For the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

EPAMINONDAS, No. II.

HAVING in a former number traced out the steps by which it may be fairly inferred that the French will be guided, on their settlement in Louisiana and the Floridas; and having, in some degree, exposed the weakness of the measures of our government on the occasion, the subject naturally leads us to the consideration of the immense advantages which would result to our country, from the entire & exclusive possession of those territories, as now occupied by Spain—and this, too, in opposition to the cowardly, half-witted policy of only securing to ourselves a deposit, when so excellent an opportunity and so just a pretext are offered us for taking immediate possession by force. I am aware that every thing which can be said on this part of the subject, will more particularly go to prove that Mr. Munroe's embassy can be of no avail; and that a minister should have been sent to England, to negociate for assistance in the event of a war, rather than to France or Spain, to plead for mercy. And this is one point, that I wish to establish, feeling confident, that my sentiments, grounded upon facts, will meet the support of every candid citizen.

In this division of the subject, we have nothing to do with the numberless and irremediable inconveniences which must always result to us in the prosecution of our commerce, from the circumstance of the mouth of the Mississippi being possessed by a foreign power. I shall therefore not touch upon that point, but confine myself merely to a succinct account of the incalculable advantages which must result to the French from the possession of those immense and fertile regions bordering on that great river, and which might be rendered infinitely more profitable to us from the circumstance of our possessing such an immense extent of back country, which is annually increasing in population and wealth, by geometrical progression.

It is a principle which is so well known that it need only be *mentioned* here, that the nearer any given quantity of land is to the market for its produce so much the more valuable will the land be in proportion to the diminution of the expences to be incurred in realizing its fruits. The superior advantages which the Spanish possessions hold over the American territories from this circumstance, can only be appreciated by such as are acquainted with the navigation of the Mississippi, and the rapidity of the currents constantly descending for six months of the year, which renders the navigation from the mouth upwards, almost impracticable. Another material advantage which the Spaniards enjoy, is, that in progressing towards the sea, the climate becomes more serene; and until a certain point, that is, as far as the land is perfectly formed* the soil is more fertile, and is capable of bearing productions which the American soil cannot produce.

Common reason teaches us then, that the possessors of the territories now occupied by Spain, will be enabled to offer to settlers, terms infinitely more advantageous than any which we can propose for the settlement of our back country. The natural consequence, will be, that the advancement of our western possessions will be astonishingly impeded; that the French settlements will become rich and populous with unprecedented celerity, and that those of our citizens, who will be injured by this enormous aggrandizement, will desire nothing better than to be fostered by a power that knows so much better than we do the fundamental principles of state policy.

It is a well known fact at New-Orleans, that the cotton produced on the Spanish territories is of a finer quality than the generality of that which is raised over the American line; and that if both kinds are equally well cleaned, and have an equal chance for a market in England, the former will generally yield from 2d. to 3d. sterling per pound more than the latter.

The articles of sugar and indigo which cannot be cultivated with any success in the American territories, are fostered by the Spaniards with great success.

The sugar cane comes to maturity in about one-third of the time that is requisite in any of the West-India islands for the same purpose, and the same quantity of this cane will generally produce more sugar than that of any other country. This article has until now labored under great disadvantages from the want of proper establishments for curing it, and of artists who are well acquainted with the proper method of bringing it to perfection. These defects will, however, remedy themselves in the course of a short time, and the sugar of the Mississippi will rival in quality and quantity the production of any quarter of the globe.

The cultivation of indigo has been very much neglected for a few years past, on account of the excessive prices which the articles of cotton and sugar have borne in Europe, and these products have yielded much greater profits than could have been realized from the indigo plant. Large quantities, however, have been made & infinitely larger may be raised, when the article shall find a price commensurate with the labor which is necessary in its cultivation. The quantity of this indigo has *generally* been at least equal to that which was formerly made in St. Domingo, and frequently it has been found as good as any that is produced, without exception.

