THE WASHINGTON UNION.

THE ACQUISITION OF CUBA. REPORT OF MR. SLIDELL

hathon, have had the same under consideration, and now respectfully report:

It is not considered necessary by your committee to enlarge upon the vast importance of the nequisition of the island of Cuba by the United States. To do so would be as much a work of supercregation as to demonstrate as elementary problem in mathematics, or one of those ie as such a work of supercregation as to demonstrate an elementary problem in mathematics, or one of those axioms of ethics or philosophy which have been universally received for ages. The ultimate acquisition of Cuba may be considered a fixed purpose of the United Status as purpose counting from political and geographical necessities which have been recognised by all parties and all administrations, and in regard to which the popular voice has been expressed with a unanimity unsurpassed on an question of national policy that has hereetofore en

The purchase and annexation of Louislana led, as a necessary corollary, to that of Florida, and both point with uncering certainty to the acquisition of Caba. The sparse and feeble population of what is now the great west called in lead for the free navigation of the Mississippi, and the enforcement of the right of deposit at New Orleans. In three years not only were these privilagos secured, but the whole of the magnificent domain of Louislana was ours. Who now doubts the wisdom of a measure which at the time was denounced with a violence until then unparalleled in our political history?

From the day we acquired Louislana the attention of our ablest statesmen was fixed on a ba. What the possession of the mouth of the Mississippi had been to the scople of the West that of Caba became to the nation. To cast the see upon the map was sufficient to predict its destiny. A brief roternes will show the importance attached to the question by our leading statesmen, and the steadiness and perseverance with which they have enclavored to hasten the construmnation of so vital a measure.

Mr. Jeneraon, in a letter to President Madison, of the 27th of April, 1869, speaking of the policy that Napoleon would probably pursue towards us, says:

"He ought to be satisfied with having forced her agreed heitain to revoke the orders on which he pretended to retaliate, and to be particularly satisfied with us, by whose unyielding adherence to principle she has been forced into the revocation. He ought the more to conciliate our good will, as we can be such an obstacle to the new career operaing on him in the Spanish colonies. That he would give us the Floridas to withhold intercome with the residue of those colonies cannot be doubted. But that is no price, because they are ours in the inst moment of the first war, and until a war they are of no particular necessity to us. But, although with difficulty, he will consent to our receiving Cuba into our flout, to prevent our aid to Mexico and the other provinces. That would be a price, and I would immediately creek a column on the southernmost limit of Cuba and insertibe on it a ne plan ultra as to us in that direction. We should then have only to include the north in our confederacy, which would be, of course, in the first war, and we should have such an empire for liberty as she has never surveyed since the creation; and I am persuaded no constitution was ever before so well calculated as ours for extensive empire and self-government. 2 of the will be objected to our receiving Cuba that no finit can then be drawn to our future acquisitions. Caba can be defended by us without a navy, and this develops the principle which ought to limit our views. Nothing should ever be accepted which would require a navy to defend the content of the con

Again, in writing to President Monroe on the 23d onfederacy is exactly what is wanting to advance our ower as a nation to the point of its utmost interest." And in another letter to the same, on the 24th Octo-

made to our system of States. The control which, with Florida Point, this island would give us over the Gulf of Mexico, and the countries and isthmus bordering on it, would fift up the measure of our political welf-

being."

John Quincy Adams while Secretary of State under Mr. Monroe, in a despatch to Mr. Nelson, our minister at Madrid, of the 28th April, 1823, says:

