THE UNION.

CITY OF WASHINGTON.

FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 29, 1845.

No despatches, as far as we are advised, have been received from the camp at Aransas, nor any later information concerning the movements of the Mexican troops.

A letter has been received in Washington, of the 20th, from General Gaines, at New Orleans, who states that the steamship Alabama was to depart on that evening with the two companies of New Orleans volunteers, and with four or five companies of the 7th infantry, for Corpus Christi. The general refers to the Picayune of that day, as giving, perhaps, the most accurate account of the public opinion in New Orleans concerning the prospects of war with Mexico. The Picayune, it must be confessed, sheds a very doubtful and glimmering light upon the prospects in the West. It treats the designs and the movements of the Mexicans rather as vague speculations than as positive and ascertained facts. The true maxim, under these circumstances, is, to be prepared for everything; or, as the Picayune says:

"BE YE READY!"—With *many persons* in this city it is the opinion that there will be no war with Mexico, *while others think there will be*; and there are those again who *seem to have no opinion about the matter, one way or the other*. Now, without *expressing any positive belief on the subject*, we confess we are of those who think it *is all-important to be prepared for an emergency—to be ready for the worst*; and hence we certainly approve of the military movements of the troops in this section of the country, and are pleased to see the spirit which animates our militia, and especially the volunteers of this city.

"There *may or may not* be a collision between General Taylor's command and the Mexican army, of whose numbered movements we have for so many days had accounts. This last named body of men, said to number some eight or ten thousand, *may* be advancing towards our troops—*those who doubt it do not know that it is not so*; and it is evident that they have had time at Vera Cruz, Matamoras, and other towns on the coast of Mexico, to hear of the concentration of our small body of forces at Corpus Christi. Besides, the course of Mexico, in not coming out at once, and promptly, with a declaration of war, while it was expected, and her gasconade and bravado about the United States, may all have been intended to mislead us as to her movements, while she was marching her troops to the Rio Grande. The Mexicans are far more noted for their craftiness and trickery than for open and plain-faced action, and in this instance, we say, she may have tried to "come it" over us a *la Elliott*.

"We have heard it said that the captain of the ship Queen Victoria, just returned from Aransas bay, gives it as his opinion, from what he saw while there, that there is need—and urgent need, too—of reinforcements to General Taylor's command. It is said that the people, or many of them at least, about Corpus Christi, (many of whom are Mexicans,) are in the confidence, if not in the pay, of the Mexican nation, and that they have sent intelligence of General Taylor's arrival, position, &c., to Matamoras. All this, we repeat, may be true or untrue; but we must maintain that it is all right and proper to be ready for whatever may turn up. How humiliating would it be to learn that, for want of confidence in the rumors we hear of the approach of ten thousand Mexican soldiers, our brave little army at Corpus Christi had been either surprised, routed, or cut to pieces!"

The "National Intelligencer" of this morning has an article upon the remarks and statements which we have made in relation to its own editorial, upon the "circular of the Secretary of the Treasury." Having much original matter on hand from the pens of our correspondents, which occupy a large portion of this evening's "Union," we are compelled to lay over till to-morrow evening the few strictures which the "National Intelligencer" calls forth. We shall expose the sophistries into which the "Intelligencer" has been betrayed. In the mean time, we must say it is very extraordinary, that in the very first position which it takes, the "Intelligencer" should have been guilty of a most palpable misconception or misrepresentation of our statement. It says, for example, that "the 'Union' does not contradict the allegation (and this is the part of minor importance) that the circulars, by whomsoever distributed, have been thus far placed only in the hands of those whose partisan politics were known." The "Intelligencer" makes this bold assertion, when the "Union" expressly stated, "upon the best authority, in reply to the article of the 'National Intelligencer,' that the assertions of the 'New York Tribune,' as to the alleged designs of the Treasury Department, are *just the reverse of the truth*;" that is to say, among the other things asserted, that "the circulars had been placed only in the hands of those whose partisan politics were known." The reader may judge, by this single specimen, of the way in which the "Intelligencer" "avoids one part of the matter," or rather misrepresents it—which is the true character of its whole article.

THE ANTI-RENTERS.

Silas Wright, esq., the governor of New York, has issued a proclamation concerning the rioters in Delaware county. He specifies the objects and character of their association; enumerates the violations of law and defiance of the constituted authority, of which they have been repeatedly guilty; states the number which is enrolled, and bound by a prescribed oath, as Indians, within the single county of Delaware, at 1,000 or more; and, in conformity with the act of April last, proclaims and declares the county of Delaware *to be in a state of insurrection*. The proclamation occupies near two columns of the "Albany Argus." "The series of violations of law, (says the Argus,) and combinations to resist and defy the execution of process, are set forth with great clearness and force—so much so, as to leave no reasonable doubt as to the justice and expediency of the course of the executive; indeed, to leave him no other alternative in the discharge of his high duties. The appeals, respectively, to the freemen of the State—to the tenants who disapprove of the disguised and armed force by which these violations of law have been perpetrated—to the proprietors or landlords of these leasehold estates—and, finally, to the disguised men themselves—come with equal truth and force; and cannot fail, we think, to sink deeply into the minds of all to whom they are addressed. We cannot but hope that they will be felt, and will produce results that will arrest these disorders, and bring back the region of insurrection to a condition of peace and order, and a full compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth. We do not doubt that vigorous acts will follow this proclamation. Adjutant-General Farrington proceeded yesterday afternoon in the steamboat, via Catskill, to Delhi, and will see personally that its requirements are promptly carried out."