On the subject of the cotton plantations enough cannot be said, to convey an idea of the amazing and incredible profits which have actually been realized by those who have been engaged in the business during the last war. The cotton grows almost spontaneously, and no labor is necessary for its cultivation but to clear the fields of weeds, which grow with great luxuriance, and to pick the cotton from the shrub when it has arrived at maturity. The general calculation of a cotton planter is, to make from three hundred to five hundred dollars from every hand he can employ, and instances have actually occurred of one thousand dollars per annum being realized for every laborer on a cotton plantation

We may judge of the future prosperity and consequence of the territory in question, when its resources shall be directed to the best advantage by the enterprize of the French or Americans, from the amazing consequence which it has attained in a few years under the incumbrance of the infamous policy of the Spanish government. The tendency of all their laws & regulations for these colonies has been to keep back as much as possible the growing prosperity which has marked their progress, and to paralize the efforts of the settlers. The question will naturally occur, what can be the motives for such proceedings with the Spanish monarch? Nothing more nor less than that he fears the country will become too powerful for his impotent government, and that a declaration of independence in that quarter would endanger his Mexican possessions. Unfortunate monarch! he has for a number of years been paying nearly one million of dollars annually for the support of the government of the colonies in question (for here no taxes are paid but a trifling duty on imports and exports) merely for the purpose of keeping in his own hands the key to the kingdom of Mexico; and now, alas! he is compelled to resign this darling spot to a rapacious enemy, who knows no law but that of force, nor any justice but his own ambition.

Ten years ago scarcely two or three vessels annually saluted the waters of the Mississippi.—How astonishing is the difference at this moment, notwithstanding all the impediments under which the country has labored! We find by our account of exports that to the amount of upwards of two millions of dollars have been exported from different parts of the U. States to New-Orleans during the year 1802. To this sum may be added at least one half as much more for the imports from England and France to New-Orleans in the course of the same year: making in the whole upwards of three millions of dollars.

The mode of transacting custom-house business at New-Orleans, precludes the possibility of stating with accuracy the amount of imports or exports from that source. A sketch taken from observation in 1802, may be calculated upon to be nearly correct; but rather over-rated than otherwise, viz.

30,000 bales of cotton, 300 lbs. each, at 70 dollars,	2,100,000
100,000 barrels flour, at 4 dolls.	400,000
10,000 hhds. sugar, 1000 lbs. each, at 60 dolls.	600,000
	3,100,000

About 300,000 lbs. of indigo, value one dollar per pound, were exported in this year; but being the produce of former years do not come under the calculation. Besides these articles, many more, which will increase rapidly in quantity every year, cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy. These are salted provisions of different denominations, skins, furs, pig-lead, cordage, &c. &c. which, in the last year, amounted to a very considerable sum.

About two-fifths of the quantity of cotton may be reckoned as American produce, as well as the whole quantity of flour which goes down the rivers in flat bottomed boats, from the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky. The sugar and indigo are entirely Spanish produce. There has been generally a deficiency in the exports to cover the amount of imports—which is made up by a considerable exportation of the specie to the United States which is received from the Spanish possessions in Mexico.

If this is a true statement of the incredible increase of riches, in the course of so short a time, under a government which offers no encouragement to agriculture or to commerce—but which does every thing in its power, to discourage both; what would be the extent, under a wise and energetic government, of the wealth of this territory, the soil of which is more valuable than the mines of Peru or Mexico?

This district of country being acknowledged to be the most fertile that has ever yet been discovered, many other advantages designate it as the Eden of the new world. No territory which history gives us an account of, is so abundantly furnished with rivers and streams for the transportation of inland produce, as that of Louisiana and the Floridas. The climate is so extremely favorable, that a failure of crops has never yet been known. It has been believed that the summer and autumn months are unhealthy at New-Orleans, and certain it is, that many foreigners have fallen sacrifices to the inclemency of the summer heats—But it may be depended on as a fact, that the health of a resident there, during the months which are generally termed sickly, depends as much upon his own management, as upon the influence of the climate. The debility which a long continuance of warm weather produces in northern constitutions is apt to induce those who are not accustomed to it, to use stimulants, which, in any warm climate, are almost certain death to the unfortunate subjects.