"In the war between France and Spain, now commencing, other interests, peculiarly ours, will in all probability be deeply involved. Whatever may be the issue of this war to between these transports." war as between those two European powers, it taken for granted that the dominion of Spain American continents, north and south, is irrestill remain nominally and so far really dependent upon her, that she yet possesses the power of transferring her own dominion over them, together with the possession of them, to others. These islands, from their local position and natural appendages to the North American continent, and one of them, Cuba, almost in sight of our choices, from a multifular of considerations. has become s, from a multitude of considerations, has becoand the West India seas, the character of its popu-lation, its situation inidway between our southern coast and the island of St. Domingo, its safe and ca-pacious harbor of the Havana, fronting a long line of coast and the island of St. Domingo, its safe and capacious harbor of the Havana, fronting a long line of cur shores destitute of the same advantage, the nature of its productions and of its wants, furnishing the supplies and needing the returns of a commerce immensely profits and mutually beneficial, give it an importance in the amm of our national interests with which that of no other foreign territory can be compared, and little inferior to that which binds the different members of this rest interpretation with the Performance of this most delicate and important duty. The attempt should be made, in the first instance, in a confidential conversation with the Samish minister rior to that which bands the different members of this luiou together. Such, indeed, are, between the interests of that island and of this country, the geographical conversation with the Spanish minister for fereign affairs; a written offer might produce an absolute refusal in writing, which would embarries us hereaften in the process of time and even now verging to maturity, that, in looking forward to the probable course of events, for the short period of half a century, it is scarcely possible to resist the conviction that the annexation of Cuba to our federal republic will be ladspensable to the continuance and integrity of the landspensable to the continuance and integrity of the ladspensable to the continuance and integrity of the landspensable to the continuance and formidable objections to the extension of our territorial dominions beyond the sea present themselves to the first contemplation of the subject; obstacles to the extension of our territorial dominions beyond the sea present themselves to the first contemplation of the subject; obstacles to the extension of our territorial dominions beyond the sea present themselves to the first contemplation of the subject; obstacles to the extension of our territorial dominions are channel, reach the opposition and become that result can be compassed and maintained are to be foreseen and surmonated, both from at home and almosal; but there are laws or political as well as of physical gravitation; and if an apple, severed by home and abroad; but there are laws of political as well as of physical gravitation; and if an apple, severed by the tempost from its native tree, cannot choose but tall to the ground, Cuba, foreiby disjoined from its own unnatural connexion with Spain, and inerpable of self-support, can gravitate only towards the North American Union, which, by the same law of nature, cannot cast her off from its bosom.

"The transfer of Cuba to Great Britain would be an

"The transfer of Cuba to Great Britain would be an event unpropitious to the interests of this Union. This opinion is so generally entortained, that even the groundless rumors that it was about to be accomplished, which have spread abread, and are still teeming, may be traced to the deep and almost universal feeling of aversion to it, and to the alarm which the mer probability of its occurrence has stimulated. The question both of our right and of our power to prevent it, if necessary by force, already obtrudes itself upon our councils, and the administration is called upon, in the performance of its duties to the nation, at least to use all the means within its competency to guard against and lorefund it."

On April 27, 1825. Mr. Clay. Scentary of State, in a despatch to Mr. A. H. Everett, our minister at Madrid, instructing him to use his exertions to induce Spain to make peace with her revolted colonies, says:

of those islands (club and Fotto Rico) in the hands of Spain, and with their ports open to our commerce, as ley are now open. This government desires no political hange of that condition. The population fissil of the should is incompetent at present, from its composition and its amount, to maintain self-government. The marting force of the neighboring republics of Mexico and colorabia is not now, nor is it likely shortly to be, ade-

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"LIBERTY, THE UNION. AND THE CONSTITUTION."

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WASHINGTON CITY, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1859.

our surplus agricultural products and manufactures, constitutes one of the most extensive and valuable branches of our foreign trade, render if of the utmost importance to the United States that no change should take place in its condition which might injuriously affect our political and commercial standing in that quarter. Other considerations, connected with a certain class of our population make it the interest of the southern section of the Union that no attempt should be made in that island to throw off the yoke of Spanish dependence, the first effect of which would be the sudden emancipation of a numerous slave population, the result of which could not but be very sensibly felt upon the adjacent shores or the United States. On the other hand, the wisdom which induced the Spanish government to relax in its colonial system and to adopt with regard to those islands a more liberal policy which opened their ports to general commerce, has been so far satisfactory in the view of the United States as, in addition to other considerations, to induce this government to desire that their possession should not be transferred from the Spanish crown to any other power. In conformity with this desire, the ministers of the United States at Madrid larve, from time to time, been instructed attentively to watch the course of events and the secret springs of European diplomacy, which, from information received from various quarters, this government had reason to suspect lead been put in motion to effect the transfer of the possession of Cuba to the powerful allies of Spain.

