COMMUNICATION.

FACTS vs. FICTION.

Messrs. Editors: Supposing that you must be nearly tired of setting the "Union" right in regard to its facts, especially those connected with the present disastrous war, allow one of your correspondents to make a brief quotation from that paper of Monday night, in order to cite in opposition to its statements some of the facts, as they have heretofore been officially published in the "Union," though its Editor now seems to have entirely forgotten them. In the paper mentioned it is said:

"Mexico did not confine her pretensions to ownership to the country between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, *but she wished to embrace all Texas*, AND TO DRIVE US BACK (with the aid, as she vainly imagined, of her combinations with foreign Powers) TO THE STATE LINE OF LOUISIANA. *If she had desired to diplomatize for a particular boundary*, she had an opportunity to do so with our Minister before our troops were removed from Corpus Christi. But she REFUSED to submit or entertain propositions because we had annexed Texas. IT WAS AVOWEDLY FOR THE WHOLE OF TEXAS that she commenced the war—not for the part of it on the left bank and adjacent to the Rio Grande."—*Union of Monday night.*

THE FACT is notorious that Mexico, through her Secretary of Foreign Affairs, plainly expressed a disposition to negotiate concerning Texas, but that the negotiation was frustrated because our Government persisted in its demand that Mr. SLIDELL should be received in the capacity of a full Minister, instead of as a *special* Minister. As regarded Texas, the language of the Mexican Secretary was:

"That, although the [Mexican] nation is gravely offended by that of the United States, by reason of the acts committed by the latter towards the Department of Texas, the property of the former, *my Government is disposed to receive the Commissioner* who may come from the United States to this capital with full powers from his Government TO ARRANGE, *in a pacific, reasonable, and decorous manner*, THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY," &c.

By this it will be seen (again using the language of the Mexican Secretary) "that the Mexican Government offered 'to admit the plenipotentiary or commissioner who should 'come clothed with special powers *to treat upon the question 'of Texas.*' But a mere point of etiquette was permitted by our Diplomatic Agent to prevent his reception by the Mexican Government, which contended that it could not, with propriety, in the then existing relations of the two countries, receive an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

"Upon this point," the Mexican Minister said, "the resolve of the Mexican Government is immutable." "A lover of peace, she would wish to ward off the sad contingency [of war;] and, without fearing war, she would desire to *avoid so great a calamity for both countries. For this she has offered herself*, AND WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER HERSELF *open to all honorable means of reconciliation*, and she *anxiously desires* that the present controversy may terminate in a reasonable and decorous manner. In the actual state of things, to say that Mexico maintains a position of quasi-hostility with respect to the United States is to add a new offence to her previous injuries. Her attitude is one of defence, because she sees herself unjustly attacked—because a portion of her territory is occupied by the forces of a nation, intent, without any right whatever, to possess itself of it; because her ports are threatened by the squadrons of the same Power. Under such circumstances, is she to remain inactive, without taking measures suited to so vigorous an emergency?" "If war should finally become inevitable," "the responsibility will not fall upon Mexico," who "*has shown herself disposed to admit propositions for conciliation*," &c. "Upon the United States, and not upon Mexico, it devolves to determine in the alternative presented by Mr. Slidell—that is, between *a friendly negotiation* and an open rupture."

For these sentiments and expressions of a willingness on the part of Mexico to negotiate concerning Texas, the Editor of the "Union" is referred to the letter of the Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, under date of March 12th, 1846, addressed to Mr. SLIDELL before his departure from that Republic.

But, again: On his way to the Rio Grande, Gen. TAYLOR was met by a small Mexican force, who warned him to return. The Prefect of Tamaulipas, with some Mexican citizens, waited on him near Point Isabel, and protested against his invasion of their country. At Matamoros the Mexican General, AMPUDIA, addressed him a letter, in which he said:

"By EXPLICIT AND DEFINITE ORDERS OF MY GOVERNMENT, which neither can, will, nor should receive new outrages, I require you in all form, and at latest in the peremptory term of twenty-four hours, to break up your camp and retire to the other bank of the Nueces river, *while our Governments are regulating the pending question in relation to Texas.* If you insist in remaining upon the SOIL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TAMAULIPAS, *it will clearly result that arms, and arms alone*, must decide the question."

And it will also be recollected that Gen. WORTH had an interview about the same time with Gen. LA VEGA, from the notes of which the following is copied:

"General La Vega then stated that he had been directed to receive such communications as General Worth might present from his commanding General, going on to say 'that the march of the United States troops through a part of the *Mexican territory (Tamaulipas) was an act of war.*' Gen. Worth asked, 'Has Mexico declared war against the United States?' Gen. La Vega: 'No.' Gen. Worth: 'Are the two countries still at peace?' Gen. La Vega: 'Yes.' General La Vega asked, 'Is it the intention of General Taylor to remain with his army on the left bank of the Rio Grande?' General Worth: 'Most assuredly; and there remain until directed otherwise by his Government.' Gen La Vega remarked: 'We felt indignation at seeing the American flag placed *on the Rio Grande, a portion of the Mexican territory.*'"

The above are some of the official proofs, which the Editor of the "Union" may find in his own files, going to refute the fiction that Mexico refused to entertain propositions for negotiation, *because* we had annexed Texas; and that she required the United States to yield up *the whole* of Texas, and *avowedly* made war for its recovery. Had the march of our army to the Rio Grande not been ordered, the war might have been avoided. It was the taking possession of what was at best, so far as we are concerned, *disputed territory*, and what the Mexicans insisted was *their* State of Tamaulipas, that began the war. The State or Territory conquered from Mexico by Texas did not extend to the territory thus occupied, except on paper; and there is good authority for believing that this claim was made by the Texan legislators solely with a view of having a large margin for negotiation with Mexico. This was asserted in the Senate by Mr. ASHLEY, of Arkansas, when the propositions for annexation were under consideration. Referring to one which provided that the United States should be authorized to adjust and settle all questions of boundary that might arise with other countries, he said:

"The third [proposition] speaks for itself, and enables the United States to settle the boundary between Mexico and the United States properly. And I will here add, that the present boundaries, I learn from Judge Ellis, the President of the Convention that formed the Constitution of Texas, and also a member of the first Legislature under that Constitution, were fixed as they now are [that is, to the Rio Grande] *solely and professedly with a view of having a large margin in the negotiation with Mexico*, and not with the expectation of retaining them as they now exist on her statute-book."

