

young men, who, if they devoted to any scientific, or literary, or professional pursuits, the time they spend in games of chance, or lounging in bed, and in idle company, they might rise to any eminence. You have all read of the sexton's son, who became a fine astronomer by spending a short time every evening in gazing at the stars, after ringing the bell for nine o'clock. Sir William Phipps, who at the age of 45 had attained the order of knighthood, and the office of High Sheriff of New England, and Governor of Massachusetts, learned to read and write after his eighteenth year, of a ship carpenter in Boston.—William Gifford, the great editor of the Quarterly, was an apprentice to a shoemaker, and spent his leisure hours in study. And because he had neither pen nor paper, slate nor pencil, he wrought out his problems on smooth leather with a blunt awl. David Rittenhouse the American astronomer, when a plough-boy, was observed to have covered his plough and fences with figures and calculations. James Ferguson, the great Scotch astronomer, learned to read by himself, and mastered the elements of astronomy whilst a shepherd's boy in the fields, by night. And perhaps it is not too much to say, that if the hours wasted in idle company, in vain conversation, at the tavern, were only spent in the pursuit of useful knowledge, the dullest apprentice in any of our shops might become an intelligent member of society, and a fit person for any of our civil offices. By such a course, the rough covering of many a youth might be laid aside—and their ideas, instead of being confined to local subjects and professional technicalities, might range throughout the wide fields of creation; and other stars from the young men of this city might be added to the list of worthies that are gilding our country with bright yet mellow light.—*Rev. Mr. Murray.*

IMPORTANT FROM TAHITI.

By an arrival at New Bedford, information from Tahiti to the 26th of June, has been received. The Commander of the British ship of war *Vindictive*, Admiral Nicolas, had ordered the French flag on shore to be hauled down; but the order had not been obeyed. He had, however, formally disavowed the French authority, and issued a manifesto, or proclamation, to the British residents and other British subjects, in the islands of Tahiti and Moorea, forbidding them to acknowledge or hold themselves responsible to the French authorities. The Proclamation is as follows:—

{ *Her Britannic Majesty's ship Vindictive,*
 { *in Papeete Harbor, Tahiti, June 20, 1843.*

Gentlemen:—It has become my duty to acquaint the subjects of Her Britannic Majesty now residing in the dominions of the Queen of Tahiti, that I have received instructions to cause them to seek for whatever justice they may require, from the officers of their own Sovereign, in this island, or through the established Court of Laws of the Queen Pomare; and that they are not to attend to any summons as jurors, nor to hold themselves subject to any regulations or jurisdictions of any sort, from the French authorities temporarily established here, under the style of a Provisional

Government, nor to any officer of France, be his rank or station whatever it may, until the decision of the Queen of England regarding Tahiti, is known. Although determined to enforce this regulation, should it unhappily become necessary in the rigid fulfilment of the orders that I have received, yet I shall continue to do my best to preserve a good understanding with the officers of the French Navy stationed here, and I sincerely trust that nothing will arise to disturb the harmony which has hitherto subsisted between the subjects of our respective nations.

I deem it proper that I should here observe to you, that I feel quite assured that England seeks not, desires not, to maintain a *paramount* influence in these islands. But, while she repudiates such an intention, and declares, as she has so repeatedly done, in reply to the several solicitations of the successive sovereigns of Tahiti to become its permanent protector, that she will not assume any *preponderating* power over its government, yet Great Britain is, I am equally assured, determined that *no other nation* shall possess a greater influence or authority in these states, than that which, from her long and intimate connexion with them, she claims as her natural right to exercise. More than all do I believe myself authorized to state, that it is the determination of the Queen of England to preserve the sovereignty of Tahiti *independent and free.*

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, yours, with every consideration,

J. TOUP NICOLAS, *Commodore.*

THE FRENCH AT MADAGASCAR.

The last intelligence from this devoted spot was gratifying, inasmuch as it encouraged the hope that a mission might be commenced in some of the islands lying off the north east side of Madagascar. By the last steamer from England we have the painful news that the plan is defeated by the political movements of the French and the hostility of the Romish priests. The native teachers, Rafaravavy and Joseph, have been expelled by the French from Nosimitsio, where it was contemplated to establish a mission. The information is communicated by letters from the indefatigable missionary, Rev. D. Johns, who writes from Mauritius, under date of April 12. He says: "A few days ago I received letters from Joseph and Mary. I am again cast down, for my plans are once more frustrated. We had made up our minds to establish a mission at Nosimitsio, which would be likely to bear upon Madagascar; but the French have taken possession of the island, and a Catholic priest has fixed his abode there, and driven away our teachers, so that now we have no hope of being able to do anything there more than at Nosibe, Nosifaly, or Nosikomba. These islands are now in the possession of the French, and I am told, by good authority, that they design taking possession of a large portion of the north of Madagascar before the close of this year, and that preparations are now being made for it. They also intend to take Mojanga, nor is it expected that they will stop until they gain possession of the whole island."