An interesting letter, of which the following is a copy written by a gentleman attached to the Congress Frigate, was designed for his Correspondent in this country; but as, from some circumstances, is supposed to have miscarried, it has since been obligingly communicated, by the writer,

To the Editor of the Watchman.

BUENOS AYRES, MARCH 11, 1818.

I came to this country prejudiced against the Spanish character. I took it for granted that a Spaniard here was much like a Spaniard every where else. A people born in tyranny, and educated in the slavish principles of the Roman Catholic religion, of whatever nation. I thought must be poorly qualified for understanding what was meant by freedom; and of course, would not be able, very soon, to establish any thing like a true representative, or democratic form of government. The result of the French and Spanish revolutions were both fresh in my recollection. It is true (having myself been educated a republican, I did come here with a belief that all men had equal rights; and even that, under the same circumstances, they were much the same kind of animals, whether derived from Catholic, Jew, Gentile or Mahomedan;—but judging from the events recorded in history, and having observed that political and religious habits of thinking, like certain diseases of the body, become hereditary and are cured with great difficulty, I could hardly flatter myself that the people of this country were yet in a condition to be governed by any thing but a despot, in some shape or other; although they had, from their own peculiar situation and the situation of affairs in Europe, declared themselves independent.

Since my arrival, I have been induced to change my opinion in favor of the people of this country, for various reasons, which can readily be stated, and which (as they are derived from plain and simple facts) are easily comprehended. To state them as briefly as possible, is the object of this letter.

In the first place, it is highly important to observe, that there has never been any other order of nobility permanently established here; nor has the influence of the clergy obtained such an ascendency as in the mother country. The difference, therefore, between a people thus circumstanced, and those from whom they are derived, must at once be obvious.—But they have been in a state of revolution for eight years. What was their situation prior to this revolution, compared with what it is now?

Before the revolution, the government was vested in the hands of a *Viceroy*, appointed by the monarch of Spain, whose powers were of course, absolute. Under the denomination of this *creature of majesty*, neither the person nor property of any individual was secure. *This despotic order of things is now no more.* A provisionary constitution has been framed which secures to the people the right of choosing from each province, delegates to represent them in a general Congress, or Convention. This Convention of Delegates elect from their own body an executive officer under the title of *Supreme Director* who remains in office during *good behaviour*, or rather, during the pleasure of the Congress. Such is the advance already made in the organization of a free government. The Congress act as a check upon the ambition of the *Director*, while its members are themselves influenced in their political conduct by the community at large, who elect them at stated periods.

Before the Revolution, there exsited an *Inquisitorial Power*; by which many a helpless victim of clerical vengeance was immured. From the arbitrary decisions of this ecclesiastical court there was no appeal, either in religious or political affairs. *Since this important Revolution*, the clergy from Old Spain have been removed, the authority of the Pope renounced, the Inquisition abolished, and religion left to stand upon its own foundation. All this has been gradually effected by the dawnings of religious and political light, without that effusion of blood, which disgraced every Revolutionary step of France.

Before the Revolution, there was no schools or seminaries of learning of any kind, except such as promoted the slavish views of the church, or the state with which it was connected. *Now the case is quite altered*—Public schools are established for the instruction of youth in general, in which are taught, besides the common rudiments of learning, *the principles of free government*, and the elements of military science. It is thus that the people are rapidly acquiring a correct knowledge of their inestimable rights—with the means of defending them.

Before the Revolution, the Clergy possessed the power of suppressing education in general. They sought for and seized all books which were judged inimical to their system of religion and politics, and exacting penalties from those with whom they were found. No individual or family was exempt from this odious examination; and all publications having a tendency to enlighten the mind or improve the understanding, were doomed to destruction. *Now*, literature in general is freely tolerated; Political writings are sought for, and read with avidity. The Constitution of the United States, along with the Constitutions of the individual States, and even the political writings of Thomas Paine, and others, are found in translation among them. The Clergy themselves are rendered useful in being placed at the head of literary institutions, where they promote the interests of the Revolution, by teaching the principles of free government, as well as the catechism.