Governor Wright concludes his proclamation in the following terms:

"For the sake of the character of our State, and of our people, as well as for the peace and prosperity and harmony of our society, I earnestly hope the day may not be distant when I may be called upon to discharge another and a far more pleasant duty, under a provision of the same law under which I now act, by revoking this proclamation.

"Yet the law must be enforced. Our institutions must be preserved. Anarchy and violence must be prevented. The lives of our citizens must be protected, and murder must be punished. And when that portion of our citizens who, now transported by passion, and led away by singular delusions, are ready to strike down the law and its ministers, shall become convinced that a different course is alike the part of wisdom and of duty, and shall again submit themselves to the laws of the State, then, and not before, can I expect to be permitted to perform that more pleasing duty."

The St Louis "Missourian" of the 19th instant, notices the article which we some time since addressed to its candid consideration, in very liberal terms. It explains the manner in which it had been betrayed into some error about our position, by the first article which we wrote in reply to the "Baltimore American;" declares it has "no wish to misrepresent the Union," and proceeds, in a very courteous and liberal manner, to remark: "We can assure the editor (of the Union) that Col. Benton's friends owe him no ill-will, but wish him every success; and also that perhaps they will stand by him, when others who have been more forward, and louder in their professions, will have fled. The assurance some time since given by the 'Union,' that the President would steer his administration by the political chart laid down by the Baltimore convention, has dissipated all the apprehensions entertained that there was a disposition to dodge certain questions then indicated."

DEMOCRACY OF THE 10TH AND 13TH WARDS OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The following are the animated resolutions which are referred to in the letter of our New York correspondent. We have no doubt that this spirit will pass through the land, like the fiery cross of Roderick Dhu:

SPONTANEOUS MEETING OF THE DEMOCRACY OF THE 10TH AND 13TH WARDS.—At an enthusiastic and spontaneous meeting of the democracy of the 10th and 13th wards, at Vandewater's 10th ward head-quarters, and in the Market square, on Monday evening, August 25th, the air resounding with the roar of cannon and the loud huzzas of the lion-hearted democracy of these gallant wards, in response to the glorious news of the triumph of the democracy of Tennessee, &c., Major Thomas K. Kellenger was called to preside, and Henry Vandewater, Daniel Ward, Charles K. Smith, and Charles Doty, vice presidents, Avery Greene and Augustus Purdy, secretaries. The following gentlemen were appointed to draught resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting: John D. Kellogg, Stephen H. Fecks, John Mulholland, Charles K. Smith, George D. O'Connell, and Robert Ricker. Mr. Kellogg, from the committee, reported the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the friends of popular freedom have just cause to congratulate themselves upon the rapid progress of their principles, not only within our own borders, but throughout the world.

Resolved, That amongst the measures which distinguish the times in which we live, and which, from its character, is calculated to arrest the attention of mankind, is that of the incorporation of Texas to the American Union—a question which the electors of this nation, after the most mature, and thorough discussion, have solemnly determined shall be consummated at all hazards, and at whatever sacrifices on their part; and that the unanimous concurrence of the government and people of that republic having been accorded, we, as a component part of the voters of the United States, are decidedly and firmly of the opinion that that question is morally settled and consummated; therefore

Resolved, That the military occupancy of that territory by the American army, under the direction of the President of the United States, meets with our hearty approval; and that, in the judgment of this meeting, the Executive has acted wisely in taking precautionary steps in thus bringing the whole military and naval power of the country to bear in protecting our commerce in the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, and checking any advances that might be made by Mexican troops, or the numerous tribes of Indians which inhabit the territory of Texas and the adjoining country.

Resolved, That should a resort to arms become necessary to establish the jurisdiction of the United States over a territory which has become hers upon the soundest and most approved principles of national law, we hereby pledge ourselves to act well our part; relying upon the justice of our cause, and the integrity and patriotism of our country-men, we fear not the issue, and should be greatly mistaken if it did not result in planting the standard of true liberty on the plains of Mexico, and thus break the chains of military tyrants which have so long bound down and oppressed the people of that country.

Resolved, That we hail with great pleasure the announcement, in the Washington *Union*, that the independent treasury system of collecting and disbursing the public moneys, is to constitute a leading measure of the administration of President Polk—a measure introduced by our own Van Buren, approved and sanctioned by the people; and is, as we believe, the only safe mode that can be adopted for the safety of the public treasury.

