire confidence that the Senate will give its sanction to no measure in relation to Oregon which would stand in the way of peaceful and honorable adjustment of the difference existing beween the Governments of this country and Great Britain on this subject. —*National Intelligencer.*

Maryland Legislature.

Correspondence of the American.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 30, 1846.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

Mr. Zollinger presented a petition signed by 106 citizens of Frederick, county in favor of repealing the law authorising colored persons to hold meetings, &c.

Mr. Vansant obtained leave to report a bill incorporating the Southern Dispensary of Baltiomore city.

An unfavorable report on a bill from the Senate, granting corporate powers in certain cases, was concurred in.

Mr. Vansant, from Committee, reported a bill supplementary to an act incorporating the Western Bank of Baltimore.

Also, a bill incorporating the Mutual Insurance Company of Talbot county.

Also, to incorporate the Merchants' Mutual Insurance Company of Baltimore city.

Mr. Ege reported a bill authorising a lottery to make a turnpike road in Carroll county to the Pennsylvania line.

SENATE.

A resolution urging the Senators and Representatives from this State in Congress, to procure an appropriation for the erection of suitable fortifications at St. Mary's and at some convenient point on the Patuxent river—was passed.

BANK DIRECTORS.—The following gentlemen were elected by the joint balloting of the House and Senate, directors on the part of the State:

Farmers' Bank of Md. Robert Gheislin, of P. G. co., Alex. Kilgour, of Montgomery; Thomas J. Hillen of Calvert co.

Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore.—James Barroll and J. R. Magruder, of Balto. city.

Bank of Hagerstown.—Andrew Kershner and Isaac Newcomer.

Branch of the Farmers' Bank, at Easton.—James E. Barroll, of Kent co. James Dickson, of Dorchester, and Jacob C. Wilson, of Caroline co.

ANNAPOLIS, Jan. 31, 1846.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The speaker laid before the House reports from the Register of Wills and Clerk of Baltimore county, relative to the fees of office, &c.

Mr. Hoover, presented a petition from the Sisters of Charity, of St. Joseph's, Frederick county.

Mr. Cook, a report from the Queen Anne's county Academy; also, in favor of further aid to the Public Schools.

Mr. Selby obtained leave to render Clerks and Registers ineligible for a second term.

Also a bill to modify the tax on Clerks and Registers.

Mr. Dennis obtained leave to report a bill supplementary to an act of 1837, ch. 320, relative to the Maryland Penitentiary.

Mr. Clagett obtained leave to report a bill authorising the sale of the tobacco warehouse at Queen Anne's, Prince George's county.

Also, a bill to reduce the salary of the Treasurer to $1500.

Also, a bill for reducing the salary of the State Librarian to $600, and to abolish all perquisites.

Mr. Hollyday obtained leave to report a bill incorporating the town of Elkton, Cecil county.

Mr. Ferguson obtained leave to report a bill regulating writs of error and appeals.

Also; a bill supplementary to an act of 1842, relating to trusts.

On motion of Mr. Stephenson, the Committee on Colored Population was directed to inquire into the expediency of additional laws providing for binding out the children of free negroes.

Mr. Hollyday made a report showing the amount of the claim ($130,405) of this State, under a loan to the General Government during the late war. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Frazier reported a bill regulating pilotage—which provides an exemption of vessels under two hundred tons; captains of vessels to choose their pilots; vessels over two hundred tons to take out a license, paying six cents per ton, to go to the use of superannuated pilots; and repealing the act of 1803, ch. 63. Ordered to be printed.

Also, a bill reducing the maximum charge of toll on passengers on the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad,

A bill for opening a road from the Ladies' Chapel, St. Mary's county, was passed.

Also, a bill relative to the Maryland Penitentiary.

A bill providing for the inspection of lumber, [providing that the buyers and sellers may select an inspector.] The House adjourned.

IN SENATE.—Mr. Hambleton reported a bill in favor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Talbot circuit—passed.