"You are authorized to say that the long established and

"You are authorized to say that the long established and well known policy of the United States, which forbill their entangling themselves in the concerns of other nations, and which permits their physical force to be used only for the defence of their political rights and the protection of the persons and property of their citizens, equally forbids their public agents to enter into positive eagagements, the performance of which would require the employment of means which the people have retained in their own hands; but that this government has every reason to believe that the same influence which once averted the blow ready to fall upon the Spanish islands would again be found effectual on the recurrence of similar events; and that the high preponderance in American affairs of the United States as a great may power, the influence which they must at all times command as a great commercial nation, in all questions involving interests of the general commerce of this hemisphere, would render their consent an essential preliminary to the execution of any project calculated so vitally to affect the general concerns of all the nations in any degree engaged in the commerce of America. The knowledge you possess of the public sentiment of this country in regard to Cuba will enable you to speak with confidence and effect of the probable consequences that might be expected from the communication of that sentiment to Congress, in the event of any contemplated change in the present political condition of that island."

And again, on the 13th of October, 1830: "This government has also been given to understand that, if Spain

And again, on the 13th of October, 1830: "This government has also been given to understand that, if Spain should persevere in the assertion of a hopeless claim to dominion over her former colonies, they will feel it to be their duty, as well as their interest, to attack her colonial possessions in our vicinity—Cuba and Porto Rico. Your general instructions are full upon the subject of the interest which the United States take in the fate of those islands and particularly of the former; they inform you that we are content that Cuba should be a sent now to but content. as it now is, but could not consent to its transfer to any ject to Spain rather than to either of the South American States. These motives will readily present themselves to your mind; they are principally founded upon an apprehension that, it possessed by the latter, it would, in the present state of things, be in greater langer of becoming autject to some European power than in its present condition. Although such are our own wishes and true interests, the President does not see on what ground he would be justified in interfering with any attempts which the South American States might think it for their interest, in the presecution of a defensive war, to make upon the islands in question. If, indeed, an attempt should be made to disturb them, by putting arms in the hands of one portion of their population to destroy another, and which in its influence would endanger the peace of a portion of the United States, the case might be different. Against such an attempt the United States (being informed that such an attempt the United States (being informed that in any event, be resorted to; and that the contest, if forced upon them, will be carried on, on their part, with strict reference to the established rules of civilized war-

"At your interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs you might introduce the subject by referring to the present distracted condition of Cuba, and the danger which exists that the population will make an attempt to a complish a revolution. This must be well known to the Spanish government. In order to convince him of the good faith and friendship towards Spain with which this government has acted, you might read to him the first part of my despatch to General Campbell, and the order issued by the Secretary of War to the commanding general in Mexico and to the officer having charge of the embarkation of our troops at Vera Crm. You may then touch delicately upon the danger that Spain may lose the place between the two countries arising out of the dismissal of Sir Henry Briwer, and be retained to pay the Spanish debt due to the British bond holders. You might assure him that, whilst this government is entirely missal of Sir Henry Bulwer, and be retained to pay the Spanish debt due to the British bond holders. You might assure him that, whilst this government is entirely satisfied that Cuba shall remain under the dominion of Spain, we should in any event resist its acquisition by any other nation. And, finally, you might inform him that, under all these circumstances, the President had arrived at the conclusion that Spain might be willing to transfer the island to the United States for a fair and full consideration. You might die as a precedent the cossion of Limisians to this country by Napoleon, under somewhat similar circumstances, when he was at the zenith of his power and gloty. I have merely presented these topics in their natural order, and you can fill up the pauline from the information communicated in this despatch, as well as from your own knowledge of the subject. Should the minister for Foreiga Affairs lend a favorable cut to your proposition, then the question of the consideration to be paid would arise, and you have been furnished with information in this despatch which will emable you to discuss that question.