W.

LAUDABLE PUBLIC SPIRIT.

FROM THE PITTSBURG GAZETTE.

We understand that the committee appointed to select a site for the erection of *the Western Pennsylvania Hospital*, have concluded, after a mature examination of the different localities offered, to purchase the property belonging to James S. Craft, Esq., adjoining his beautiful seat on the Manongahela, about a mile from the city of Pittsburg. Mr. Craft offers as a donation, with the purchase, five acres of ground, which is a very liberal gift both to the Hospital and the public.

Since writing the above, we are informed that the Hon. HARMAR DENNY has presented as a donation to the Hospital Association of this city eleven acres of ground, valued at $10,000 at the lowest estimate. This is a munificent bequest, and reflects the highest honor upon that gentleman.

It has been said by one of great wisdom that the greatest pleasure wealth affords is to aid in the promotion of objects calculated to benefit worthy individuals around us, as well as the whole race. And what charity so noble as that of a public hospital—an asylum for the bruised, the sick, and the maimed of all kindreds and tongues—a place of rest, where the afflicted, without money and without price, in rags, and with no passport but sorrow and disease, is kindly attended and judiciously administered to, until fit once more to take his place in society.

The warm and heartfelt thanks of this whole community, as well as of the well wishers of our race, are due to Mr. DENNY for this liberal donation.

THE TEXAS TREATY.

FROM THE RICHMOND WHIG OF JUNE 17.

It always affords us pleasure to correct any error into which we may have been betrayed, and to repair any act of injustice, when apprized of it in a proper manner, of which we may have been unintentionally guilty. We therefore hasten to lay before our readers the subjoined letter, from Capt. GEORGE P. UPSHUR, of the United States Navy, in reference to the statement made by us, some days ago, and of the truth of which we had not the slightest doubt at the time, that his brother, Judge UPSHUR, when, as Secretary of State, he arranged the preliminaries of the treaty of annexation with the Government of Texas, held a large proprietary interest in its soil. The correction of that statement will have a tendency to disabuse the minds of others as well as ourselves, as we happen to know that we were not alone in entertaining the opinion, so confidently, but, as it now appears, so erroneously expressed.

It is perhaps due to J. H. GILMER, Esq. to say, that, when our first article on this subject appeared, believing it to be susceptible of a construction unfavorable to the personal honor of his deceased brother, (Gov. GILMER,) he addressed us a note, inquiring whether we *intended* any imputation upon his integrity. Of course, having no such intention, we so said to him, and proffered so to say to the public, as we did in our explanatory remarks the next day. Our design, as we stated, was to meet an assertion of Ex-President TYLER by a fact which seemed to us to be in conflict with it, and not to deduce from that fact inferences unfavorable to the integrity of either of the gentlemen, named or unnamed, to whom it had reference:

U. S. NAVAL SCHOOL,
ANNAPOLIS, (MD.) JUNE 12, 1847.

GENTLEMEN: Through the kindness of a friend, I am placed in possession of two slips from the Richmond Whig of the 7th and 8th instant, in which, upon the authority of rumor alone, it is asserted that my deceased brother, Judge UPSHUR, and the late lamented Governor GILMER were large landholders in Texas, at the time of her annexation to the United States.

In whatever terms I might otherwise have been disposed to comment upon the first of these publications, (based upon such slender authority, and calculated to sully the fair fame of the honorable dead, whose ashes have hitherto been permitted to repose in peace,) I am now restrained by the explanation contained in the second, and by a passage in the letter of my friend, in which (at your request) he assures me that "it would give you pleasure to make any explanation deemed necessary on a statement of facts." Upon the strength of this assurance, I offer you the following statement of facts, which, of my own knowledge, I assert to be *strictly* and *literally* true in every particular:

First, I assert that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, my deceased brother, the late Judge Upshur, never in his life owned one foot of land or other property in Texas, and that the report of his being a large property holder, or a property-holder at all, in that State, is not only utterly false in itself, but altogether without the shadow of foundation in truth.

2d. I believe that he never sought to own, nor desired to own, property of any kind in Texas.

3d. As his only surviving brother and confidential friend, I was well acquainted with his private business transactions, and have no knowledge that he ever owned property of any kind located elsewhere than in the State of Virginia, excepting only a small and valueless piece of land in one of our Western States, to which no valid title was ever obtained.

4th. That he often said to me, prior to my departure for Asia in the spring of 1843, while he was Secretary of the Navy, and several times during the few days I was permitted to spend with him after my return, (when Secretary of State, and within a day or two of his death,) that his sole object in desiring and advocating the annexation of Texas was the promotion of what he believed to be the best interests of his own country.

As some slight apology for the unjust and injurious rumor upon which the publication in the Whig is based, it may not be amiss to state the following facts, to wit:

That, in 1837 or 1838, my brother, myself, and a mutual friend placed a sum of money in the hands of an agent to purchase lands for us in Mississippi. Some time thereafter the agent reported, by letter, that he had made the investment as directed, but never forwarded to us the title papers or other evidence that we possessed property in that State or elsewhere. The agent proved false, has never returned, nor is his residence known. Of course, the whole investment (if ever made) was lost to us.

Many months after the death of my brother and of Gov. Gilmer an idle rumor obtained currency to the effect that the Congress of Texas had voted a large grant of lands to their widows, as if the broken hearts of these bereaved, delicate, and sensitive ladies could be healed by the application of dollars. The absurdity of this report was so apparent as scarcely to have received a passing notice from me.

With the pure and gifted Gilmer my personal acquaintance was, I regret to say, very slight, merely official; but his well-known purity and integrity of character place him altogether above suspicion and beyond the reach of calumny. His defence is in abler hands than mine. From a sense of duty to the dead, I have thus given you a full and frank "statement of facts," under the belief that you will gladly avail yourselves of it to repair the injustice you have done.