The following bills from the House were passed:

A bill providing for amending writs of attachment.

A bill for the speedy collection of the public revenue.

A bill authorising appeals in certain cases,

A bill providing for the reading of the statutes of other States, as evidence in the courts of this State.

A bill divorcing Margaret E. Gratz, of Baltimore city.

A bill in favor of the minor children of Edward Tilyard, of Anne Arundel county.

Also, a resolution authorizing clerks to sell certain laws.

Correspondence of Balt. Patriot.

ANNAPOLIS, Feb. 2, 1846.

The Senate passed a bill incorporating the Atlantic Mutual Insurance company.

Also a bill incorporating the Town Hall Company of Cambridge.

They also passed a great mass of unimportant bills which originated in the House, and rejected the bill authorising the Inspector of rough leather in Frederick city to inspect in Frederick county.

A message was adopted requesting the House to reconsider and pass the bill authorising incorporations in certain cases.

Many important bills, entitled to a second reading in the House, were informally passed over, on account of the thinness of the House peculiar to Monday morning.

The following is a synopsis of to-days business in that branch.

Petitions presented—From citizens of Howard District, for the opening of a certain road.

From citizens of Baltimore, for the abolishment of capital punishment.

From citizens of Carrol, for the creation of a new election district.

From certain persons, praying that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company may be authorised to fund certain scrip held by them.

A communication was received from the Warden of the Baltimore Jail, relative to the disbursements of the jail, the number and duties of officers, &c. &c.

The Committee on the Constitution was directed to inquire into the expediency of limiting the session of the Legislature to 10th February instead of 10th March.

Resolutions were passed in favor of Barthulow Harper, and Catherine Mantz; and in favor of the heirs Sally Hillman,—widows of revolutionary soldiers.

Leaves granted—To Mr. Gibbons, to report a bill supplemental to the act establishing Magistrates' Courts,—so far as regards Somerset county.

To Mr. Shellman—to report a bill to provide for the recording of proceedings relative to certain roads in Carrol county.

Bills reported—A bill relating to boarding houses in Baltimore city.

A bill to secure defendants, in cases of damage and debt the right of trial in the districts in which they reside.

Bills passed—A bill incorporating the town of Elkton.

A bill for the relief of A. C. Heiskel. of Prince George's county.

A bill for the relief of Elizabeth Lindsay of Harford county.

A bill to incorporate the Potomac Transportation Company.

A bill directing the Commissioners of Somerset and Dorchester counties to publish annually a statement of the receipts and expenditures of said counties.

From the Balt. Prtriot.

REFORM.