the war should continue between Spain and the new republics, and those islands should become the object are publics, and those islands should become the object are publics, and those islands should be controlled a freaty of the theater of it. their fortunes have each a considered with the property of the United State that they could not be indifferent spectators; and the possible contingencies of any protucted war night bring upon the power care of which, however painful it is hould be indifferent spectators; and the possible contingencies of such a protuncted war night bring upon the power care of which, however painful it is hould be, the same may be applicable, the two conventions of April and produces of the limited States duties and obligations the performance of which, however painful it should be indispensable to the accomplishment of the United States, for the sale and purchase of United States, for the sale and the West Indiance, to the sale and the West Indi

Fire Soule, says:

"Sm: There are circumstances in the affairs of Spain, having a connexion with this country, which give unusual importance at this time to the mission to that government. The proximity of her remaining possessions in this hemisphere—the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico—to the United States, the present condition of the former, and the rumons of contemptated changes in its internal affairs, complicate our relations with Spain." The island of Cuba, on account of its magnitude, situation, fine climate, and rich productions, far superior in all respects to any in the West India group, is a very desirable possession to Spain, and, for the same reasons, very difficult for her to retain in its present state of dependence. The opinion generally prevails among the European nations that the Spanish dominion over it is insecure. This was clearly evinced by the alacrity with which both England and France, on occasion of the late disturbances in Cuba, volunteered their aid to sustain the Spanish rule over it, and by their recent proposition to the United States for a tripartite convention to guaranty its possession to Spain. Without an essential change in her present policy, such a change as she will most likely be unwilling to make, she cannot, it is confidently believed, long sustain, unsided, her present connexion with that island.

"What will be its destiny after it shall cease to be a dependency of Spain is a question with which some of the principal powers of Europe have seen fit to concern

nd direct interest.

dent in relation to the interference of Great Blitalit, as well as of France, in 0 0 0 0 Cuban affairs. To spare myself the labor of again going over the same ground, I herewith furnish you with an extract from

in regard to Cuba, in any contingency calling for our in-terposition, will depend, in a great degree, upon the pe-culiar circumstances of the case, and cannot, therefore, now be presented with much precision beyond what is indicated in the instructions before referred to. Nothing be so changed as to affect our present or prospective se-curity. While the United States would resist, at every be so changes:

while the United States would resist, at every
curity. While the United States would resist, at every
hazard, the transference of Cuba to any European nation,
they would exceedingly regret to see Spain resorting to
any power for assistance to uphold her rule over it.
Such a dependence on foreign and would, in effect, invest the auxiliary with the character of a protector, and give it a pretext to interfere in our affairs, and also generally in those of the North American continent. In case of in those of the North American continent. In case of collision with the United States, such protecting power ssessor of it.
"Our minister at Madvid, during the administration of

that it was at that time the policy of this governever, that it was at that time the policy of this govern-ment to acquire that island unless its inhabitants were very generally disposed to concur in the transfer. Under certain conditions, the United States might be willing to purchase it; but it is scarcely expected that you will find Spain, should you attempt to ascertain her views upon the subject, at all inclined to enter into such a ne upon the subject, at all inclined to enter into such a ne-cotiation. There is reason to believe that she is under obligations to Great Britain and France not to transfer this island to the United States. Were there nothing clee to justify this belief but the promptness with which these two powers sent their navul forces to her aid in the late Cuban disturbances, the proposition for a tripartile convention to guaranty Cuba to Spain, and, what is more significant than either of the above facts, the sort of joint protest by England and France, to which I advert-ed in my instructions to Mr. Buchanan, against some of the views presented in Mr. Everett's letter of the 2d of would alone be satisfactory proof of such an arrange-ment. Independent of any embarrasament of this na-ture, there are many other reasons for believing that Spain will perfinacionaly hold on to Cuba, and that the separation, whenever it takes place, will be the work of stolenes.

olence."