Resolved, That the declaration of the President of the United States, "that our claim to the whole of the territory of Oregon is clear and unquestionable," receives our enthusiastic response; and that we have entire confidence in the disposition of his cabinet ministers to accede to a policy thus boldly and fearlessly avowed. As regards either the foreign or domestic policy of the administration, we have a sure guarantee, in the person of the President's own high character, that it shall be in accordance with the most elevated principles of national honor and independence.

Resolved, That we congratulate the democracy of Tennessee upon their glorious victory over whiggery and federalism in the recent contest in that noble State; and while they have wiped out the stain cast upon them in the presidential campaign, they have alike conferred an honor on themselves and their State, in the election to the governor's chair of the Hon. A. V. Brown, the able and distinguished representative in the last Congress. We rejoice that the President's own State has come up to the support of his administration, and we take much pleasure in offering to him our most heartfelt congratulations.

Resolved, That we hail with more than ordinary pleasure the glad tidings of the reunion of the gallant State of Tennessee with that bright galaxy of democratic States who have been instrumental in electing to the presidency the immortal Jackson, who has now gone to take his seat with Washington, Jefferson, and Madison; and of the present eminent man who now adorns the chair once occupied by those illustrious men. Welcome, thrice welcome, say we, in behalf of the democracy of New York, to the lion-hearted democracy of Tennessee, who have so nobly taken their rank by our side.

Resolved, That we take pleasure in referring to the ability and sound policy which have thus far distinguished the administration of his excellency the governor of the State of New York; and that his great talents and judgment are acknowledged, and the strict fidelity with which he administers public affairs in all the departments of the government of our State, meets with our unqualified approbation.

Resolved, That the approaching fall election reminds us that we shall be called upon to vote *for or against* the convention to revise the constitution of the State; and that we unhesitatingly declare our determination to cast our suffrages FOR that measure.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the President, and to ex-President Van Buren, to Governor Brown, and to Governor Wright.

The meeting then adjourned to fire one hundred guns in honor of the Tennessee election, after having ordered the proceedings to be published in the Morning News and Evening Post.

THOMAS K. KELLINGER, President.

HENRY VANDEWATER, DANIEL WARD, CHARLES K. SMITH, CHARLES DOTY, } Vice Presidents.
AVERY GREENE, AUGUSTUS PURDY, } Secretaries.

UNITED STATES TROOPS IN TEXAS.

The paragraph under this head, copied into our paper of last evening, from the "Buffalo Commercial," is, we understand from good authority, incorrect. The Buffalo paper stated the probable force in Texas, as amounting to 3,000 only. The force ordered to, and *en route* for Texas, is in fact much greater. We stated a day or two ago, that in a short time it would probably amount to about 5,000 regulars—perhaps not quite as much; but probably, with the volunteers that may join it, more. Besides, if circumstances should require an augmentation in the opinion of General Taylor, he will readily increase it to a larger force. He knows that not only Louisiana, but Texas, the generous nurse of brave men and of heroic enterprise, are fully open to his immediate requisition.

The "New Orleans Bulletin," of the 22d instant, quotes an article from the "Vicksburg Whig," of the 12th, which states that "a gentleman, who has just arrived from Jackson, informs us that the Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, has required Governor Brown to make a draught of men, and have them ready for further orders. Our informant did not know what number the governor was required to call out." This is a mistake. No such requisition had been made. General Taylor is authorized, if necessary, to call for men from Mississippi, as well as from Louisiana, &c. But it is certain that no such call was made at the time specified, in any form whatsoever.

AMERICAN GENIUS.

A friend has favored us with the sight of an exceedingly interesting work. We are delighted with its execution, and deeply interested in the character of the artist. It is a republication of "*Catlin's North American Indian Portfolio of Hunting Scenes and Amusements of the Rocky Mountains and Prairies of America*," *by James Ackerman*—a young and enterprising artist of New York. We must allow him to explain his own object in his own striking language, as he does by his "preface," as follows:

"A young American artist ventures to challenge for his works that encouragement which has hitherto been ministered too sparingly to American productions. As a nation, we have so long been reproached with inability to produce pictorial embellishments equal to the European, that, although a mistaken, it has become a received opinion.

"The enthusiastic author of the London edition of this splendid and talented work has practically succumbed to the prevailing yet unjust prejudice, and has carried the results of his daring genius and enterprise to a foreign mart; sending from abroad, and from the hands of European artists, an American production in foreign habiliments, to be patronized in the author's own native land.

"The artist and publisher of the republication on this side of the water, evincing in this his enterprise of *American art*, an abiding confidence in the taste, judgment, and liberality of his countrymen, has ventured (with a mere change of dress) to offer a cheaper, and he trusts a better, edition than the costly London copy.

"Fully equal, or greatly superior, the critical justice of the country may decide it to be. Of this favorable result, hope may tell the artist 'a flattering tale;' yet he would plead enthusiasm, without which the life and spirit of all art dies. At all events, the greater cheapness of this edition is as unquestionable as that its purely 'American fabric' recommends it to patronage.