As the brother of Judge Upshur, and the sole executor of his last will, it is fair to infer that I know of what property he died possessed; and it is an inference equally fair that my testimony is entitled to, and will receive, as much credit at least as a scandalous rumor, the probable offspring of party rancor or personal malevolence—though I can hardly believe that either of the honorable gentlemen now reposing in the tomb left an enemy so lost to common decency and to the ordinary attributes of humanity as wantonly to violate the sanctity of the grave, and to re-open wounds among the living, which even time itself cannot heal.

If my brother had lived he would scarcely have considered it necessary to defend himself against this charge; but, as the only legitimate guardian of his unsullied reputation, it is proper that I should place him in his true character before the public. In doing this, I do not intend to permit myself to be drawn into a newspaper controversy. I have neither time nor taste for such a contest, and certainly have no desire to see my name paraded before the world in the columns of a public journal.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to express my surprise, together with deep and sincere regret, that so respectable a journal as the Richmond Whig has, in the present instance, forced this painful alternative upon me.

I am, Messrs. Editors, your obedient servant,
GEO. P. UPSHUR.

To the Editors of the Richmond Whig, Richmond, Va.

We copy from yesterday's Enquirer the following Card from Thomas Green, Esq. on the same subject. We had reference to Mr. G. as the person who communicated to Mr. Botts, some time in advance of its promulgation to the public, the fact that a treaty for the annexation of Texas was in progress, from which circumstance, not being aware of the precise period at which he was made acquainted with this "Cabinet secret," we inferred that Mr. Tyler's memory was at fault when he said that no one interested in Texas land or stock knew of the existence of the negotiation until the preliminaries had been arranged. It appears from Mr. Green's card that Mr. Tyler's statement is correct, so far as Mr. G. is concerned; and as our remarks were based upon his cognizance of the fact that a treaty was in progress before it was made public, it is due to all parties that they should be modified to that extent:

RICHMOND, JUNE 14, 1847.

To the Editors of the Enquirer:

I returned to the city last evening, and have to-day, for the first time, seen the Whig of the 7th and 8th of June. Having been referred to by the Editors of the Whig and Mr. Botts as having made statements in conflict with those of Mr. Tyler, I feel it due to him, as well as myself, to say that they are mistaken, and that Mr. T.'s reference to the date of the arrangement between the Secretary of State and Mr. Van Zandt, and of the entire secrecy of the negotiation until the terms were fully understood between those parties, fully coincides with my own knowledge, as far as it goes, and my belief on the subject.

The *substance* of Mr. Tyler's statement is, that no one interested in Texas lands or stock knew even of the existence of negotiations till "the preliminaries were nearly all arranged, their completion being alone prevented by the death of Mr. Upshur and the appointment of an additional commissioner to Mr. Van Zandt by Texas." Now I have to say I certainly never had the slightest intimation or suspicion of the existence of such negotiation until the terms had thus been agreed on, nor do I believe any other person interested in Texas land or stock had.

After those arrangements were made, no particular secrecy was enjoined or observed as far as I know, although they were not proclaimed to the world; the object of the secrecy having been accomplished in the unmolested progress of the negotiation. It will be seen that Mr. Tyler does not refer to the date when the treaty was *completed*, (12th April,) nor to the *date* of the alleged club-house speech, (28th March,) nor even to the date of Mr. Upshur's death, (28th February,) but to an *anterior* period. What was that precise date I do not know, but I do know it was before the 14th February, 1844, as I wrote to a friend on that day, and stated I had the day before learned that such a negotiation had been informally arranged, and that the treaty would probably, within twenty-four hours after the return of the messenger from Texas, be submitted to the Senate. Until the 13th of February I had no suspicion that the negotiation was even in progress, and as I was very generally acquainted with those in Washington who were interested in Texas, and never heard any such suggestion from them, my belief is that they were as ignorant as I was on the subject.

The explanation of the editor of the Whig, in his paper of the 8th, exculpates the parties from improper *motives*, but adds: "Our design was simply to show that Mr. Tyler's memory was at fault by the citation of facts in direct conflict with his statement, and which, we presume, will not be questioned by himself or by any of his friends."

On the contrary, I think the editor must now see there is no such conflict, and that the apparent incongruity results from his own misreading of Mr. T.'s statement in regard to the date of "the preliminary arrangements, prevented from being *completed* by the *death* of Mr. Upshur," &c. Mr. Gilmer was not a member of the Cabinet at the date of those arrangements, and I do not know or believe that Mr. Upshur had an acre of land in Texas, or owned one dollar of her public debt. I never heard Mr. Tyler say one word on the subject before or after that date.

THOMAS GREEN.

FROM THE RICHMOND WHIG OF JUNE 19.

A singular misconstruction, we learn, has been given to the card of Thomas Green, Esq. which, in justice to others, ought to be corrected. Mr. Green does not contradict, as some persons seem to suppose, any *fact* asserted by us. On the contrary, he expressly admits the truth of our statement in regard to his connexion with the subject. The object of his card is to show that the *inference* we drew from that fact was unfounded. The fact stated was, that Mr. Green informed Mr. Botts some weeks before the public were apprized of it (as early as the 28th of March, 1844) that a treaty for the annexation of Texas was in progress. This is not denied. The inference from that fact was, that Mr. Tyler was mistaken in saying that no Texas landholder was apprized that that negotiation was in progress, and that it was a profound "Cabinet secret" until the final arrangement of the preliminaries. This inference Mr. Green shows to be incorrect, by stating that those *preliminaries were arranged before the 13th of February*, 1844, when he first became acquainted with the fact, although the treaty itself was not actually signed and officially made known to the country until about the 12th of April following.

SOLDIERS' BOUNTIES.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER.
WASHINGTON, JUNE 16.

The speculators have, it seems, been very busy at New Orleans in gathering up the fragments that fall from Uncle Sam's table, in the shape of land warrants for discharged soldiers. These warrants are convertible into Treasury scrip for one hundred dollars, bearing six per cent interest and payable in ten years. Each of the soldiers lately discharged at New Orleans has become entitled to land scrip convertible into stock. Speculators from the North have had agents in New Orleans for the purchase of this scrip. Large amounts have been expended in these purchases, and the soldiers were doubtless greatly benefited thereby; because, in their situation, a certain sum in hand was of more value than double the sum a year or two hence. The purchased soldiers' certificates came to the Pension Office, and the chief of that bureau has adopted such a construction as to render it scarcely possible for any speculator to obtain any advantage from these purchases, or even to avoid an almost total loss of the amount invested.