The question of reform in the Legislature of Maryland seems to be gravely agitated, whilst the body of the people are quiet and contented with things as they are. The party convention started by Mr. Teackle of Somerset, & which met in Baltimore in August last, seems to have stricken terror to the bosoms of the politicians of Maryland. It is agreed then that some reform must take place. The Whigs think it should be accomplished during the administration of Governor Pratt. The Locos think it should be done by convention, which will vacate all the present officers, and give them a chance to fill them all by the election of a Governor of their party under the new constitution. The whole matter is a political manœuvre. The greatest calamity to be apprehended is that the Whigs may suffer themselves to be goaded on by a supposed public clamor to make alterations, not called for by the people and which will result in a public injury. The Baltimore convention was a total failure. The persons who attended it, were sent there by very small meetings in all the counties. The meetings which appointed the delegates, it is understood, varied from the number five upwards, never reaching to one hundred: mostly between twenty and forty. Great effort was made to get a full attendance at these meetings, but the people did not take interest sufficient in them to turn out. Ought any legislative body to regard such assemblies as expressing the wishes of the people? As much as the attempt is made to persuade the small counties, that their rights would be regarded it is a fact that one of the leading reformers, Mr. Giles, of Baltimore, contended in the convention for a representation according to population; and a vote of thanks was passed to him for his speech by the convention, thereby acknowledging their agreement with his views. If a convention should be called, agreeably to the present basis of representation, still the city of Baltimore and the larger counties would have an undue influence upon the vote of the people for the adoption or rejection of the constitution, which might be framed. It seems to the writer of these few remarks' that the present juncture, politically and nationally is a very inappropriate time for new schemes of government. Some of the State reformers seem disposed to attack all the branches of the government, Executive Legislative & Judicial. The proposed reduction of the Governor's and Secretary of State's salaries may not be improper; and it might probably meet with public favor to reduce the number of Delegates, and to have biennial sessions of the Legislature; but a change of the Judiciary has never been called for by the people, except so far as interested lawyers had an influence. The system has been tried for forty years, & has been found to work well. The present Judges have, most of them, left a lucrative practice to serve the State under the assurance that they should continue in office during good behaviour. It would now be morally wrong to turn those men in their old age out of office, merely to gratify ambitious politicians and demagogues. One proposition is to reduce the number of Judges, so as to have but one in a district. A multitude of objections could be urged against this. He might be sick, and the business of the Court might be stopped. He might have a case like the one under trial or his particular friend might which would be likely to lead his mind astray by an insensible bias. He might be prejudiced, personally or politically. He might mistake, and life might be the forfeit in criminal cases. Besides, no one man could perform the duties in all the districts. The saving would not be one cent in the hundred dollars of assessable property. So small a saving would not justify the hazard of a change. The enlargement of the districts would make the expenses of the Judges so great that they could not perform their duties without an increase of salary, and in none of the districts could the business be done without continual sessions throughout the year, including winter and summer. The coldness of winter, and the sickness of summer in the counties, would impose great hardships upon jurors, witnesses and parties. Sittings day and night, winter and summer, would not afford sufficient time to do the business in some of the districts, thus altered and enlarged. It was not my purpose, when I commenced these remarks, to enter at all upon the discussion of any branch of the proposed reform, & I have above only hinted at some of the objections to a change in the Judiciary. I might enlarge upon this but will forbear until I shall see what course the committee on the Constitution shall take—when probably, I may again trouble you. A. S.

Great Female Pedestrian.—On Sabbath evening, 17th inst, a young woman from North Haven, Conn., who was living in Meriden, proposed (for a joke) to walk to her home, a distance of 12 miles, after 9 o'clock, there being, at that time, considerable snow in drifts upon the track. A gentleman being present, said he would give her $500 if she would accomplish the feat; she accordingly started about a quarter past 9 in the evening, and arrived a North Haven at 2 o'clock on Monday morning, having travelled five hours on one of the coldest nights of the season, in an unbroken path of snow, thus winning, and more than earning, the sum of $500, which; by the way, she was careful to secure by note before she left.

A cure for the Toothache—(When not arising from the rheumatism.) Take two parts of powdered alum, and seven parts of nitric ether. One or two grains are to be inserted in the cavity of the tooth, and repeated whenever the pain returns, in a short time the pain will cease to return, and the chemical action which produces the *caries* (decay of the bone) will cease.

A thin dress.—An exchange paper under the head of "Good advice," advises young hen to "wrap themselves up in their virtue." A contemporary well says:—"Many of them would freeze to death next winter if they had no warmer covering."

From the N. O. Times, Jan. 20.

MEXICO—*The Revolution at an end.*—By the arrival of the United States brig *Porpoise*, at Pensacola, we have received advices from Vera Cruz to the 1st inst.—Gen. Paredes has succeeded in placing himself at the head of the Government. The Capital has finally declared in his favor, & the Revolution is at an end. Mr. Slidell our Minister to Mexico, and Mr. Parrott, Attache to the Legation, had retired to Jalapa, there to await later instructions from the Home Government. We have not received any papers by the *Porpoise*, but have been furnished with the following abstract from a private letter to a commercial house in this city, which briefly details the overthrow of Herrera, as follows:

"VERA CRUZ, 1st January, 1846.

"We open this letter to inform you that an express has just arrived from the capital; we learn that it has pronounced in favor of General Parades, therefore this Revolution is at an end. Our Minister, "*not received*," dispatches the *Porpoise* to Pensacola, with communications for the American Government, and leaves hardly time to apprise you of this event."