"In fact, the artist would contest the received opinion, that nothing pictorial can be executed in this country equal to the European productions; and would leave his countrymen to carry out the experiment, whether it be not that patronage is *alone* wanting to produce originals, or republications, equal, if not superior, to those of all Europe."

Bravely as is this challenge expressed, yet we must permit ourselves to believe that it is nobly redeemed. We have not had the opportunity of seeing the original English edition of Catlin's splendid work. All that we can judge from, (and we do not profess to be good judges,) is from the American copy; and we should suppose that every one who sees this, must be struck with the great beauty and superior finish both of the stone engraving and the coloring of the pictorial illustrations. We hold that encouragement is due to every such attempt, and we most cheerfully commend the publication to every American, as a book of singular interest.

At this moment, the scenes which it delineates are full of attraction; and it is fortunate for the present, as well as the future age, that the habits and customs of our fast-fading Indian tribes should find so many and such able artists *at hôtel*, to hand them down to posterity in such finished style of graphic beauty and fidelity. We have little hesitation in saying that young Ackerman stands in the front rank of those artists.

The American copy (a very large folio) is made up entirely of American materials. The paper is made in the United States; the book is handsomely bound in India-rubber backs. It is exclusively dedicated to American themes—the costumes of the Indians, their hunting of the buffaloes, the buffalo-dance, the bear-dance—with a variety of other plates—all lithographed by Ackerman, and all colored by himself, or by others under his own eye. But, above all, the artist is an American, a native of the State of New Jersey, and only twenty-four years old. It is scarcely ten years since he touched the magic pencil of the lithographic art. The first work to which he dedicated his labors, was a floral annual, in 1837. He has since contributed to various other works. We have now before us specimens of shrubs, flowers, and other objects of natural history, which are too beautiful to be described by our pen. We have heard of anecdotes of the success with which he has rivalled some of the most finished productions of the French pencil, which equally surprise, amuse, and interest us.

We are very much inclined to give further expression to our admiration of the taste and execution of this work; but we must leave it to speak for itself. We cannot doubt that the American public will award to the artist a high meed of praise, and, we trust, abundant patronage. The English edition costs $65, the American only $35.

A copy of the work may be seen at Wm. F. Baily's, stationer, &c., Pennsylvania avenue, between 11th and 12th streets. We once heard one of the wisest and best men we ever knew, (the late Bishop Moore, of Virginia,) say, with one of his most winning smiles, "If you wish to succeed, get the ladies on your side." We appeal to the ladies of Washington to see the work, and then they will patronize it.

General Scott returned to Washington on Thursday from West Point, to attend to the duties of his office. He was not aware, until his arrival, of the melancholy domestic blow which awaited him in the sudden and unexpected death of his eldest and accomplished daughter, Miss Virginia Scott, who died on Tuesday evening, in the convent at Georgetown, in the 24th year of her age. We sincerely sympathize in his loss. A very intimate friend of the family, who witnessed the offices of the church, has given us an affecting account of the funeral ceremonies, which took place before the General's arrival.

From the Baltimore Republican.

THE LAST WHIG FORGERY.

The "decency," "order and law" party, having published and put extensively in circulation, with all the solemnity and countenance of truth, a forged correspondence, by which they hoped to tarnish the fair fame of one of Freedom's most devoted disciples, and one of our country's most patriotic and bravest defenders, we publish the following, which not only nails the falsehood to the counter, but stamps upon its authors and industrious retailers a character not to be at all envied by those who look upon falsehood and slander in their proper light, or duly honor and cherish a proper respect for fair dealing, justice, and truth. Those who would attempt to tarnish the glory of a gallant soldier, would not stop long to give a shout of applause to his country's enemies. The letter is in answer to one addressed to "Old Tecumseh," by a Mr. James C. Brayman, of Buffalo, a particular friend of Colonel Johnson:

WHITE SULPHUR, KY., August 13, 1845.

DEAR SIR: I am under grateful obligations to you for your very kind letter, enclosing a correspondence signed Lewis Figg and R. M. Johnson—handing over to Figg the credit of killing Tecumseh, and wishing to know if the letter with my signature is genuine. The whole correspondence, purporting to have taken place between Lewis Figg and myself, is a base fabrication, and, as far as my signature is involved, a forgery. I have never known any such person as Lewis Figg—such a person was not in the regiment commanded by me at the battle of the Thames: and although this infamous contrivance originated some thirty or forty miles from my residence, yet I am now ignorant of the fact whether this Lewis Figg is a real or fictitious person. It is obvious, however, to my mind, that the man who has thus used my signature, would not scruple to use it, if it would answer his purpose, to any writing for which our penal code would consign him to confinement in the penitentiary. The moral guilt is as great in the one case as in the other—as the forged letter in my name represents me as acknowledging myself guilty of most dishonorable conduct respecting the death of Tecumseh.