From these and other extracts that might be presented. From these and other extracts that might be presented, it is manifest that the ultimate acquisition of Cuba has long been regarded as the fixed policy of the United States—necessary to the progressive development of our system. All agree that the end is not only desirable, but inevitable. The only difference of opinion is as to the time, mode, and conditions of obtaining it.

The law of our national existence is growth. We cannot, if we would, disobey it. While we should do nother than the conditions of obtaining the conditions of obtaining it.

per to stimulate it unnaturally, we should be careful not ing to stimulate it unnaturally, we should be careful not to impose upon ourselves a regimen so strict as to prevent its healthful development. The tendency of the age is the expansion of the great powers of the world. England, France, and Russia all demonstrate the existence of this pervading principle. Their growth, it is true, only operates by the absorption, partial or total, of weaker powers recognized in inferior way. So long as this extenates by the absorption, partial or total, of weaker pow-ors—generally, of inferior races. So long as this exten-sion of territory is the result of geographical position, a higher civilization, and greater aptitude for government, and is not pursued in a direction to endanger our safety or impede our progress, we have neither the right nor the disposition to find fault with it. Let Fagland pursue her march of conquest and amexation in India, France ex-tend her dominious on the sould ru shores of the Medi-terranean, and advance her frontiers to the Rhime, or terranean, and advance her frontiers to the Rhine, or Rassia subjugate her barbarous neighbors in Asia; we shall look upon their progress, if not with favor, at least with indifference. We claim on this hemisphere the same privilege that they exercise on the other— "Hane venius petine-que danue richesius".

In this they are but obeying the laws of their organiza-

tion. When they cease to grow they will soon commence that period of decadence which is the fate of all natious

patible with our safety, and have announced to the world that any attempt to consummate it will be resisted by all the means in our power. When first we made this declaration we were comparatively feeble. The struggle would have been fearful and unequal; but we were prepared to make it at whatever hazard. That declaration has often bean repeated since. With a population nearly tripled, our financial recourses and our means, offensive and defensive, increased in an infinitely larger offensive and defensive, increased in an infinitely larger to the bland. It has been asserted that the people of Cuba do not de the beautiful this were so, it would present a very serious objection to the measure. The evidence on which it is based is, that on the receipt with the people of Cuba do not de the series that all that been asserted that the people of Cuba do not de the series that all that been asserted that the people of Cuba do not de the series to the United States. If this were so, it would present a very serious objection to the measure. The evidence on which it is based is, that on the receipt municipal authorities of Havana and other towns protesting their devotion to the crown, and their hostility to institutions of the United States. Any one who has the people of Cuba do not determine the united States.

The third and last alternative is annexation to the United States. How and when is this to be effected? By conquest or negotiation? Conquest, even without the hostile interference of another European power than spain, would be expensive, but with such interference would probably involve the whole civilized world in war, entail upon us the interruption, if not the loss, of our foreign trade, and an expenditure far exceeding any sum which it has ever been contemplated to offer for the purchase of Cuba. It would, besides, in all probability, lead to service insurrection, and to the great injury or even total destruction of the industry of the island. Purchase, then, by negotiation seems to be the only practicable course; and, in the opinion of the committee, that nearly the entire native population of Cuba desiration.

Apprehensions have been expressed by some south statesmen of periliar resulting from the different clean examples to the opinion of the purchase of periliar resulting from the different clean expressed by some south statesmen of periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the supposed may sum which it has ever been expressed by some south statesmen of periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the supposed bat the same states.

Apprehensions have been expressed by some south statesmen of periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the supposed bat the same states.