As a proof of this I may mention, for the information of all parties concerned, that, a day or two ago, a person came here from New Orleans with five hundred of these soldiers' certificates, convertible into stock worth some fifty-three thousand dollars. Col. Edwards applied to the five hundred certificates the square and compass of his legal construction, and threw out and rejected the whole five hundred certificates, on one point and another, with the exception of twenty-three. But these twenty-three certificates which were made special pets were perhaps even worse treated than those that were rejected.

The Commissioner of Pensions required that these twenty-three favored documents should go back in pursuit of the persons from whom they emanated, and, in case they should be found in the land of the living, they are required, severally, to confirm the sale already made, and execute a new transfer of their interest, in order to make good the old certificate. They are not obliged by law to make any new transfer, but may draw the stock themselves. In case of the death of any of the parties, their heirs and representatives can alone obtain either the land warrant or the stock. Thus the speculators have been badly bitten.

POVERTY IN THE CITY OF PARIS.—The efforts made by the city authorities of Paris during the past six months to relieve the poor have been very great. The object to which they aimed has been to enable the poor to obtain bread at a cheaper rate than the market price. They have already expended eleven hundred thousand dollars, and nearly four hundred thousand more will be required before harvest. On the first of May there were 422,410 persons in a population of 945,731 who were numbered as receiving bread tickets. This is almost one-half the population of the city. The Debats presents the following statement of the population, the number enrolled as paupers, and the number receiving bread-tickets. It is a surprising picture:

Wards	Fixed population.	Enrolled paupers.	No. receiving bread-tickets.
1st	97,207	4,107 or 4 per cent.	29,160 or 30
2d	112,506	2,505 or 2 do	23,355 or 21
3d	59,507	2,398 or 4 do	17,174 or 29
4th	44,083	2,772 or 6 do	13,618 or 30
5th	90,784	4,340 or 4 do	40,162 or 44
6th	99,586	5,988 or 6 do	56,582 or 56
7th	67,857	4,368 or 3 do	39,472 or 68
8th	98,704	11,179 or 11 do	62,448 or 63
9th	45,205	6,334 or 14 do	28,309 or 62
10th	87,091	5,044 or 5 do	29,437 or 33
11th	60,450	4,137 or 6 do	22,747 or 37
12th	82,740	12,978 or 15 do	58,956 or 71
	945,731	66,150	422,410

According to this statement, the number of paupers is one to fourteen inhabitants; and the number of those receiving bread-tickets 44 to the 100, or 1 to 2 and 2-10 inhabitants.

[The bread-ticket, as we understand, authorizes the holder, pleading poverty, to obtain bread at a fixed price, (lower than the general rate,) the Government paying the difference to the baker.]

LORD COCHRANE'S RESTORATION.

In the evening of his days, the Earl of DUNDONALD, most famous as "Lord Cochrane," sees the Gazette record the final retractation of the charges formerly made against him, and followed by penalties cruelly enforced. His naval rank was restored to him by King WILLIAM the Fourth: Queen VICTORIA now restores to him his rank in chivalry, by readmission to the Order of the Bath. The old condemnation is annulled and cancelled. When Lord COCHRANE was condemned on evidence, never deemed conclusive, and now avowed to have been false, he was adjudged, *inter alia*, to pay a fine of £1,000. It was paid in a note, which is or was preserved in the Bank of England among the curiosities of that establishment. It was superscribed in his handwriting, with a protest against the justice of his condemnation; a protest now countersigned by the Government of the country.—*Lon. Spectator.*

GALVANIZED IRON.—We noticed an article in the Courier and Enquirer a few days since, which contains some very important facts; so important that they should be known. It appears that, by a newly discovered process, iron may be covered with a coat of zinc at a very moderate cost, and thus prepared it defies oxidation. Tin, shingles, slate, and pure zinc must yield their claims to durability to this new article. Roofs covered with it remain bright and untarnished through all kinds of weather and seasons, and we might almost say all time. Every thing that is usually constructed of iron, and is exposed to dampness may now be made almost imperishable. The process of manufacture is founded on electro chemical principles, and has been thoroughly approved by the greatest of our modern chemists.—*N. Y. True Sun.*

IMPORTANT DECISION.—A letter from Keokuk, Lee county, Iowa, dated on the 8th instant, states, on undoubted authority, that Judge WILLIAMS had that morning decided, after a week's argument and patient examination of the case, in favor of *the decree title* in a suit between the New York Company and WRIGHT, thus establishing, the letter says, the title, by a Judge who was elected by the settlers professedly on the ground of his opposition to the decree. The Judge, in the conclusion of the case, said that he confessed that his opinions on this question had all been against the decree, but, after a thorough examination of the law and the facts, he had no doubt of the validity of the decree, and that it must be sustained. Lee county is the seat of the celebrated *half-breed* tract of land, and this decision involves the homesteads of hundreds of settlers in the county.—*St. Louis Repub., June 12.*

THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The Cambria made her voyage in twelve and a half days. She brought about a hundred passengers, and amongst them Mr. POLK, our Chargé d'Affaires at Naples. The quantity of specie sent over by her is only £30,000.

The glorious weather, (says Wilmer & Smith's European Times of the 14th,) to which we alluded in our last as prevailing in all parts of the three kingdoms, still continues. The sun's power increases daily, and every thing prognosticates an early and abundant harvest. The price of the public securities, under the genial influence of this gratifying state of things, is rising, the corn markets are falling, and money is to be had on more liberal terms.