Before the revolution, foreigners calculated to promote the best interests of society, were not allowed to settle in this country. *Now* merchants, mechanics, and tradesmen in general, from almost all parts of the civilized world may be seen in every street of *Buenos Ayres*. But few have located themselves beyond the confines of the capitol: although every encouragement is offered to them to do so. Land would be granted by the government to Agriculturalists; and much benefit would arise, not only to the great cause of *Agriculture*, but to the general interests of society, by this *most useful and virtuous part of any community*, availing themselves of the privileges held out to them.

Before the Revolution, slavery was tolerated throughout the provinces; *since* that period *thousands of the oppressed Africans have obtained their freedom*: provision is made for their *total emancipation*, and the barbarous traffic in human souls, which still disgraces the mother country, is at an end.

Such are a few of the most indisputable and prominent facts relative to the political situation of this part of South America. It is the only part I have seen in a state of revolution, and may perhaps, be considered as the most important. It will of course be seen that my observations apply only to those provinces on the southern and western side of the Rio de la Plata, which at present constitute the Buenos Ayrean government. It is one of the most populous, and may be one of the most enlightened of all the ancient dominions of Spain, either north or south the Equator. It claims at least a superior rank and consequence, from its having first shaken of the Spanish yoke and conducted all its revolutionary measures in a spirit of moderation which evinces a knowledge of rational liberty abstracted from that licentiousness, which spread ruin and desolation, and finally terminated in despotism, in one of the fairest and most populous portions of the old world. Chili, Peru, &c. &c. are following the example of Buenos Ayres. They are in a revolutionary state. *Chili* declared independent on the sixteenth of February last. The spontaneous effusion of joy which the news of this great event produced in the Buenos Ayreans, I have just witnessed. It was not the *illumination* of the Capitol with *artificial* light, *upon which a slavish multitude might gaze, uninterested in its object*, produced the best evidence of sincere rejoicing on this occasion: A brighter flame could be discerned illuminating the countenance of every individual and therefore evincing unfeigned regard, which one portion of a great community may be naturally supposed to feel for another, struggling in the same righteous cause, and assuming the same independent attitude †

But they have yet a government to establish, upon the principles of which their political happiness in future will depend. Already they are deliberating upon a constitution which is to be permanent—May wisdom guide their councils in this most important of all human concerns. Their independence has been solemnly declared & they will undoubtedly be able to maintain it while they continue in a state of union, even without the addition of the provinces on the eastern and northern side of the great Rio de la Plata, which belonged to the viceroyalty of Buenos Ayres under the royal government. These provinces are the Banda Oriental, Intre Rios, and Paraguay. The two former are under the dominion of *Artegas*, a refractory *Chief*, who refuses to send delegates to the general Congress, and appears to aim at a separate government: but professes to be a good republican—The latter is under the government of Don Gracia, who styles himself *Dictator* He *also* refuses to unite with the Buenos Ayreans; but likewise opposed to the royal government.—All the ports in the dominions of Artegas, are either blockaded by, or in possession of the Portuguese, with whom he is unable to contend. Hence the Buenos Ayreans suffer the encroachment of these foreigners, who have availed themselves of this unfortunate division of political interests to extend their dominions;—but, this state of things, it is to be hoped, will not continue long.

When we take into consideration the *events* of our struggle for independence and compare *them* with those of the Buenos Ayreans, the latter will not suffer by the comparison. Judging from what I have seen. I would say, that there is even less division in political sentiment among them than there was among us; nor are the annals of their revolution more stained with blood. They have not followed our *inconsistent* example in withholding freedom from a certain portion of the community, after declaring that *All men had equal rights!*

It is as much a matter of astonishment as regret, that we have remained so long unacquainted with our political brethren in the South; and particularly the Buenos Ayreans. It is equally remarkable through what contracted channels the little information we have received respecting them, has been derived. We have had no information of the *real state* of this interesting people; although we have had partizans of Carrera, partizans of Artegas, &c. &c. characters, who in their own country are of less importance in every point of view, than were our Arnolds or our Galloways, &c.

