

from the ratification of the present preliminary articles shall be restored on each side; that the term shall be one month from the Channel and the North Seas as far as the Canary Islands inclusively, whether in the ocean or in the Mediterranean; two months from the said Canary Islands as far as the equatorial line or the equator, and lastly, five months in all other parts of the world without any exception or any more particular description of time and place.

"Art. XI.—The ratification of the present preliminary articles shall be expeditious in good and due form, and exchanged in the space of a month or sooner if it can be done, to be computed from the day of the signature of the present articles.

In witness whereof we, the underwritten, Ministers Plenipotentiary of his Britannic Majesty and of his Catholic Majesty, by right of our respective full powers have signed the present preliminary articles, and have caused the seals of our arms to be put thereon.

Done at Versailles the twentieth day of January, 1783.

ALLEYNE FITZHERBERT, (L.S.)
LE COMTE D'ARANDA, (L.S.)

Spain gained nothing but loss by this contest; her people were discontented, and she laid the foundation for a long category of evils, the end of which has not yet arrived. So true is it that political sins carry their own punishment with them. How this treaty was viewed by intelligent Spaniards the following extract from a letter to a Spanish merchant in London, dated Madrid, 7th of January, 1783, will show: "Though some delay has happened in the negotiation I am convinced it will shortly be settled, and settled upon such terms as are to the last degree disgraceful to this country. Gibraltar will not be given up, notwithstanding your prints so confidently assert the contrary, that fortress, in addition to all former expenses, has cost us ten millions during the present war, more than 8000 seamen and soldiers, and brought disgrace upon our arms never to be obliterated or forgotten, is still left in your hands. You will ask, perhaps, what concessions, what surrenders, what restitutions are to be made by the Crown of Great Britain for all that we have suffered during the war for the loss and destruction of our fleet under Don Langara, for the further loss of many valuable merchant ships, for the treasure taken at Omoa, etc., etc. Why, Sir, the recompense proposed to us is the Island of Minorca, and the territory of East Florida. The trade of the first will not pay the expense of taking it in twenty years, and the second is not likely to be a settlement of consequence to us in as many more. In fact we have not an hour's security for the possession of it, as it must depend entirely upon the will of the Americans, who can at all times dispose of it at their discretion. In this view, therefore, Minorca is the only benefit we derive from a peace after a war that has cost us infinitely more than the last, more of honor, more of blood, more of treasures; and, Sir, if you add to this amount that by suffering the independence of America to be

acknowledged, we have endangered if not provided for the certain destruction of our Southern Colonies; you will need no further arguments to convince you that our Ministers have disgraced and betrayed us. Accustomed as we have long been to the superior subtlety and policy of the Cabinet of Versailles, we never expected that the British Ministers, amidst the complications of national distress which surround them, would at this day be allowed to dictate and prescribe to us, would be suffered to stipulate their own conditions and treat as conquerors and rulers would. But there are private causes for public events, which solve these difficulties with little trouble. The private friendship that has long subsisted between Lord Shelburne and Vergennes has done a public and everlasting injury to this country. To this private friendship we are indebted for a peace in which France herself enjoys a considerable share of our dishonor."

The proud Spaniard did not consider that in this contest Great Britain was really the conqueror, and found, as far as France and Spain were concerned, that her resources at its close nearly doubled those with which it was commenced, and had it not been for the deadening influence the Whigs had obtained in the councils of the nation the rebellious Colonists would have been added to the category of conquered enemies. In other respects his letter is almost prophetic of events which actually occurred half a century later; at the peace of Versailles Spain owned all South America except Brazil, in North America the two Floridas and all south of the Mississippi—in 1833 the only possession she had in the New World was the Queen of the Antilles—Cuba, while her own glory had departed, and no power in Europe would accept her as an ally for any purpose of aggression or defence. In the peace of 1783 her interests were altogether neglected.

THE RED RIVER QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Constitutional:

DEAR SIR:—Excuse my troubling you again respecting the Red River difficulty. My demand at present is a space for a record of the past, with its introduction, which if it does not clear off the mists of our undertaking, (I believe the Superior is a foggy region) will at least afford a stepping stone into the far past, for our support in making towards the unknown future. Passing the murder of Scott as an act of rebellion to British authority in the North-West, for which we are not accountable, and which has no bearing upon the settlement of the country, the document at present, with a change of names to suit the times, would answer very well for the future council of Red River delegates. These settlers in the far West of the original crown colony of New York—(New York and North West originate chronologically) in their legislative capacity—in this instance called the Land Board of Nassau—enacted the opening of leading roads and levying for their construction, making military demonstrations, treating with the dark colored indigenes, distributing the lands they had already surveyed, and debating on the eligibility of the site of the future seat of Government for the infant colony.

Extract of proceedings of Land Board of Nassau, held at St. Catharines in 1789.

The Board met at the 12 Mile Creek in Hunterton, as on that day a muster of the Militia of the Lower District was to be made there, and it was thought expedient as much as possible to save the time of the settlers

Present—Lt. Col. Butler,
Peter Timbroch,
Robt. Hamilton, } Esqs.
Nathan Petit,

which day the Board proceeded to examine particularly the different rules and regulations sent them for their conduct, and they adopted the following data, on what they understood to be the intention of Government, and by which they are to guide themselves in conveying lands to claimants. They consider His Highness' instructions of 1783, addressed to Governor Haldimand, as conferring:—

1000 acres to eve.	field officer.
700 "	" captain.
500 "	" sub or staff.
200 "	" non commissioned officer.
100 "	" private or loyalist head of a family.

They consider Lord Dorchester's instructions of 3rd January, 1787, as conferring 200 acres additional on all these settlers who have already improved so far as in their power the lands before granted them, and that the additional bounty extend as well to single men improving their own lands as the heads of families.—Therefore, every discharged soldier is entitled to 300 acres, and every non-commissioned officer to 400 acres, and every loyalist or other person of good character settled there prior to the date of the instructions of 17th July, 1789, is entitled to 200 acres, and his children to 50 acres.

In my next I will give you extracts to exhibit the subjects alluded to above.

Yours, etc., J. P.M.

THE DEATH OF LOPEZ.—The closing scenes of the death and burial of Lopez are given by a Rio Janeiro correspondent of the N. Y. Herald, under date of April 7, and are singularly touching. It appears that the General was lured into an ambush a short distance from his camp, by Gen. Camera, who, upon learning the suffering condition of the poorly armed Paraguayans, poured out a terrible artillery fire into Lopez's camp. The slaughter was frightful, and in a few minutes it was a *sauve qui peut*. Lopez, with his staff and a few of his body guard, made a desperate attempt to escape by swimming a stream located about ten miles from his headquarters. In his flight to this last resort for his life, Lopez was wounded by a corporal of cavalry, and his protectors were cut down almost to a man. When he reached the stream, beyond which was a thicket, he threw himself from his horse, waded it, but was so exhausted that he fell half fainting on the opposite bank. There the Brazilian General summoned him to surrender, and on his striking with his sword, ordered him to be disarmed, which was scarcely done when Lopez died. Near by, a shallow grave was dug for him; but on Mrs. Lynch being brought back with the body of their son, Col. Francisco Lopez, who was slain while commanding an escort protecting Mrs. Lynch's flight, and whom she and her daughters and son had taken up and washed, they dug a deep grave, with the aid of the lids of cigar boxes, and deposited Lopez's body at the bottom, and above him that of the son, who had been so cruelly massacred.