The corn trade was exceedingly active on the 19th ultimo. Prices were then rapidly advancing to what might be termed famine pitch. The splendid weather which has prevailed during the fortnight, so exceedingly favorable for the growing crops, has given great confidence as to an abundant and timely harvest; buyers, therefore, act with great caution, and the business which is now being transacted is limited, and the prices are receding as fast as they advanced. The consequence, therefore, is, that there has been a considerable reaction in prices, and the business done of a limited character, the fall from the highest point having been about 20s. per quarter, but the market is now more steady, and tending upwards again. Flour had declined to 40s. per barrel, but is now worth 42s. to 44s, the latter being the value of the best Western; sour flour 37s. to 38s. per barrel; American wheat 10s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per 70 pounds. Indian corn is steady at 52s. to 57s. Indian corn meal is in fair demand at 28s. per barrel for yellow, and 30s. for white.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR MAY.

Taken as a whole, the weather experienced during the past month has been exceedingly fine and vegetative; hence the progress of the growing crops has been both rapid and gratifying. Its rapidity will be best inferred when we state that, in many of our forward districts wheat and barley are rapidly coming into ear; and the gratification is deduced from the fact that harvest work, under the present auspices, is likely to be commenced quite as early as the corresponding period in 1846; consequently, the wants of the consuming classes are likely to be met with home-grown produce somewhat earlier in the season than was anticipated a month or six weeks ago; the necessity for unusually large importations of foreign corn after the close of July will be rendered unnecessary; and, farther, the prices of most articles are likely to assume a more moderate range than we have had to note for some months past.

These opinions are, of course, offered in the expectation that the forthcoming crops, not only of corn, but likewise of potatoes, will be good ones. Should a reverse state of things be experienced, of course it would be out of the question to expect a low or even a moderate range of value.

With scarcely a single exception, the accounts which have reached us from all parts of England respecting the general appearance of the wheats, barleys, or other produce, are very flattering. As to the ravages committed by the wire-worm and other insects, we may state generally that they have been to a very trifling extent; and our correspondents, one and all, speak in the highest terms of the present aspect of the fields.

Notwithstanding the severe losses which most of the potato-growers suffered last year, from the long-complained of disease in that esculent, and the very high prices at which it has been selling in our various markets during the whole of the present year, we have every reason to believe that a fair average quantity of land is under potato culture this season, not only in England, but also in Ireland and Scotland. It would, of course, be premature on our part to offer any positive opinion as to the growth of this year; but the result of the inquiries we have caused to be made lead us to hope that the disease is presenting itself in a very mitigated form compared with that of the two preceding years.—*Mark Lane Express.*

THE CROPS IN FRANCE.

The *Presse* announces that "the brilliant vegetation observable in the growing corn has exercised a favorable influence on the French markets. If this warm temperature be prolonged for a short time, we shall have an addition to our food in the articles of peas, beans, milk, butter, and cheese, and the laboring classes will be enabled to reduce their consumption of bread. It is not surprising, therefore, that the price of wheat is falling throughout France. In the neighborhood of Paris the price of wheat has declined 2f. per hectolitre; at Provins, 1f. 50c.; at Meaux and Melun, 75c.; at Etampes, 1f. 50c.; at Chartres, 85c. At Lille, in the department of the North, wheat fell 3 francs the hectolitre at last market, and a large quantity offered for sale could find no buyers. At Caen, Lisieux, Falaise, Mortagne, the decline has amounted to 2 francs the hectolitre.

In Britanny the decline in the price of wheat is not so remarkable, but the markets are well supplied. At Nantes there exists a brisk demand for the towns on the Loire. In the central departments the markets are well supplied, and show a tendency to decline. At Orleans there has been a fall of 2f. 50c. the hectolitre. At Bordeaux and Toulouse the stock of corn on hand is not sufficient to supply the demand. At Marseilles inferior qualities of wheat are selling at a reduced price. In the southeastern departments of the Doubs and the Jura the supply is fully equal to the consumption, and prices are declining. The fine weather has exercised an equally salutary influence in Alsace. Wheat has fallen 4 francs the hectolitre at Strasburg. Mulhouse is overstocked with wheat and flour from Naples. We may therefore fairly consider that the food crisis is drawing to a conclusion.

THE CROPS IN GERMANY, &c.

The prospects of large grain crops at the ensuing harvest in the south of Germany and on the shores of the Mediterranean appear exceedingly encouraging.

Accounts from Gibraltar state that during the 17th, 18th, 20th, and 22d ultimo upwards of 800 or 900 vessels, which had been wind-bound for some time, had succeeded in passing the Gut. The majority were laden with grain, &c. After passing the Straits they proceeded westward. It is believed that the majority were bound for Great Britain and Ireland.

IRELAND.

The Earl of Clarendon has been sworn in before the Lords, Justices, and Privy Council as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

In Ireland death is still making terrible ravages in different parts, in the south more especially. The services of the clergy, Protestant as well as Catholic, are in hourly requisition to sustain the sinking people, and transmit their souls to heaven with all the comfort which religion imparts to expiring humanity.

In some of the principal towns of the north of England typhus fever rages with increased virulence. In Liverpool, Leeds, and other places several of the Catholic clergy have fallen victims to their ministerial duties—caught the fever, and died. The present hot weather, so favorable for ripening the earth's fruits, is unfortunately extending this dire disease; and, it is to be feared that, ere its destructive effects have disappeared, more valuable lives will be sacrificed.

The mortality at Cork from famine and fever appears to be tremendous. There were 277 free interments in the Matthew cemetery in one week; in one day 67. In the workhouse there were 90 deaths.

DUBLIN, JUNE 1.—*Harvest Prospects.*—No further accounts have been received of any tendency to disease in the potato crop. On the contrary, all the agricultural reports are highly favorable as regards that esculent, as well as the grain and green crops of all descriptions. The weather is all that the farmer could desire. We have rapid vegetation under the influence of a fine genial temperature. New potatoes are beginning to appear in small parcels, and can be had at 2d. a pound in some places.

RELIEF FOR IRELAND.

In the House of Commons, on the 1st instant, the Earl of Lincoln offered the following motion:

"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty praying that she will take into her most gracious consideration the means by which colonization may be made subsidiary to other measures for the improvement of the social condition of Ireland; and by which, consistently with a full regard to the interests of the colonies themselves, the comfort and prosperity of those who emigrate may be effectually promoted."