Apprehensions have been expressed by some south statesmen of periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the supposed periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the suppose that the second periliar resulting from the different clean expression between expressed by some south statesment of periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the suppose of periliar expression, and the suppose that the single periliar resulting from the different clean expression, and the suppose that the suppose that the single periliar resulting from the different cle

Much has been said of the danger of confiding such powers to the Executive, and from the hereeness with which the proposition has been denounced, it might be supposed that it was without precedent. So far is this from being the case, that we have three different acts upon the statute-book, placing large sums of money at the disposition of the President for the purpose of aiding him in negotiations for the acquisition of territory. The first is the act of February 26, 1803. Although its object was well known—viz: to be used in negotiating for the purchase of Louisiana—the act does not indicate it. It placed two millions of dollars unreservedly at the disposition of the President for the purpose of defraying any "extraordinary expense which may be incurred in the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations." Second. The act of February 13, 1806, using precisely the same phrascology, appropriates two millions of dollars, it being understood that it was to be used in negotiating for the purchase of Florida.

The act of 3d March, 1847, "making farther appropriation to bring the existing war with Mexico to a speedy and honorable conclusion," has been adopted as the model on which the present bill is framed. Its preamble states that "whereas, in the adjustment of so many com-

make a treaty with Spain for the purchase of the island of Cuba.

It will be perceived that this bill defines strictly the object to which the amount appropriated shall be applied; and in this respect allows a much narrower range of discretion to the present executive than the acts of 1803 and 1806 gave to Mr. Jefferson. In those cases the object of the appropriation was as well known to the country and to the world as if it had been specifically stated. The knowledge of that fact did not then in the slightest degree tend to defeat the intended object, nor can it do see now. Ender our form of experience, we have no so now. Under our form of government we have no State secrets. With us diplomacy has ceased to be en-veloped with the mysteries that of yore were considered inseparable from its successful exercise. Directness in our policy, and frankness in its avowal, are, in conduct-ing our foreign intercourse, not less essential to the mainse of terests of the republic than are the sar

Much has been said of the indelicacy of this mode of proceeding. That the offer to purchase will offend the Spanish pride, be regarded as an insult, and rejected with contempt. That, instead of promoting a consummation that all admit to be desirable, it will have the opposite tendency. If this were true it would be a conclusive argument against the bill, but a brief consideration will show the fallacy of these views. For many years our desire to purchase Cuba has been known to the world. Seven years since President Fillmore communicated to Congress the instructions to our ministers on that subject, with all the correspondence connected with it. In that correspondence will be bound three letters from Mr. Saunders, detailing conversations held with Narvacz and the Minister of Foreign Relations, in which he notified him from making any direct preposition, yet no intimation was given that the suggestion was offensive. And why should it be so? We simply say to Spain, you have a distant possession, held by a precarious transit, which is almost indispensable to us for the protection of our commence, and may, from its peculiar position, the character of its population, and the mode in which it is governed, lead, at any time, to a rupture which both nations would deprecate. This possession, its though it he is a little the mode in which it is governed, lead, at any time, to a rupture which both nations would deprecate. This possession which the region is a both the character of its population, and the mode in which it is governed, lead, at any time, to a rupture which both nations would deprecate. This possession which the region is a both the character of its population, and the mode in which it is governed, lead, at any time, to a rupture which both nations would deprecate. This possession which the region is a late of the protection of our commence, and may, from its peculiar position, the character of its population, and the mode in which it is so the protection of our commence, and may from its peculiar position of

mode in which both a is governed, read, at any time, to a rupture which both nations would deprecate. This possession, rich though it be in all the elements of wealth, yields to your treasury a not revenue not amounting, on the average of a series of years, to the hundredth part of the price we are prepared to give you for it. True, you have herefore refused to consider our proposition, but saited you in 1848 may now be more acceptable. Should a war break, out in Europe, Spain can scarcely hope to excape being involved in it. The people of Cuba naturally desire to have a voice in the government of the island. They may seize the occasion to proclaim their independence, and you may regret not having accepted the rich indemnity we offer.