But the period, I hope has arrived, in which we shall cease to be deluded. It is high time for us to regard with the deepest interest, the situation of our brethern in the South. Our political salvation, is intimately blended with theirs. The monarchs of the old world have formed, what they impiously term, *holy league*, for the purpose of patching up, and preserving the ancient system of tyranny and priest craft. The free governments of the *New World* are the objects of their deadliest hatred. These ought also to unite in defence of every thing sacred. Such, I hope will be the views which our government will now take, and lose no more time in ACKNOWLEDGEING THE INDEPENDENCE of a people who have proved themselves as deserving as we were. This acknowledgement, instead of protracting the war, would be most likely to hasten its termination, and stop the effusion of blood. It might also have the happy effect of accelerating the establishment of the *representative forms of government* among them. They have been too long anxiously looking in vain for some token of our friendly regard; viewing, at the same time, our political institutions as the best models for imitation.

P. S. Since writing the above an official account has arrived of the total defeat of the Spanish army in Chili This great event, which has been achieved by San Martin, commander of the combined army of Buenos Ayres and Chili, is, I have no doubt, a prelude to the overthrow of royal power in Peru. Thus, I flatter myself, a final end will be speedily put to royal government on the western side of the Cordilleras.

I cannot conclude, without observing, how much this mission, and the public in general, will be benefited by the labors of H. H. Brackenridge, Esq His talents, industry, and complete knowledge of the Spanish language, have enabled him to amass a vast fund of the most interesting information, which I hope he will lose no time in making public.—— He was among the first of his countrymen, who began to entertain correct views of the South Americans; as his letters addressed to the President of the United States, before he visited Buenos Ayres, will testify.

† Having but a short time before been present at the acclamation of the King of Portugal &c. in Rio de Janeiro, and witnessed the illumination which followed I could not but be struck most forcibly with the difference in the objects and effects of these events! In the one, the chains of arbitrary power were but more firmly riveted, and the gapeing, ignorant multitude looked vacantly on, without interest or motive; while in the other the emancipation of hundreds of thousands from tyranny, was an object calculated to awaken, the noblest feelings of the soul.

FROM THE NATIONAL ADVOCATE.

PRECIOUS CONFESSION.

The proverb, however humble is no less true, that "it is a long lane that has no turn"—and however triumphant an opposition to principle and a righteous cause may be, the time will arrive when the parties will either repent in "sackcloth and ashes," or feel a deep regret at the errors they have pursued, and the injury arising from intemperate oppugnation. The course pursued by the federal party during our late war is too well known and too severely felt to require, at this time, any remarks—the most unkind & ungrateful returns have been made by the British; and whenever an occasion presented, they have stigmatised the federalists as a *faction*, which term, however appropriate, was still uncourteous and ungentlemanly.

A late work appeared in Canada, called "A History of the War;" &c. by a Mr. Chrystie, written with ability, and with as much candour as was to have been expected from an English historian. He speaks of the federal party as the *federal faction*, and Mr. Colemn, on Tuesday evening indignent at the outrageous insult, replies as follows:—

"It might have occurred to a man as well informed as he that if that *faction* had approved of the war, and conscientiously have lent their cordial heart & hand to carry it on, his boasted Canadas would hardly have opposed an effectual barrier to our arms: *we had only to have marched to their shores, and they would have been ours!!* Whether this is sober truth or only ridiculous gasconade, time, perhaps, will show."

Well done, Mr. Coleman, a precious confession, and made not a moment too soon. An English writer terms the federalists a *faction*—Mr. Coleman, on behalf of his party, scouts the phrase, and gives this ungrateful historian to know, that if the federalists had supported a war constitutionally declared and righteously waged, Canada would have been ours; and Mr. Coleman makes this declaration to prove that federalists *are not a faction*—that they *could* if they *would*, have taken Canada. Admirable sophistry. Alas! it is too true. Had this party been governed by patriotism and nobly met the inveterate foe of our country, the frowning battlements of Quebec, the thousand miles of territory, the vast regions now held on our continent, would have been ours—America would have been substantially free. Now the British turn to their passive allies with taunts and insults and speak of the Hartford Convention as they would speak of traitors. May it be a lesson for this party, whether disbanded or concentrated, and may they hereafter so comport themselves to their country as to despise alike the threats or sneers of foreign powers, and never forget that the soil of freedom cannot nourish a foe to principle, and that every man should cheerfully obey the call of country when constitutionally and justly made.