His lordship, in a very long and able speech, explained that his object was to obtain a commission to inquire—first, whether colonization could be applied so as to relieve those who remained in Ireland; secondly, whether it could be applied so as to relieve those who left Ireland; and, lastly, whether it could be so conducted as not to interfere with the interests of our colonies. Mr. Hawes, as under Secretary of the Colonies, in replying to the motion, admitted most of the principles contained in his lordship's speech; but differed from him as to the expediency of appointing a commission to inquire into such a subject. He refused to move any amendment on the motion of Lord Lincoln, and suggested to the noble lord the propriety of withdrawing it. A long discussion then took place, in which Sir R. Peel, Lord John Russell, Mr. Hume, Mr. M. O'Connell, Lord J. Manners, and Mr. Aglionby took part.

In conclusion the address was agreed to; but Lord John Russell intimated that he should advise her Majesty not to issue a commission of inquiry, but to conduct the inquiry through agency of the Executive Government. He expressed his readiness to advise the Governors of the North American colonies to consult their Executive Councils and their local Assemblies as to the plans of emigration to which they would lend their aid; and he added that he would lay the result of those consultations on the table, with the opinions of the Administration upon them, early in the next session of Parliament.

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN CHINA.

The European Times states that the last overland mail brought a very strange complaint from China; one which it is every way desirable that the Congress of America should remedy. The matter has been brought prominently forward by the following statement which the British Consul at Canton addressed, on the 25th of March, to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at that place:

"BRITISH CONSULATE, CANTON, MARCH 25, 1847.

"SIR: I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the British mercantile community, with the contents of a circular despatch addressed to me by her Majesty's Plenipotentiary and Superintendent of Trade, dated the 19th instant.

"His Excellency has received a communication from Mr. EVERETT, the Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States of America, informing him that no provision has yet been made by his Government to compel citizens of the United States residing in China, to pay any debt which they may incur to British subjects in this country—which fact I am instructed to bring to the notice of the latter for their guidance in their transactions with the former, until such time as the Government of the United States shall have made provisions allowing the administration of equal justice to both parties.

"I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant,
"FRANCIS C. McGREGOR.

"To EDMUND MOTTER, Esq.
"*Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce Canton.*"

The European Times also says: "The American Government have hitherto failed to carry out the provisions of the treaty concluded on the 3d of July, 1844, at Whanghai, between the United States and the Chinese. Although legal measures can be taken by the citizens of America to recover any loss, or to punish any aggression, which they may sustain at the hands of the Chinese, yet the latter are quite powerless to proceed in the same way against any citizen of the United States!"

ARMED INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGAL.

The Paris Presse publishes the following protocol of the conference held at the Foreign Office, in London, on the 21st of May, at which were present the Plenipotentiaries of Spain, France, Great Britain, and Portugal:

"The Plenipotentiaries of Spain, France, Great Britain, and Portugal, having assembled in conference upon the invitation of the Plenipotentiary of Portugal, the Portuguese Plenipotentiary declared that he had learned by despatches received that day from his Government the inutility of the endeavors made at Oporto by Colonel Wylde and the Marquis de Hespana to put an end to the civil war in Portugal, on the conditions which the Queen of Portugal had authorized them to make known to the Junta. He added, that, as the Queen of Portugal had offered these terms in conformity with the counsels of her allies, he was charged by her Most Faithful Majesty to renew the step already made by her toward her allies, who had taken part in the treaty of April 22, 1834, in order to obtain from them the necessary aid to effectuate the pacification of her States.

"The Portuguese Plenipotentiary represented that, in the present state of affairs in Portugal, delay could only add to the blood already shed, and aggravate the calamities with which the kingdom of Portugal is afflicted.

"Having regard to these circumstances, and persuaded of the urgency of the conjuncture, the Plenipotentiaries of the three Powers resolved in common to accede to the demand of the Portuguese Plenipotentiary, and it was decided in consequence by the Plenipotentiaries of the four Powers that the aid promised to the Queen of Portugal should be immediately afforded, and, according to this determination, the Plenipotentiaries of Spain, France, and Great Britain engage that the naval forces of their respective Governments actually stationed on the coast of Portugal shall take part conjointly and immediately with the naval forces of her Most Faithful Majesty in any operations deemed necessary or opportune, by commanders of these combined forces, in order to accomplish the object of this common act.

"The Plenipotentiary of Spain further engages that a body of troops, the number of which shall be agreed upon between the Governments of Spain and Portugal, shall enter Portugal with the intent of co-operating with the troops of her Most Faithful Majesty; and that such troops shall retire again from Portugal within two months after their entrance, or sooner if the object of the expedition shall be fulfilled. The Plenipotentiaries of the four Powers promise that orders conformable to the engagements of this protocol shall be immediately sent to the officers of the navy of the respective Governments, and to the generals commanding the Spanish troops on the frontiers of Spain.

"ZAVIER DE ISTURITZ.
"JARNAC.
"PALMERSTON.
"MONCORVO."

SPIRIT OF THE BRITISH PRESS.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—We copy below the comments of two of the leading journals of Great Britain on the recent events in Mexico:

FROM THE LONDON TIMES OF JUNE 1.

Europe will be tired of a campaign in which conquests bring no particle of credit, and fighting no prospect of peace, and in which it is equally impossible to applaud the victors or commiserate the vanquished. The intelligence from America which we published yesterday corresponds so exactly with the information to be expected, that it might all have been printed by prophecy a fortnight ago. After establishing a provisional government in Vera Cruz, Gen. Scott took the route to Mexico by the ordinary road, which slopes in a northwesterly direction along the ascent from the low lands of the Gulf coast to the *tierras templadis* of the first plateau. He passed the Puente Nacional without opposition, though it has always been considered as one of the most defensible posts on the route. Santa Anna had not descended so far, but had taken up a position at Cerro Gordo, a mountain ridge about half way between the Antigua and Jalapa, the first respectable town on the road from Vera Cruz to the capital. Travellers have described this journey as an undertaking of no insignificant enterprise, even with the aid of the best *diligencias* of the country; but the American troops appear to have advanced pretty smoothly till they found themselves in front of their enemy on the 12th of April. Santa Anna was posted with about 14,000 men on some heights which commanded the main road like a glacis, and from which he could have poured a storm of balls into the advancing columns.