No man has been more vilified, misrepresented, and abused, than myself, for at least forty years back; and no man has complained less, as I venerate that part of the federal constitution which protects the liberty of speech and the press, and thus unavoidably and necessarily shields the slanderer, as well as the honest, truthful, and independent man.

In fact, so far from complaining, generally, I have considered it no dishonor to be abused, misrepresented, and slandered by those who have descended to do it, but rather the reverse.

But here I am represented by rank forgery—by letter, with my own signature—misrepresenting the truth of an historical fact, and making me slander myself. This is a new mode of defamation, involving the crime, if not the penal guilt, of forgery—a crime which, in all civilized society, dooms the culprit to a severe and ignominious punishment; and in this case, the author of this new mode of slander, if known, would doom himself to the execration of all honorable men.

Most respectfully,
RH. M. JOHNSON.

JAS. O. BRAYMAN, esq., Buffalo, N. Y.

A NEW WORK ON TEXAS.—A most elaborate and valuable history of Texas, furnishing a graphic account of the natural resources of the country, and particularly her struggles for independence against the unrighteous aggression of Mexico, is about to be issued from the prolific press of those justly celebrated publishers, the Harpers. The work is from the pen of Gen. Thomas J. Green, who has been a resident of Texas for the last ten years; and, from our knowledge of the man, we do not believe it could have fallen into more able and appropriate hands. The general is a gentleman of education, and well qualified for the task; having explored the whole country, and in her darkest hours proved himself one of her most gallant defenders, he can, unlike too many "book makers," *speak of what came under his own observation*; thus rendering the work in question one of exceeding value, and what is greatly needed at this particular juncture. We understand that it will appear in a few days.

[*N. Y. Jeffersonian.*

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.—The United States government have, we learn, chartered the barque Phœnix, Captain Boush, now lying in this port, to transport troops from Old Point to Aransas bay, in Texas. In addition to the company of United States artillery ordered from Old Point, we have been informed that three other companies of the same corps have received orders to embark for Texas. The Phœnix dropped down James river last evening, and will go to sea from Hampton Roads in a few days.

[*Richmond Enquirer.*

☞ Democratic Association.—A stated meeting of the Democratic Association will be held at the Franklin Engine-house, on Monday evening next, at half-past seven o'clock.

By order, JAMES R. ADAMS, Secretary.
Aug. 29

COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.—This school will be re-opened in the new building on 4½ street, (between Pennsylvania avenue and C street,) on Monday, 1st September. Circulars containing terms, &c., may be had by applying to the principal at the school-rooms.

Aug. 28—2w C. W. FECKS, Principal.

OFFICIAL.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT.

JOHN F. STEELE, of Pennsylvania, purser, in place of Thomas E. Norris, of Maryland, resigned.

A clerical error having occurred in the following letter, which appeared in last evening's "Union," we republish the same in a corrected form:

TEXAS MAILS.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, August 25, 1845.

Ordered, That mails be duly made up at New Orleans and Mobile, and transmitted, by the steamboats and other vessels in the service of the government, from those ports to Galveston and Corpus Christi, in Texas, as often as said boats or vessels shall perform trips to those places. Said mails will be placed under the iron mail-lock, and keys for said lock will be furnished by said postmasters to the postmaster of Galveston, and to the captains of said steamboats or other vessels; also, spare mail-bags.

The postmasters of New Orleans and Mobile will keep a separate account with the postmaster of Galveston, of all unpaid postage on mail-matter sent for delivery at that place. They will keep a separate account with each captain for like postage on all unpaid matter sent by him to Corpus Christi, or any place to which he may sail other than Galveston. The postmaster of Galveston will collect, account for, and pay over to the postmaster of New Orleans, or Mobile, (as the case may be,) all postages on mail-matter delivered by him, not prepaid. And the several captains aforesaid will, in like manner, collect, account for, and pay over, where they deliver the letters, &c.; which delivery they are to make at all places at which they touch other than Galveston.

Return mails will be made up and forwarded by the postmaster of Galveston; and mail-matter from Corpus Christi and other places, will be received and brought by the captains aforesaid; which mails and mail-matter will be delivered into the post office of New Orleans, or Mobile, as the case may be.

(Signed,) C. JOHNSON, Postmaster General.

EDITOR'S CORRESPONDENCE.

[From our regular correspondent.]

ST. LOUIS, Mo. Aug. 19, 1845.

One of the most interesting sections of the North American continent is the basin of the Upper Mississippi, being, as it is, greatly diversified by soil, climate, natural productions, &c. It embraces mineral lands of great extent and value, with immense tracts of good timber, and large and fertile bodies of farming land. This basin is separated by elevated land to the northeast, which divides the head-waters of rivers emptying into the Mississippi from those that flow into the lakes Superior and Michigan, Green Bay, &c. To the north and northwest, it is separated near the head of the Mississippi, by high ground, from the watercourses which flow towards Hudson's bay. To the west, this extensive basin is divided from the waters of the Missouri by immense tracts of elevated plateau, or prairie land, called by the early French voyageurs "*Coteau des Prairies*," signifying "prairie coast," from the resemblance the high prairies, seen at a great distance, bear to the coast of some vast sea or lake. To the south, the basin of the Upper Mississippi terminates at the junction of the Mississippi with the Des Moines river.