This, together with the entire omission of any precautions by foreigners who go to warm climates in sickly seasons, sufficiently accounts for the mortality which prevails at New-Orleans in the summer and autumn. In the *country*, however, where there is a free circulation of air, bilious fevers are not at all known; and it is a well authenticated fact, that the native residents both in town and country are quite as healthy, and live to nearly as great an age as any people in the world. One circumstance, however, which respects the local situation of the *town of New-Orleans*, renders it more unhealthy and more subject to autumnal fevers, than other sites which might be found.—On the north-east border of the town there is an extensive morass constantly filled with stagnant waters, the vapor of which must necessarily be extremely pernicious. This inconvenience, it does not suit the spirit of Spanish police to remove. The expence of it, however, would not be very great, and the evil would no doubt be immediately remedied, by either French or Americans.

Under all these circumstances so advantageous to the interest of the United States, how much are we to be pitied, that we have not a firm, virtuous and discerning administration, to take the advantage of a step on the part of the Spaniards, which is the only circumstance that could fully justify us in taking immediate possession of this invaluable country: at a moment too, when every thing invites us—when the means are in our power, without any exertion—and when a single *word* from the executive would settle the business, without the expence of a single cent to the *national treasury*.

Can any one seriously imagine, that Bonaparte will ever consent to the alienation from his power of such a valuable territory, unless he was forced to it—and would not the supposition itself derogate entirely from the general tenor of his character? Again then—and again would I repeat it—what a crying shame it is, that a foreign power so much distinguished for activity in the execution of all its enterprizes, and so proverbially skilled in all the arts of intrigue, should be allowed to become our neighbor upon a territory, which by natural right, belongs to us, and which might be converted into so great a source of wealth for our enterprising merchants and our laborious husbandmen.

It has been reserved for this age to see a man, who, raised to the pinnacle of power in a republic, by the approving voice of his fellow-citizens will neglect *such* opportunities for the incalculable advancement of the prosperity of his country.

* *To explain this idea, it may not be amiss to observe, that the soil to a great distance from the primitive mouth of the river, has been formed by the rapid currents which prevail at certain seasons, and which, bearing down their muddy spoils from the country above, deposit them at their confluence with the sea. As considerable time is necessary, after the land assumes a specific form, to render it fit for cultivation, the soil, on each side, for several leagues as we advance from the sea, appears to have come too fresh from the hand of nature, for the use of the husbandman.*

BASLE, December 18.

We have received official news of the higest importance from Paris. All the deputies having arrived in that city, were, by a commission of four senators, requested to meet, on the 10th December, in the paper room of the office of minister for foreign affairs. They met accordingly. Barthelemy, one of the senators of the commission, with Roux and Rœderer, its secretaries, then communicated to them a letter from the first consul, dated St. Cloud, December 10, and addressed to the deputies from the eighteen cantons of Helvetia. The substance of that letter here follows:

"The present critical situation of Helvetia demands from all parties an entire sacrifice of their factious and selfish passions. The first consul will fulfil his engagements and restore tranquility of Switzerland. He expects the deputies to aid his intentions. Switzerland is a country distinguished from all others by the peculiarity of its local circumstances. It is formed for a federative republic by the very hand of nature. Circumstances had there established sovereign states among others which were dependant. Other circumstances have introduced a general equality of rights. There are in Switzerland both pure democracies and governments engrossed by particular families: both cannot continue to subsist together. The three principles on which alone tranquility can be re-established, are these a general equality of rights among all the eighteen cantons: an entire renunciation of all aristocratic family rights: a federative conformation in respect to each particular canton. After the cantons shall have been constituted, the course of the central government will be easy. The revenue, the military force, the political administration, will be different in different cantons. Switzerland has not hitherto had a standing army, nor ambassadors in ordinary to foreign powers. Commerce and a government of a small expenditure, are the two things of a chief importance to this country. The French and Italian republics cannot agree to the institution of a government in Switzerland, that might become either directly or indirectly hostile to their interests. The insurgents have acted under the influence of the enemies to France—they have insulted the French nation—they have declared themselves against an inequality of rights. No party, and least of all, that of the insurgents, is to triumph in Switzerland. It is the duty of the French government to take care that they shall not form on that open frontier of the French republic, a system hostile to it. A government must be established in Helvetia, such as, in its spirit may be always friendly to France. The first consul will take into due consideration whatever plans shall be communicated to him from the deputies, whether individually or collectively."