After two reconnoissances, however, the "trails" of which are minutely laid down in the American journals, Gen. Scott determined on the 18th to turn the left flank of the enemy—a service on which Gen. Shields and Worth immediately proceeded, while Gen. Pillow occupied his attention on the right. Simultaneously with these attacks, Gen. Twiggs was ordered against the main batteries in the centre, a charge which proved more serious than the other two; but, after some resistance and some loss, he succeeded in carrying the position. Meantime Worth had experienced no further difficulties than those presented by the nature of the ground, and was favored with the immediate surrender of his opponent as soon as he could get near enough for a summons; but Shields received a grape shot through the lungs from a battery in front, though the latest advices speak of his recovery as still possible. General Pillow on the right actually experienced a repulse, and was preparing a renewed attack after some serious losses, when the events on the left and centre induced a general surrender. The killed and wounded are said to be about equal on either side, but the Mexicans lost 6,000 prisoners, including four generals.

Santa Anna is said to have decamped in good time, leaving his carriage, like Joseph's at Vittoria, to the spoil of his pursuers, who, in place of Murillos and Correggios, discovered the more appreciable treasure of some highly-flavored Cubas and an excellent stock of preserved meats. Ampudia, the second in command, left the field early without his hat, on a splendid white charger, as conspicuous as that of Roderick the Goth. The Commander-in chief is reported to be at Orizaba, a town just under the great peak of that name, whence he has issued a proclamation, stating that there is "another Thermopylæ" between Jalapa and Mexico. The Americans were politely received by the "Corporation and civil authorities" at Jalapa, and have pushed on to Perote, from which town they will march on La Puebla and so to the capital; Gen. Taylor, as is rumored, having been ordered to effect a junction with the main body, by a southward march from San Luis.

There is not much doubt but that the Americans can march to Mexico, and could have done so some time ago. Santa Anna could certainly operate on their flank from his post at Orizaba, if he had the proper means or motives; and if, as is stated, the Mexicans are positively preparing for some real resistance at La Puebla, another affair might ensue. But we presume that few of our readers will put much faith in the determination or patriotism of the invaded nation.

New Spain is as like Old Spain as ever a child was like a parent. If the Mexicans had but been blessed with a little Baylen, the whole scene would be a wonderful representation of the Peninsula in 1809. They vapor and brag, and boast and fume, without the smallest apparent sense of their daily discomfitures. Their papers and proclamations are filled with predictions of future victories, to the utter exclusion of present defeats. As far as words, and perhaps even as far as resolutions go, they are all daring and defiance, and yet they never adopt an ordinary precaution, or abide an ordinary shock. At this moment, by an *ex tempore* revolution in the capital, they have displaced Gomez Farias and exalted Don Pedro Anaya to a newly-created office of "President substitute," with absolute power for every thing except the conclusion of a peace. To read their various manifestoes, no person could possibly conceive that they were any other than the most warlike and unconquerable nation under heaven. The confidence of Varro after Cannæ altogether vanishes, compared with the complacency of Santa Anna after eighteen settled defeats within thirteen months, *De republica non desperasse*, indeed! Why, if this is fortitude, the Mexicans are infinitely more courageous than even those contiguous islanders of the Caribbean, whose only historical fault is being "really too brave." And the extraordinary point of the story is, that these assertions of intrepidity and patriotism do actually appear both universal and sincere. There is no peace party at Mexico. The voice of all is for open war. There is no terrorism; people are not driven to patriotism by the guillotine and the gallows, as at Saragossa and Barcelona.

With one accord and one heart they proclaim their own invincible determination never to surrender, and yet they never face an enemy for a moment; and now, when he is at the gates of their capital, they are neither fortifying nor arming, and will probably be found without a cannon mounted or a battalion mustered. All this, however, but aggravates the difficulty of the Americans. They neither want to capture the towns nor chastise the population. They want a friendly surrender, or a peaceful sale of a coveted province. They want the Mexican nation to ratify a bargain, pronounce a free consent, and resign a quiet possession; and the patriotic obstinacy which precludes this arrangement is precisely that to which the Mexicans are equal. The American journals admit that the most complete success of their arms has produced no visible effect on the temper of the invaded people, and it is but little further that these successes can now possibly go. The Americans have already got all the sea coast, the customs, the chief forts, and the chief towns, and, while we write, they have probably got the metropolis of their victims. They have dispersed their armies, captured their generals, and destroyed their *material*; but it is confessed that "the war seems about as far from its close as when it started;" and it is now to be seen what force will be brought to bear against a people whose self-sufficiency suffers by no discomfiture, whose delusions are dispelled by no defeats, and who can dispense with a Government, a capital, or a coast, as easily as with character or credit.

FROM THE LONDON CHRONICLE.

As far as the success of their military operations is concerned, nothing more conclusive can be conceived than the late movements of the United States generals against the forces that the Mexicans have been able to oppose to them in the field. It is impossible to read the accounts of these successive actions without something like a feeling of contempt for the beaten party, so strong an effect do the triumphs of military prowess exercise on the mind. Almost despite the claims of justice and of compassion for the countless and unoffending thousands whose fates are inextricably bound up with those of the beaten troops, one is tempted to exclaim that they who know so ill how to defend a country are not worthy to possess one. The price of empire—so all history tells us—bears inscribed upon it the legend, "*Detur Fortiori.*"

Not all the military success, however, of General Scott or of General Taylor; not victory in twenty engagements, even though they have been as gallantly fought on the side of the conquerors as those of Buena Vista and Cerro Gordo, could turn the victory of the United States into aught else than one of brute force, or, if you will, of military discipline. Never should we forget with what slight cause this war was entered upon by the authorities at Washington; upon how trivial a pretext, how immense an amount of misery has been inflicted upon an unoffending people. That the Mexicans are a turbulent and impracticable people, granted; granted, too, that, in the field as soldiers, they have been unable to cope with the invaders; still, all this will not convert the brigandage of unauthorized attack into a legitimate war.