The portion of the valley of the Mississippi thus described, if reduced to a square form, would measure about 1,000 miles each way, with St. Anthony's falls near the centre.

For a long time this portion of the country remained unexplored, except by scattered parties of Canadian fur-traders, &c. Its physical and topographical geography, with some notions of its geology, have, as it were, but recently attracted attention.

Father Hennepin was no doubt the first white man who visited St. Anthony's falls. In reaching them, however, he passed the mouth of St. Peter's river, a short distance below, without noticing it, or being aware of its existence. This was caused by the situation of an island found in the Mississippi, directly in front of the mouth of St. Peter's, which, in a measure, conceals it from view.

After passing the falls, Father Hennepin continued to ascend the Mississippi to the St. Francis river, but went no higher.

In the year 1766, three years after the fall of Canada, Captain Jonathan Carver, who had taken an active part as an officer in the English service, and was at the surrender of Fort William Henry, where (he says) 1,500 English troops were massacred by the Indians, (he himself narrowly escaping with his life,) prepared for a tour among the Indian tribes inhabiting the shores of the upper lakes and the upper valley of the Mississippi. He left Boston in June of the year stated, and, proceeding by way of Albany and Niagara, reached Mackinac, where he fitted out for the prosecution of his journey to the banks of the Mississippi.

From Mackinac, he went to Green Bay; ascended the Fox river to the country of the Winnebago Indians; from thence, crossing some portages, and passing through Lake Winnebago, he descended the Wisconsin river to the Mississippi river; crossing which, he came to a halt at Prairie du Chien, in the country of the Sioux Indians. At that early day, this was an important trading-post between French traders and the Indians. Carver says: "It contains about three hundred families; the houses are well built, after the Indian manner, and well situated, on a very rich soil, from which they raise every necessary of life in great abundance. This town is the great mart whence all the adjacent tribes—even those who inhabit the most remote branches of the Mississippi—annually assemble about the latter end of May, bringing with them their furs to dispose of to the traders." Carver also noticed that the people living here had some good horses.

Prairie du Chien continues to be a place of some note, though, from its present appearance, it is not much larger than it was at the time of Carver's visit.

The fur-trade, which at one time centred here, and gave it much consequence, has been removed to St. Peter's river. Indeed, this trade, which formerly gave employment to so many agents, traders, trappers, &c., conferring wealth upon those prosecuting it, is rapidly declining on this continent; in producing which, several causes conspire. The first is, the animals caught for their furs have greatly diminished; and the second is, that competition in the trade has become more extensive and formidable, increasing as the white settlements continue to be pushed out to the West.

At Prairie du Chien is still seen the large stone warehouse erected by John Jacob Astor, at a time when he ruled the trade, and realized immense profits by the business. The United States have a snug garrison at this place, which imparts more or less animation to the scene. It stands on an extensive and rather low plain, with high hills in the rear, running parallel with the Mississippi.

The house in which Carver lodged, when he visited this place, is still pointed out. There are some men living at this post, whose grandfather acted as interpreter to Carver. The Sioux Indians, whom Carver calls in his journal "the Nadowessies," which is the Chippewa appellation for this tribe of Indians, keep up the tradition of Carver's visit among them. The inhabitants, descendants of the first settlers at Prairie du Chien, now living at this place, firmly believe in the truth of the gift of land made to Carver by the Sioux Indians.

From this point Carver visited St. Anthony's falls, which he describes with great accuracy and fidelity, accompanying his description with a sketch of them.

From St Anthony's falls, he continued to ascend the Mississippi till he reached, late in the season, the mouth of St. Francis river; when, returning from which, he repassed the falls, and entered the mouth of the St. Peter's, up which he ascended to an extensive Sioux village, where he wintered with them. The following spring he returned to the Mississippi with the Sioux, accompanying them to an extensive cave not far below the falls; to which point this tribe of Indians conveyed their dead to be buried. This cave now goes by the name of "Carver's cave." Mr. J. N. Nicollet visited it, and has given a description of it in his valuable *Report on the Upper Basin of the Upper Mississippi*."

From the Mississippi river Carver crossed over to the Chippewa river; up which he ascended to its source, and then crossed a portage to the head of the Bois Brulé, which he called "Goddard's river." Descending this latter stream to Lake Superior, he travelled around the entire northern shore of that lake from west to east, and accurately described the general appearance of the country, including notices of the existence of the copper rock on the Ontonagon, with copper-mineral ores at points along the northeastern shore of the lake, &c.

He finally reached the Sault St. Marie, where he found a French Indian trader, (Monsieur Cadot,) who had built a stockade fort to protect him in his trade with the Indians.