After this letter was read, citizen Barthelemy signified that the first consul was ready to receive a deputation of five of the deputies, to be nominated by the Helvetian ambassador. Citizen Ruttunan, Maler-Friedberg, Kuhn, Reinhard, and d'Affry, were accordingly nominated. They were to be preferred on the 11th or 12th of December. The deputies in general have been requested, in the mean time, to communicate their respective plans to the senatorial commission.

NEW-BRUNSWICK, January 10.

On Thursday afternoon last, about two o'clock, a violent shower of hail, accompanied with severe thunder, rose from the west—in its progress a flash of lightning struck the steeple of the Episcopal church in this city, and in about twenty minutes the top was discovered to be burning—the height of the steeple prevented every application of water; the bell and clock were taken down, and precautions taken to preserve the body of the church, by bricking up a door and a window which communicated with it; the wind being high from the west, sent the falling ruins directly on the roof of the church, which was of shingles—three engines were employed in throwing water, but the wind still increasing to a violent gale, rendered them in a great measure useless, when the only alternative was to form a rank on the roof, & by ladders water was conveyed & the fire which was falling in great quantities, was kept down, and the church saved. The activity and intrepidity of a number of persons of this place and vicinity, was truly astonishing, and to their daring enterprize we are indebted for the preservation of the body of the church.

The same day, a barn of Mr. Peterson of Hillsborough, was struck by lightning and burnt—two horses in Piscatawa, were also killed.

HARFORD, February 9.

Last Sunday the new bridge lately erected at Windsor, was carried away by the ice.

NEW-YORK, February 12.

A petition from a number of the inhabitants of Dutchess county, praying for liberty to establish a Bank in the town of Poughkeepsie, has been read in the senate of this state, and referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. Adriance, Purdy and Hatfield.

Arrived yesterday, the ship President, Tripp, of New-Bedford, in 36 days from Port-au-Prince. The President is quarantined, in consequence of having had sickness and death on board in Port-au-Prince. Captain Tripp informs, that the blacks were very troublesome, and were in musket shot of the above place. He further states, that it was extremely dangerous for unarmed vessels to pass through the Bite of Leogane. It was reported, that three American vessels had been captured by the brigands, who had massacreed their crews, and ran the vessels on shore. Our informant was told by persons who had been on board of them, that they were stript of every thing, and their decks covered with human blood.

Same day, the schooner Philip, Mills, in 25 days from Fredericksburg, and four from Norfolk. Last Sunday captain Mills saw three ships and two brigs in Hampton Roads, beating up for Norfolk.

Arrived, mentioned in yesterday's Gazette, the brig Enterprize, Woodbury, of Salem, in 160 days from St. Petersburg, in Russia, and 96 from Copenhagen. Left no American vessels at St. Petersburg—at Copenhagen, the schooner Joanna, Hammond, to sail soon for ———. February 2, in lat. 36, 30, long. 65, 30, the English ship Nautilus, Duncan, 6 days from Norfork for Leghorn—having spoke a ship 66 days from Amsterdam for New-York. [This ship has since been seen off the Hook.] February 7, in lat. 39, 30, long. 74, a schooner from New-London for Charleston.

Arrived last night, the ship Flora, Lee, in 70 days for Amsterdam.

Also, the British packet Queen Charlotte, captain Mudge, in 54 days from Falmouth, with the December mail—she sailed the 19th December, and brings London papers to the 17th.

Also, the Spanish brig Alexander, captain Truxillo, in 55 days from Cadiz.—The brig Eliza, Gardner, from New-York, having been 14 days at Cape-de-Verds, arrived at Cadiz, and proceeded to the island of Mahon.

Also, the Dutch brig Neptune, Jurgens, in 79 days from Rotterdam.

Also, the Spanish brig Maria, captain Baranano, in 70 days from Malaga.

Also, the brig Dove, Totten, in 26 days from Kingston, Jamaica.