The Revolution in Mexico.—The bark Pario, Capt. Kinney, arrived on 23d ult., at New Orleans from Vera Cruz, where she left on the 13th ult. Letters were received and files of papers to the 12th from Vera Cruz, and the 8th from the Capital.—The accounts of the entire success of the revolutionary movement under Parades, are confirmed. That officer has established himself in the capital and has been elected to the Presidency, *(ad interim)*

The Union, the official organ at Washington, thus remarks upon the recent news.

FROM MEXICO.

"We perceive that the accounts received on Saturday evening from New Orleans are not confirmed by the official accounts. The "Picayune' reports, as one of the pieces of intelligence brought by the brig Pario, that "a letter written at Vera Cruz on the 13th ult.,—the day on which the Pario sailed, simply says: "Mr. Slidell demanded his passports, having failed in the object of his mission,'" We do not understand that Mr. Slidell has yet demanded his passports, or that he has received anything like a definite answer from the government. A letter has been received from Jalapa on the 12th January which states that Mr. Slidell was expected to arrive in that town via Puebla on that or the following day.

There is too much reason to apprehend that the mission may not be productive of the success which there was some reason to anticipate. The accession of Almonte and Tornel to the existing administration, is no very flattering sign of a favorable result. Mr. Slidell will do, however, everything which is to be expected from his acknowledged talents when he recieves his commission under the recent confirmation of the Senate.

Some rumors are still afloat of a design on the part of Great Britain, France, and Spain, to place a European prince on the throne of Mexico. We cannot vouch for the correctness of so extravagant a report.

Advices have been received at New Orleans from Galveston, Texas, to the 21st ult. The Civilian of that date says—

The Government of Texas has remitted the extra five per cent. duty, hitherto levied on merchandize imported in U. S. vessels as that government is no longer regarded as being upon the footing of "nations not in treaty with Texas."

The latest accounts from Corpus Christi represent that the health of the U. S. troops had materially improved.

Young Audubon, the naturalist, had arrived at San Antonio, and had been well received.

Accounts of the goodness of the crops, & of large emigration to the country, are received at Galveston from every part of Texas.

It is thought that a connexion, by canals, of the bays & rivers along the coast of Texas, will add greatly to its security and protection in case of invasion. Major Chase, of the Engineer Corps now in Texas, thinks the project perfectly feasible, and that the expense of establishing the connexion along this coast will be comparatively small, and bear no proportion to the importance of the work when completed.

LATER FROM VAN DIEMAN'S LAND.—*dreadful shipwreck*—*414 lives lost.*—The New York Express is indebted to Linus W. Miller, Esq., of Chatauque County, for papers as late as September 23d. Mr. Miller was taken prisoner in 1838 at Niagara, during the Canadian outbreaks, and transported to London, where he was tried, and sentenced to Van Dieman's land. Through the intervention of our Government, all of these prisoners have now been pardoned, but Mr. Miller informs us that there are yet there about 20 poor fellows who have no means of getting home. We think our Government ought to send for them, and shall press this home upon it by and by. Mr. Miller came here by the way of Pernambuco and Philadelphia, and is now on his way to see his parents, who, no doubt, will be overwhelmed with joy in welcoming him. He intends to give the world an account of his travels and adventures, which will be read, we dare say, with avidity. He brings with him the highest testimonials for good conduct and gentlemanly bearing, and he seems to have borne his misfortunes with a becoming dignity and demeanor.

The Melbourne Herald, of the 13th of September, gives the particulars of one of the most horrible shipwrecks on record, by which 414 lives were lost. The "Catarequi," Capt. C. W. Findly, (emigrant ship of 800 tons,) sailed from Liverpool on the 20th of April, with 369 emigrants, and a crew, including two doctors, forty-six souls. The emigrants were principally from Bedfordshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. About 120 of the passengers were married, with families.

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