Even if we admit that the non-payment of a certain amount of dollars could have furnished Mr. Polk with a casus belli for his conduct in this matter, it is to be remembered that it was in a great measure owing to the acts of the United States agents in Texas, and the severance of that province in consequence from the Mexican confederation, that the Central Government was reduced to a state of permanent disorganization. Feelings of hostility, too, were engendered in the hearts of the Mexicans by the conduct of the United States in that transaction, which predisposed them to resist any claim that the envoy from Washington might set up, and upon those feelings the Anglo-Americans should have looked quietly, and without any very violent return of ill-will. Time should have been given to those who had just been despoiled of one of the fairest portions of their empire, in order that they might learn decently to veil, if they could not entirely suppress, the soreness consequent upon the event.

That which we have often foretold would be the ruin of the Mexicans, in a military point of view, has actually come to pass. The imaginative gallantry of the Spanish race comes but ill out of the rough ordeal of a practical trial. Because each individual of whom their armies are composed is in no respect inferior in courage or in skill at his weapon to any of his Anglo-American opponents, therefore they jump to the conclusion that the Mexican army can, in the aggregate, offer an effectual resistance to that of the United States. They forget that a thousand Bayards could never break a modern square of infantry, nor resist a modern charge, if they had not themselves passed through the hands of the drill-sergeant. They will not trust to their best allies—their deserts and their yellow-fever—but must needs fight great battles, which invariably terminate in one result—disgrace and defeat.

We cannot say how far Santa Anna may be compelled to fight these disastrous actions by the political position of affairs at Mexico. Such may be the state of things, that even a defeat is a preferable alternative to the results of inaction. If this be not, however, the case, he must wilfully intend his country's ruin, or be a fitter subject for an asylum than the command of an army. After his recent experience at Buena Vista, not to speak of the experience of a long life, he must have been perfectly aware, when he threw up his entrenchments in the face of Gen. Scott's advancing force, that, if he attempted to defend them, he was lost. He had ample time to choose his own ground, and yet he does not appear to have done so with any peculiar military skill.

There does not seem to have been any such great local advantages about the heights of Cerro Gordo as should have entitled them to the dignity of the Thermopylæ of Mexico. True it is that the ground is described by General Scott as being broken by mountains and deep chasms, but the field of operation covered many miles. More than this, in one point of Santa Anna's line of defence, there was a tower upon a height, by the capture of which the retreat of his troops would be effectually cut off in any contingency. Yet against so probable a contingency, he made no kind of preparation whatever, and accordingly, in his retreat to Jalapa, twenty-five miles distant from the scene of action, General Scott informs the Secretary of war that the troops under his command had added greatly to the number of prisoners, wounded and killed.

The courage displayed by the Anglo-Americans throughout the action is unquestionable, and yet it does not appear to have been a bloody one on either side. The official return gives us as the total of the Anglo-American loss 43 killed and 265 wounded. The loss of the Mexicans in killed and wounded is rated by General Scott only at about 350 on the field of battle, to which number must of course be added that of those who were cut down on the retreat to Jalapa. The opinion entertained by the United States officers of the powers of resistance their opponents may be inferred from General Scott's orders issued to the various Generals of division on the day preceding the action. Never, in the directions issued by any of the greatest European commanders, do we remember to have seen a greater confidence manifested in what must be the result of his operations. Success is assumed on every point, and the direction to be taken by each division, after forcing each point of the Mexican entrenchments, is as clearly marked out as though the result had already taken place.

We are bound to say that the unlimited confidence placed by General Scott in the troops under his command has been justified by the event. His victory at Cerro Gordo appears to have been by far the most brilliant affair of the war. He describes himself as being absolutely embarrassed with the results of his own success—prisoners of war, heavy ordnance, small arms and accoutrements. Under the head of prisoners alone, about three thousand men have laid down their arms, with the usual proportion of officers, besides five Generals of highest rank. General Santa Anna himself, with some six or eight thousand men, escaped in the direction of Jalapa, just in time before the tower of which we have spoken above, was carried by a division of the United States army.

To speculate upon the further progress of General Scott's army in the direction of the capital would be mere idleness, in the face of such disorganization as must now undoubtedly exist on the side of the Mexicans. The troops of Gen. Taylor are still at Buena Vista and Saltillo, and it is stated to be his intention to advance on San Luis along the road traversed by Santa Anna in his late disastrous retreat from Buena Vista; there he will be placed in a situation to co-operate with his colleague in his views upon Mexico itself. Undoubtedly, if military resistance be the only obstacle to be apprehended by the Anglo-American Generals in their advance upon Mexico, we shall expect shortly to hear the fall of that city, as we have just heard of that of Vera Cruz.

For the honor of humanity we should be well pleased to hear of something like a probable termination of this disastrous war. As to the point that the United States troops would take military possession of the great towns of the country, we have never disputed it for one moment; but military possession of certain points in a country is not identical with conquest of the country. Even if the authorities at Washington determine on that course, they will find they have entered upon a task which this generation will not see accomplished, and which must be persevered in at an expense that Congress will be little likely to sanction. Perhaps the best thing to be wished for in the interests of the Mexican themselves, is that the success of the United States Generals should be still more rapid and decisive than it has hitherto been, in order that they may be driven to make terms at once, and by a definite sacrifice purchase the retreat of their invaders. We fully grant that such a course may admit of doubt, yet among alternatives it seems to be the least disastrous. That the United States will again, on a future occasion, with or without cause, attack them, is clear enough. The old fable of the wolf and the lamb drinking at the same stream is of eternal application.

APPREHENDED INDIAN HOSTILITIES.—Mr. Richards has arrived at St. Louis from Fort Laramie, which place he left on the 26th of March, in company with two other traders. The upper Indians have been very quiet during the winter. Last March a party of Nemahas, eighty in number, were killed by the Sioux. When he left, 700 lodges of Sioux were on their way south to fight the Pawnees. At Elm Grove he met 400 Delawares, Shawnees, &c., on their way against the Pawnees. They expected to be joined by the Caws, two or three hundred strong.

From general indications there will be a severe contest against the Pawnees, who number about 800 lodges, whilst the Sioux alone number 1,800. The various tribes collecting for this expedition under the lead of the Sioux, manifest bitter hostility against the Pawnees, and threaten to exterminate them.—*St. Louis Union.*