But even these arguments will not be pressed upon un-

Colombia is not now, nor is it likely shortly to be, adequate to the protection of those islands, if the conquest of the conqu

proportion, we cannot now shrink from an issue that of the bayonet in countries where it is and. This independence could only be nominal: it never could be maintained in fact. It would eventually fall under some protectorate, open or disguised. If under some protectorate, open or disguised. If under some protectorate, open or disguised. If under some protectorate of the shallow follows the substance. An European protectorate could not be tolerated. The closet philanthropists is also follows the substance of their profof England and France would, as the price of their profof England and France would, as the price of their profound of the bayonet in countries where it is now how much value to attach to such domonstrations and the bayonet in countries where it is now how much value to attach to such domonstrations and the popular sentiment. There can be no doubt the immense majority of the people of Cuba are not of the work desirous of american to the 4 States. It would be strange, indeed, if they were in the local affairs of industrial to the countries where it is now how much value to attach to such domonstrations and the people of Cuba are not of avor, but ardently desirous of american to the 4 States. It would be strange, indeed, if they were in the local affairs of industrial to the countries where it is now how much value to attach to such domonstrations of the bayonet in countries where it is now how much value to attach to such domonstration to the bayonet in countries where it is now how much value to attach to such the whow much value to attach to such that the bayonet in countries where it is now how much value to attach to such that the bayonet in countries where it is always to the bayonet in countries where it is always the bayonet in countr of England and France would, as the price of their protection, insist upon introducing their schemes of emandipation. Civil and servile was would soon follow, and
carba would present, as Hayti now does, no traces of its
former prosperity, but the ruins of its once noble mansions. Its uncontrolled possession by either France or
England would be less dangerous and offensive to our
routhern States than a pretended independent black curpite or republic.

The third and last alternative is annexation to the
United States. How and when is this to be effected?

bans, who, as a class, are as refined, well-informed, and fitted for self-government as men of any class of any mation can be who have not inhaled with their breath the

tion can be who have not inhaled with their breath the atmosphere of freedom.

Many of them accompanied by their families are to be met with every summer at our cities and watering places, observing and appreciating the working of our form of government and its marvellous recults; many seeking until the arrival of more auspicious days an asylom from the oppression that has driven them from their homes; while hundreds of their youths in our schools and colleges are acquiring our language and fitting themselves hereafter, it is to be hoped, at no distant day, to play a distinguished part in their own legislative halls, or in the counsels of the nation.

These men, who are the great proprietors of the soil, are opposed to the continuance of the African slave trade, which is carried on by Spaniards from the peninsula, renegade Americans, and other adventurers from every clime

er adventurers from every clime and country, tolerated and protected by the authorities

and country, tolerated and protected by the authorities of Cuba of every grade.

Were there a sincere desire to arrest the slave trade, it could be as effectually put down by Spain as it has been for Turs 'megin' and Yeste Please are the only mark had been as intent upon forcing its treaty stipulations with Spain for its abolition as it has been in denomicing abuses of our flag, which we cannot entirely prevent, this question would long since have ceased to be a source of invitation discussions. irritating discussion, it may be of possible future diffi-culty. Those who desire to extirpate the slave trade may find in their sympathy for the African a motive to support this bill. We have, since the conclusion of the Ashburton treaty

tinue it. The annual cost of this squadron is at least It appears from a report of a select committee of the British House of Commons, made in March, 1830, that the number of slaves exported from Africa had sunk down in 1842 (the very year in which the Ashburton treaty in private life.

Much has been said of the indelicacy of this mode of proceeding. That the offer to purchase will offend the Spanish pride, be regarded as an insult, and rejected with high state of discipline; that his views were carried to proceeding.

It has been entirely suppressed for several years. The slaves now shipped from the coast of Africa are exclusively for the Spanish islands. It is not easy to estimate the number. From the best data, however, it is supposed now to be from twenty-five to thirty thousand per year. It would cease to exist the moment we acquire possession of the Island of Cuba.

the Island of Cuba.

The importation of slaves into the United States v

tention.