AUGUSTA, GEO. July 18.

We are informed by an officer of the late expedition, who was left at St. Marks, and who was present at the execution of Francis, that he had in possession when captured, a Rifle Gun, presented to him by the Prince Regent, and a tortoise snuff box set in gold, presented to him by the Queen of England; and also a commission of Brigadier General in the British service. These facts establish beyond doubt, the alliance and influence of England with the Indians under the jurisdiction of Spain. We have long known the influence the British have had in Floridas, as well with the Spanish authorities as the Indians—and that though they were nominally Spanish provinces, yet they were really more under the rule and influence of British agents than the cabinet of Spain.

This proceeded as much, and probably much more, from the inability of Ferdinand than from his acquiescence in or connivance at such measures as have been pursued by the agents of British merchants and trading companies and confirmed by the officers of Spain, particularly in Pensacola. The Spanish officers and soldiery in Florida have been generally worse paid than any other officers in the world. It is from this cause, that men who were disposed to act honorably and independently have been compelled to resign their offices and return home, or commence some other course of life to procure a sustenance: & none but those who have submitted to the baser means of subsisting by speculation and bribery, have been able to hold their offices; this gave occasion to a speculator in that country, to say, "every Spaniard has his price." The English agents saw this and made use of it.

It is from these causes that an agent of a British trading company,) and perhaps the government likewise) procured in 1812, from the governor Don Masot, permission to offer in his name through the medium of M'Queen and Opehola, a chief of the Tiellga Towns on the Alabama, a reward of 9 Dollars for each American Scalp that should be bro't by the Creek Indians to Pensacola. The English companies have found the trade of this section of the country profitable, and, the government have been led to believe that they might make the Creek nation of Indians and ally serviceable to themselves and formidable to the frontier settlers of the State of Georgia, Tennessee and the Mississippi Territory, and to effect this object they have spared neither pains nor expense, the latter from evidences that have come within our knowledge, we think may be moderately estimated at 100,000 dollars a year for the last seven years, and the necessities of the Spanish officers afforded them a ready and open door to effect this purpose.

Many of the officers and soldiers at Augustine have as much as fourteen years due them, and those at St. Marks, had some fifteen, 19—When that post was taken possession of by Gen. Jackson, those of Pensacola had been but little better paid, except by the British.

It is from these causes that the British have had such an unbounded influence in the Spanish Territories of Florida, and from the ease with which they could place the responsibility on the Spanish Authorities, they have used it in the basest manner to excite the Indians to acts of hostility against us: first from a persuasion that it was impracticable for us to march an army into the country—Secondly that if we should they would receive succour from the Spanish Fortresses on the coast, and that the Americans were a set of robbers who would plunder and extirpate them if in their power, and whom it was right for them to murder and rob at pleasure.

Sufficient evidences of Indian hostility were found in every village the army visited after leaving Fort Scott, and of the Agents of the British government having furnished them with the means of executing their hostile purposes; and the Spanish authorities at St. Marks, acknowledged having supplied them with arms, ammunition, provision and clothing.

The facts of Arbuthnot and Ambrister having excited them to acts of hostility, and having distributed money, ammunition, provision, arms & uniforms to them, were satisfactorily proved; and the philanthropy of Arbuthnot's heart was strongly pourtrayed in a letter to his son directing him to poison his clerk because he was becoming too popular with the Indians. *Chron.*

MILLEDGEVILLE, July 14.

Major Cutler of the southern army, who passed through this place a few days ago, informed us that the notorious chief Ou,ta,se,mic,co, or Micco,de,ca,e, who has been for some time past very active in exciting the Indians to hostility against the whites, was executed at Fort Gaines, on the 28th ult. by a party of the U,fau,la Indians. No murders or depredations have been committed on the frontiers, by the Indians, recently.—Major Dickins, with a detachment of about two hundred and fifty soldiers of the 4th regiment of infantry left Fort Hawkins on Wednesday last, for Pensacola, via Fort Gaines—We understand General Gaines has removed his head quarters to Fort Hawkins.