Descendants of this Monsieur Cadot are still living at the Sault and at *La Pointe*. We met one of them returning to the latter place, in the St. Croix river, as we were descending it. They, no doubt, inherit strong claims to land at the falls of the St. Mary's river, which must ere long prove valuable to them, if properly prosecuted.

From the Sault St. Marie, Carver went to Mackinac, then garrisoned by the English, where he spent the winter. The following year he reached Boston, having been absent about two years.

From Boston he sailed for England, with a view of publishing his travels, and securing his titles to the present of land the Sioux Indians had made him, and which it is alleged the English government pledged itself to confirm, through the command of the King, in whose presence the conveyance made to Carver by the Sioux Indians was read. He not only signified his approval of the grant, but promised to fit out an expedition with vessels to sail to New Orleans, with the necessary men, &c., which Captain Carver was to head, and proceed from thence to the site of his grant, to take possession of it, by settling his people on it. The breaking out of the American revolution suspended this contemplated expedition.

Captain Carver died poor, in London, in the year 1780, leaving two sons and five daughters. I consider his description of the Indians among whom he travelled, detailing their customs, manners, and religion, the best that has ever been published.

In this *opinion* I am sustained by others, and especially by old Mr. Duncan Graham, whom I met on the Upper Mississippi. He has lived among the Indians ever since the year 1783. He is now between 70 and 80 years old. He told me Carver's book contained the best account of the customs and manners of the Indians he had ever read.

His valuable work is nearly out of print, it being rather difficult to obtain a copy. It went through three editions in London. Carver dedicated it to Sir Joseph Banks, president of the Royal Society. Almost every writer on the Indians and Indian character, since Carver's time, has made extensive plagiarisms from his book, without the least sort of acknowledgment. I could name a number of authors who have availed themselves of Carver's writings, without acknowledgment; but as they are still living, I do not wish to wound the feelings of themselves or friends.

One of the writers alluded to, gravely puts forth, as a speculation of his own, the suggestion that the Winnebagoes, and some other tribes of Indians now residing at the north, had, in former times, resided far to the south, and fled north from the wars and persecutions of the bloodthirsty Spaniards; that this opinion was strengthened from the fact, that the Winnebagoes retained traditions of their northern flight, and of the subsequent excursions of their war parties across the plains towards New Mexico, where, meeting with Spaniards, they had in one instance surprised and defeated a large force of them, who were travelling on horseback.

Now this whole idea originated with Carver; yet Mr. —— has, without hesitation, adopted it as a thought or discovery of his own!

The next Englishman who visited the northwest, and explored the shores of Lake Superior, was Mr. Henry, who departed from Montreal, and reached Mackinac through Lake Huron, in a batteau laden with some goods. His travels commenced, I believe, about 1773-'4, and ended about 1776-'7. Mr. Henry's explorations were conducted almost entirely with the view of opening a profitable trade with the Indians. He happened in the country while the Indians retained a strong predilection in favor of the French, and strong prejudices against the English. It being about the period of the Pontiac war, he had some hazardous adventures among the Indians, and came near losing his life. He continued, however, to prosecute his trade with the Indians, to the north and west of Lake Superior. Making voyages along the shores of this lake, he became favorably impressed with the mineral appearances of the country. Finding frequently, through his voyageurs, or by personal inspections, rich specimens of copper ore, or of the metal in its native state, he ultimately succeeded in obtaining a charter from the English government, in conjunction with some men of wealth and respectability in London, for working the mines on Lake Superior. The company, after making an ineffectual attempt to reach a copper vein, through clay, near the Ontonagon, the work was abandoned, and was not afterwards revived.

General Cass, with Colonel Allen, &c., were the next persons to pass up the southern coast of Lake Superior; and, in going to the west and northwest of the lake, they travelled through Indian tribes in search of the head of the Mississippi river. Their travels and discoveries are well known to the public, and proved highly interesting.

Mr. Schoolcraft's travels, pretty much over the same ground, have also been given to the public; as also the expedition of General Pike on the Upper Mississippi.

More lately, the basin of the Upper Mississippi has received a further and more minute examination under the explorations directed by Major Long, in his two expeditions authorized by government.

Lastly, Mr. J. N. Nicollet, a French savan, travelling for some years through the United States with scientific objects in view, made an extensive examination of the basin of the Upper Mississippi.