Schooner Ino, Campbell, in 36 days from Aux-Cayes. The schooner belongs to Philadelphia. The following vessels were left at Aux-Cayes: The Sukey and Peggy, Wallis, to sail in a few days for Philadelphia; the schr. Industry, Cook, in 2 days for Salem; Amazon, Robbins, in 2 days; brig Falmouth, of Salem, arrived the 2d of January. A brig from Baltimore, arrived the same day—also a schooner from Norfolk, names unknown. Flour 14 dollars, pork 22, and beef 18.

Several vessels in the offing, bound in.

The schooner Victory, from hence at St. Vincents, in 21 days, and the schooner Fox, from hence at Turks-Island, on the 15th January.

Cleared, ship Andromache, Pierce, Newry; brigs President, Paddock, Madeira; Ann Maria, Hand, Savannah; Venus, Crooker, do; schooner Betsy, Clarke, Hispaniola.

February 14.

Arrived on Saturday, the Spanish ship Jupiter, Gernon, in 17 days from Havanna. Nothing new from Havanna, except that American flour admitted by special permission, was as high as 16 dollars per barrel.

Same day, the Danish brig Old Norway, captain Carlsen, in 61 days from St. Ubes. Left several American vessels, among them was a New-York ship, loading for Mogadore.

Same day, the ship Neptune, Adams, in 4 days from Providence, (R. I.) Saw a schooner ashore on Long-Island. This is probably the schooner of which we have been advised, on shore at Fire Inlet.

Arrived yesterday, the new and fast-sailing ship Delaware, Beebe, in 36 days from Greenock, (having performed her voyage in a little more than three months.) Left the ship Fanny, Braine, in 25 days from New-York; the Favorite, Boag, in 33 days from do. Margaret, Miller, from do. and brig Lydia, from do. Spoke, going up to Greenock, the Aurora, from N. York. January 25, in lat. 39, 40, long. 61, ship Ann, of Greenock, 6 days from Portsmouth for Leghorn. February 8, in lat. 39, 45, long 65, ship Ann, Coit, 30 days from Hull for New-York.

Same day, the schooner Powder Point, Proctor, of Marblehead, in 27 days from Trinidad. Left, among others, the schooner John, Lovett, of Beverly, next day for Baltimore. The brig Maria Jane, Salter, from Portsmouth, for Demerara, having fallen to the leeward, put into Trinidad, the day before the Powder Point sailed. Markets very dull.

Same day, the brig Hound, Fuller, in 21 days from Curracoa. Left, ship Shepherdess, Tylee, to sail next day for New-York; brig Bulah Maria, Morris, of N. York; schooner Atalanta, Hasson, of do.; Dispatch, Jones, of do.; Volunteer, Bell, of do.; brig Joseph Hervey, Monteith, of Philadelphia; ———, Odlen, of do. Sailed in co. brig Tom, Carsen, for Wilmington, (N. C.) Spoke, off Cape-May, on Saturday, the sloop Admiral Duncan, from New-York, for New-Providence.

Same day, the brig Canton, Case, in 67 days from Malaga. Spoke, January 29, in lat. 32, long. 52, 11, brig Volunteer, Jenkins, 11 days from New-York, for Morocco. January 10, an English ship from Charleston, for London, supplied us with bread. February 6, a brig from Baltimore, for Lisbon.