Another consequence which should equally enlist the sympathics of philanthropists, excepting that class whose tears are only shed for those of coon hue, and who turn with indifference from the sufferings of men of any other complexion, is the suppression of the infamous Coolin traffic—a trailic so much the more nefarious as the Chinese is elevated above the African in the scale of creation. more civilized, more intellectual, and therefore feeling more acutely the sharkles of the slave ship and the harsh will he shall have good reason to believe that it will be favorably entertained. Such an opportunity may occur when least expected. Spain is the country of cosps-d-flet and pronunciamentes. The all-powerful minister of to day may be a fugitive to-morrow. With the forms of a representative government, it is in fact a despotism sustained by the bayonet—a despotism tempered only by frequent, violent, and bloody revolutions. Her financial condition is one of extreme embarrassment. A crisis may arise when even the dynasty may be overthrown unless a large sum of money can be raised forthwith. Spain will be in the position of the needy possessor of land he cannot cultivate, having all the pride of one to whom it has descended through a long line of anexstry, but his necessities are stronger than his will; he must have money. A thrifty neighbor, whose domains it will round off, is at hand to funish it. He retains the old mansion, but sells what will relieve him from immediate ruin.

The President, in his annual message, has told us that we should not, if we could, acquire Cuba by any other means than honorable negotiation, miless circumstances which he does not anticipate render a departure from such law of eff preservation. He also tells us that he desires law of eff preservation. He also tells us that he desires are stronger of the preservation. He also tells us that he desires are stronger of the preservation. He also tells us that he desires are stronger than his mill to the discipline of the commencement of the traffic up to March last, is 28,777; of whom 4,134 perished on the bassage. From that date up to the close of the passage. From that date up to the close of the varies and the countries of the number landed at Havana was 9,449. We bunds that the countries of the number that there-fourths of

the policy which this old immobilet by Gongress a determ nation to maintain him in his efforts to preserve un tarnished our national character for justice and fair dea

The effects of the acquisition of Cuba will be no less beneficial in its commercial than in its political and moral aspects. The length of the island is about seven hundred and seventy miles, with an average breadth of about forty miles, comprising an area of 31,468 square miles. The soil is fertile, climate genial, and its ports the finest in the world. Havana is more familiarly known to us, for apart from our extensive trade, which simploys several hundred American vessels, thousands of our citizens have touched at that port in our steamers on their way away were these to the control of the contro harbor, and have breathed ardeat prayers that their next visit should be hailed by the stars and stripes floating from the Moro. And yet Cuba can loast of several other harbors equally safe and more extensive than that of

of those levied on articles produced in the United States, which are now by unjust discrimination virtually excluded from consumption. It is not possible within the limits which your committee have prescribed to them selves for this report to cite more than a few of the most important. Of flour, on an average of three years, from 1848 to 1850, there were imported from the United States 5,642 barrels, paying a duty of \$19 81 per barrel. From other countries, and it is believed exclusively from Spain, 228,002 barrels, paying a duty of \$2.52 per barrel, a discrimination against our flour of nearly two laundred per cent. on its present average value in our markets. On lard, of which the importation from the United States was 10,188,000 pounds, a duty is levied of \$1 per quintal, while of olive oil \$6,481,000 pounds were imported, which is chieffused as its substitute, paying a duty of \$2 cents per quintal, while the importation from other quartersprincipally from Buenos Ayres, was 30,544,000 pounds were imported from the United States paying a duty of \$1 per quintal, while the importation from other quartersprincipally from Buenos Ayres, was 30,544,000 pounds, paying a duty of \$1 per quintal, while the importation from other quartersprincipally from Buenos Ayres, was 30,544,000 pounds, paying a duty of \$1 per quintal, while the importation from other quartersprincipally from Buenos Ayres, was 30,544,000 pounds paying a duty of \$1 persume that were Cuba annexed to the United States, with the stimula afforded by low prices, her annual consumption of our four would be 600,000 barrels; of our, Lard, 25,060,000 pounds; of our beef, 20,000,000; and of perfs, the most solid and nutritions food for the laborer, 10,000,000 pounds. The same ratio of foreases would be exhibited in our whole list of experts. Many articles that now appear not at all or in very limited quantities would force their was all or in very limited and middle States, while the farmer of the Nesswolth have a new and constituty increasing market open to m