Reflector.

Seminoles.—Mr. Timothy Bernard in a letter to captain W. S. Mitchell, dated on the 4th inst. states that 4 red men had been sent up as a deputation from the Seminoles to sue for peace.—They say they have finally made up their minds to remain in peace with the white people, they hope the white people will remain so with them. The hostile Indians have assembled at Alotchewa & have nothing to subsist on but a few cattle. The Indians say that the whites on the frontier of this state have taken a great many of their cattle. *Ib.*

SPANISH OUTRAGE AGAIN.

Extract from the Log Book of the ship Caroline, Capt. Serrill, from Philadelphia, arrived at New Orleans.

Tuesday, 23 June, 1818—This day commences with strong gales and fine weather: at half past 11 P. M. with the Tortugas bearing E. S. E. thirty miles, fell in with a ship and two brigs Spanish.) I was asleep below; the second mate informed me there were three sail in sight, and I went on deck immediately; the brig nearest us fired a gun I hove to: he commenced firing shot at us; I took in the top-gallant sails, and let the topsails run down to the caps, hauled down the jib; he ranged us along side within 100 yards, and kept up a constant fire of grape, canister and musketry; I hailed him repeatedly, but received no answer, then hoisted a light, but it had no effect, he still kept up his fire, which cut away, the main top gallant back stays, mizen top gallant brace, main top bowline and jib haulyards; some shot struck her hull, 1 grape shot in the mizen top-mast which has wounded it badly, and several shots through the sails.

The night was clear, and the moon shining bright he could not but see that our ship had no sail on her. The ship to windward fired two guns, (I expect as a signal to him) he then ceased firing: I bore up under his lee; he ordered my boat out, and to repair on board immediately, which I did; he examined the ship's papers, enquired where from and where to, which I informed him. I then enquired the reason for his firing into us, but could get no satisfactory answers—informed him he had cut away considerable of my rigging; he said he wished he had cut my damned throat. He then informed me I was at liberty to proceed, and I left him.

JAMES SERRILL,
Master of the ship Caroline
of Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, July 28.

Extract of a letter from an officer of the Franklin, to a gentleman of the village of Sackett's-Harbor, brought to N. York in the U. S. ship Washington of 74 guns, Com. Chauncy which recently arrived in that port from the Mediterranean—Dated.

"U. S. ship Franklin 74, at sea
April 15 1818.

"DEAR SIR.

We sailed from Messina on the 4th. inst. and arrived of Tunis on the 6th. after some difficulty got into the harbor and anchored for a few hours—finished our business with the consul, the nature of it was, to forbid the boarding of American vessels by any of the Barbary powers; and sailed for Algiers—had a good passage until we came within sight of the town, when the wind increased and changed ahead, and continued so for two days, after which it became more favorable, and we got in the harbor and anchored within two miles of the town on the evening of the 12th. The consul came off to know our business, and after being informed by Mr. Shaler whom he brought with us from Messian, the boat returned to the town and was to come off in the morning, which she did punctually. The Dey's Counsul informed us, that the Bashaw or Dey, was willing to comply with any demand of this kind, and that he was favorably disposed towards the U. States; and further; that he had signed with his own hand, the articles of the treaty between them and the United States. As the Dey who made the treaty died of the plague the first of March last, this is something very uncommon; for on the accession of their new Deys severally, they do away with all the former laws and treaties.

"The plague is destroying fifty persons a day in Algiers, and all vessels from that coast are put under a rigorous quarantine for a length of time. We had a gale of wind when we left Algiers and had to beat out the harbor. The frigate United States lost her mizen top gallant mast without their being any sail upon it. We felt ourselves fortunate to get out of the harbor, for the wind was blowing directly in, and the land did not afford any shelter. We are now bound to Leghorn—all of us in good health—ship in fine order. We have been two days from Algiers—the wind has been ahead until to day. I must close, as the boat which is to bear the letter to the Washington is about shoving off."

Among the toasts drank at Worcester, Mass. on the fourth of July, was the following By Mr. Mann—The old United States—thirteen in number. Who can doubt their *union*, since they have had *seven children* added to their family, and have again spoken to the *nurse*.

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