Same day, the Spanish brig Mariner, Aubry, in 21 days from New Orleans, and 17 from the Belise. Passengers, Mr. Peterkin, Mr. White, Mr. Penson, captains Hill (of New-York) and Titcomb. Left ships Fame, Butler, of New York; Victory, Johnson, for sale or charter; Ulysses, Berkeley, for Bordeaux, under Spanish colors; Sterling, Prince, of Newburyport, for Liverpool; brig Mary, of Charleston, for Jamaica; ship Thomas Wilson, of Philadelphia, for freight or charter; brig George Clinton, Holden, of New-York, to sail in ten days, and brig Dyet, Sandford, of do. in 14 days; ship Orlando, Titcomb, of Newburyport, sold to the Spaniards, for Barcelona; ship Sarah, Crane, of Philadelphia, for sale or charter; sch'r Lydia, Patterson, of Charleston, for do.; sch'r Adventure, of and for Philadelphia; brig Malabar, of Baltimore, for Liverpool; sch'r Bilboa, of Philadelphia, just arrived from London; sch'r Musquito, Ripley, for sale or charter; ship Howard, of New-York, do.; schooners Eliza, White, for Havanna; Nancy, from Philadelphia for Natchez; brig Charlotte, Allen, of Philadelphia, for freight or charter; ship Mary of Boston, at Natchez, loading for Philadelphia or New-York; ship Eliza, Patch, of Newburyport, for charter. In the river, bound up, brig Moses Gill, Patterson, from New-York; ship Hiram, French, of New-York, from Jamaica; the Spanish ship Active, ——, from Havanna; the ship Mississippi, ——, from Bordeaux; and brig Sophia, of Philadelphia, from Jamaica. At Placquemine, a Philadelphia schooner. Spoke, February 3, in lat. 24, 30, long. 83, brig Hannah, of Boston, ten days from St. Anns, Jamaica, for Wilmington, N. Carolina. Last Wednesday, six leagues S. S. E. of Cape-Henry, the brig Comet, from New-York for Charleston.

Same day, the brig Venoni, Paton, of East Hudson, in 24 days from Surrinam. Left ship Rambler, Downs, of Boston, captain sick on shore; brigs Apollo, Beels, of do. ——, Bradford, of do. Ajax, Bunker, of Hudson; schr. James, Farris, of New-York, just sailed for Havanna; brig Thetis, Johnston, sailed for Demerara, February 24; brig Matilda, Lee, of Hartford, for do. do. with stock. Spoke, in Samborano passage, schr. George, Tinker, 26 days from Rhode-Island. February 4, in lat. 28, 8, long. 68, 30, sloop Experiment, Murry, from Tortola for New-York, had sprung her mast, and spars considerably shattered. Markets dull.

Same day, the schooner Agnes, Abbe, from Petersburg, and 54 hours from the Capes.

Same day, the brig Sophia, Haley, of Saybrook, in 12 days from Cape-Francois. The Sophia has been only 7 weeks from New-London.

Ship News—from London and Greenock papers, from the 10th of December, to January 5. [Those from the 21st to 28th wanting.] Arrivals, at Plymouth, December 7, brig Amiable Creole, West, of Philadelphia, from Liverpool for the Mississippi, having, in a gale off Cape Finistre, lost her main-mast by the deck, foretopmast and rudder. At Portsmouth, Herald, Robinson, Baltimore, put under quarantine. At Limerick, Sarah, Stewart, New-York. In the Texel, Mary, Miller, New-York; Hambden, Holden, Boston; Lexington, Smith, Baltimore. Passed Gravesend, December 14, ship Washington, Liddle, from New-York. At Liverpool, Samuel Elam, Noble, New-York; Warrington, Delano, Boston; Washington, Noyes, New-York. At the Clyde, Ruby, M'Pherson, Virginia; At Galway, William and Little John, Hill, Virginia. At Cork, Fly, Pierce, Baltimore; John Hunt, Portland; Betsy, Hall, from New-Orleans. At Belfast, Washington, Woodward, Philadelphia. The ship Two Maries, from New-York for Amsterdam, was lost near Bologne, Dec. 10. The fine new ship Jane & Agnes, from Charleston (S. C.) is lost on the coast of Ireland—was to have been coppered at Liverpool. The Diana, from Quebec, at Greenock, spoke, November 29, lat. 55, long. 20, Eliza, 60 days from Boston for Hamburg. The Argus, from Amsterdam, and New-York, Goss, from London, both for Virginia, put into Lisbon, with damage. The Fanny, Braine, from New-York, spoke a few days before she arrived, the ship Packet, from Boston for Liverpool. At Bordeaux, United States, Spence, from Liverpool. At Hoylake, the John & Alice, from Philadelphia.

Cleared, the brigs Stralsund, Schultz, Amsterdam; Dean, Ackerly, Savannah; Ceres, Cullen, Cadiz.

The ship Sally, ——, from Charleston, arrived at Liverpool the 14th December, in 29 days.