He ascended the Missouri river to the Council Bluffs; where, arranging his necessary outfit of men, horses, provisions, &c., (being supplied with good instruments for making necessary observations,) he stretched across a vast tract of country to the extreme head-waters of the St. Peter's, determining, as he went, the heights of places above the ocean, the latitude and longitude of certain points, with magnetic variations. He reached the high land dividing the waters of the St. Peter's from those of the Red river of the North. He descended the St. Peter's to its mouth; examined the position and geology of St. Anthony's falls, and then ascended the same river as high as the Crow-wing river. The secondary rock observed below the falls, changes for greenstone, sienite, &c., with erratic boulders. On the east side of the river, a little below Pikwabik, is a large mass of sienitic rock with flesh-colored feldspar, extending a mile in length, half a mile in width, and 80 feet high. This is called the Little Rock. Higher up, on the same side, at the foot of the Knife rapids, there are sources that transport a very fine, brilliant, and bluish sand, accompanied by a soft and unctuous matter. This appears to be the result of the decomposition of a steachist, probably interposed between the sienitic rocks mentioned. The same thing is observed at the mouths of the *Wabezi* and Omoahkos rivers.

Ascending the Crow-wing river a short distance, Mr. Nicollet turned up Gull river, and proceeded as far as Pine river, taking White Fish lake in his way; and again ascended the east fork of Pine river, and reached Little Bay river, which he descended over rapids, &c., to Leech lake, where he spent some days in making astronomical observations, &c. From Leech lake, he proceeded, through small streams and lakes, to that in which the Mississippi heads, called *Itasca*. Having made all necessary observations at this point, he set out on his return down the Mississippi; and finally, reaching Fort Snelling at St. Peter's, he spent the winter there.

Lake Itasca, in which the Mississippi heads, Mr. Nicollet found to be about 1,500 feet above the level of the ocean, and lying in lat. about 47° 10' north, and in lon. 95° west of Greenwich.

This vast basin of the Upper Mississippi forms a most interesting and valuable portion of the North American continent. From the number of its running streams and fresh-water lakes, and its high latitude, it cannot fail to prove a healthy residence for its future population.

It also contains the most extensive body of pine timber to be found in the entire valley of the Mississippi, and from which the country extending from near St. Anthony's falls to St. Louis, for a considerable distance on each side of the river, and up many of its tributaries, must draw supplies of lumber for building purposes.

In addition to these advantages, the upper basin is rich in mines of lead and copper; and it is not improbable that silver may also be found. Its agricultural resources are also very great. Much of the land is most beautifully situated, and fertile in a high degree. The climate is milder than that found on the same parallel of latitude east of the Alleghany mountains. Mr. Nicollet fixes the mean temperature at Itasca lake at 43° to 44°; and at St. Peter's, near St. Anthony's falls, at 45° to 46°.

Every part of this great basin that is arable will produce good wheat, potatoes, rye, oats, Indian corn to some extent, fine grasses, fruits, garden vegetables, &c. There is no part of the Mississippi river flanked by such bold and picturesque ranges of hills, with flattened, broad summits, as are seen extending from St. Anthony's falls down to Prairie du Chien, including those highlands bordering Lake Pepin, &c. Among the cliffs of sandstone jutting out into perpendicular bluffs near the river, (being frequently over 100 feet high,) is seen one called the *Maiden's rock*. It is said an Indian chief wished to force his daughter to marry another chief, while her affections were placed on another Indian; and that, rather than yield to her father's wishes, she cast herself over this tall precipice, and met an instant death. On hearing of which, her real lover, it is said, also committed suicide. Self-destruction is very rare among the Indians; and we imagine, when it does occur, it must be produced by the strongest kind of influence over their passions. Mental alienation, if not entirely unknown among them, must be exceedingly rare. I have no recollection of ever having heard of a solitary case.

From St. Anthony's falls to St. Louis is 900 miles. The only impediment to the regular navigation of the river by steamboats, is experienced during low water at the upper and lower rapids.

The first are about 14 miles long, with a descent of only about 25 feet. The lower rapids are 11 miles long, with a descent of 24 feet. In each case, the water falls over beds of mountain or carboniferous limestone, which it has worn into irregular and crooked channels. By a moderate expenditure of money on the part of the general government, which ought to be made as early as practicable, these rapids could be permanently opened to the passage of boats. As it is at present, boats, in passing the rapids at low water, and especially the lower rapids, have to employ barges and keel-boats to lighten them over, at very great expense.

From the rapid settlement of the country above, with the increasing trade in lumber and lead, the business on the Upper Mississippi is augmenting at a prodigious rate. When the river is sufficiently high to afford no obstruction on the lower rapids, not less than some 20 or 30 boats run regularly between Galena and St. Louis—the distance being 500 miles. Besides these, two or three steam packets run regularly to St. Anthony's falls, or to St. Peter's, near the foot of them. Every year will add greatly to the number of these boats. Other fine large and well-found packets run from St. Louis to *Keokuk*, at the foot of the lower rapids, four miles below which the Des Moines river enters the Mississippi river. It is the opinion of Mr. Nicollet, that this river can be opened, by some slight improvements, for 100 miles above its mouth. It is said the extensive body of land lying between the Des Moines and the Mississippi, and running for a long distance parallel with the left bank of the latter, contains the most lovely, rich, and beautiful land to be found on the continent, if not in the world. It is already pretty thickly settled. Splendid crops of wheat and corn have been raised on farms opened upon it, the present year. Much of the former we found had already arrived