

which has a tendency to extend the range of their action. It is true, indeed, that, in some men, the desire of knowledge appears to be blunted and almost annihilated, so that they appear to be little superior in their views to the lower orders of sensitive existence. But this happens only in those cases where the intellectual faculties are benumbed and stupefied by indolence and sensuality. Such persons do all they can to counteract the original propensities of their nature; and yet even in the worst cases of this kind that can occur, the original desire is never extirpated, so long as the senses are qualified to perform their functions. For the most brutish man is never found entirely divested of the principle of curiosity, when any striking or extraordinary object is presented to his view. On such an occasion, the original principles of his constitution will be roused into action, and he will feel a certain degree of wonder and delight in common with other rational minds.

And, as man has a natural desire after knowledge, and a delight in it—so, he is furnished with noble faculties and vast capacities of intellect for enabling him to acquire, and to treasure it up. He is furnished with senses calculated to convey ideas of the forms, qualities, and relations of the various objects which surround him. His sense of vision, in particular, appears to take in a wider range of objects, than that of any other sensitive being. While some of the lower animals have their vision circumscribed within a circle of a few yards or inches in diameter, the eye of man can survey, at one glance, an extensive landscape, and penetrate even to the regions of distant worlds. To this sense we are indebted for our knowledge of the sublimest objects which can occupy the mind, and for the ideas we have acquired of the boundless range of creation. And, while it is fitted to trace the motions of mighty worlds, which roll at the distance of a thousand millions of miles, it is also so constructed as to enable him, with the assistance of art, to survey the myriads of living beings which people a drop of water. All his other senses are likewise calculated to extend the range of his knowledge, to enable him to communicate his ideas to others, and to facilitate the mutual interchanges of thought and sentiment between rational minds of a similar construction with his own.

His understanding is capable of taking in a vast variety of sentiments and ideas in relation to the immense multiplicity of objects which are perceived by his external senses. Hence the various sciences he has cultivated, the sublime discoveries he has made, and the noble inventions he has brought to light. By the powers of his understanding, he has surveyed the terraqueous globe, in all its varieties of land and water, continents, islands, and oceans; determined its magnitude, its weight, its figure and motions; explored its interior recesses, descended into the bottom of its seas, arranged and classified the infinite variety of vegetable, mineral, and animals which it contains, analysed the invisible atmosphere with which it is surrounded, and determined the elementary principles of which it is composed, discovered the nature of thunder, and arrested the rapid lightnings in their course, weighed the masses of distant worlds, determined their size and distance, and explored regions of the universe invisible to the unassisted eye, whose distance exceeds all human calculation and comprehension. The sublime sciences of Geometry, Trigonometry, Conic Sections, Fluxions, Algebra, and other branches of Mathematics, evince the acuteness and perspicacity of his intellect; and their application to the purposes of Navigation and Geography, and to the determination of the laws of the celestial motions, the periods of their revolutions, their eclipses, and the distances at which they are placed from our subary mansion, demonstrate the vigour and comprehension of those reasoning faculties with which he is endowed.

By means of the instruments and contrivances which his inventive faculty has enabled him to form and construct, he can transport ponderous masses across the ocean, determine the exact position in which he is at any time placed upon its surface, direct his course along pathless deserts and through the billows of the mighty deep;—transform a portion of steam into a mechanical power for impelling waggons along roads, and large vessels with great velocity against wind and tide; and can even transport himself through the yielding air beyond the region of the clouds. He can explore the invisible worlds which are contained in a putrid lake, and bring to view their numerous and diversified inhabitants; and the next moment he can penetrate to regions of the universe immeasurably distant, and contemplate the mountains and the vales, the rocks and the plains which diversify the scenery of distant surrounding worlds. He can extract an invisible substance from a piece of coal, by which he can produce, almost in a moment, the most splendid illumination, throughout every part of a large and populous city,—he can detach the element of fire from the invisible air, and cause the hardest stones, and the

heaviest metals to melt like wax under its powerful agency; and he can direct the lightnings of heaven to accomplish his purposes, in splitting immense stones into a multitude of fragments. He can cause a splendid city, adorned with lofty columns, palaces, and temples, to arise in a spot where nothing was formerly beheld but a vast desert or putrid marsh; and can make "the wilderness and the solitary place to be glad, and the desert to bud and blossom as the rose." He can communicate his ideas and thoughts and sentiments in a few hours, to ten hundred thousands of his fellow-men; in a few weeks to the whole civilized world; and, after his decease, he can diffuse important instructions among mankind, throughout succeeding generations.—In short, he can look back and trace the most memorable events which have happened in the world since time began; he can survey the present aspect of the moral world among all nations;—he can penetrate beyond the limits of all that is visible in the immense canopy of heaven, and range amidst the infinity of unknown systems and worlds dispersed throughout the boundless regions of Creation, and he can overleap the bounds of time, and expatiate amidst future scenes of beauty and sublimity, which "eye hath not seen," throughout the countless ages of eternity.

FOREIGN.

From the LUISIANA ADVISOR, March 29.

THE FALL OF BEXAR—THE ENTIRE OF THE TROOPS IN GARRISON PUT TO DEATH—COLS. CROCKET AND BOWIE KILLED!

We are indebted to a gentleman, passenger on board the steamer Levant, from Natchitoches, for the annexed letter, giving the particulars of the fall of Bexar—it is a copy of one addressed to the editor of the Red River Herald:

"Sir:—Bexar has fallen! Its garrison was only 157 strong, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. Travis. After standing repeated attacks for two weeks, and an almost constant cannonade and bombardment during that time, the last attack was made on the morning of the 6th inst. by upwards of 2000 men, under the command of Santa Anna in person; they carried the place about sunrise, with the loss of 520 men killed, and about the same number wounded. After about an hour's fighting the whole garrison was put to death (save the sick and wounded and seven men who asked for quarter.)—All fought desperately, until cut down; the rest were coldly murdered. The brave and gallant Travis, to prevent his falling into the hands of the enemy, shot himself. Not an individual escaped, and the news is only known to us by a citizen of Bexar, who came to our army at Gonzales—but from the cessation of Travis's signal guns, there is no doubt of its truth. The declaration of independence you have, no doubt received, and you will, in a few days, receive the constitution proposed by the republic.

"Cols. James Bowie and David Crocket are among the slain—the first was murdered in his bed, to which he had been confined by illness—the latter fell, fighting like a tiger. The Mexican army is estimated at 3000 men; it may be more or less.

A. BRISCOE.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.—We learn by the passengers of the sch. Camanche, eight days from the Brazos river, that the war in Texas has at length assumed a serious character. Many of those who left this city, determined to lay down their lives in the cause of Texas, have bravely yielded them up at Bexar. Three young men from our office, we learn, are among the slain; the names of William Blazey and Robert Moore have been mentioned to us; the name of the other we could not ascertain.

On the 25th February, the Texian garrison in Bexar of 150 men only, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. B. Travis, was attacked by the advanced division of Santa Anna's army of about 2000 men, when the enemy were repulsed with the loss of many killed and wounded, variously estimated from 450 to 600, without the loss of the garrison.

This great slaughter was ascribed to the fact, that every man of the garrison had about eight guns loaded by his side. About the same time, Colonel Johnson, while reconnoitering to the westward of San Antonio, with a party of 70 men, were surrounded in the night by a large body of Mexican troops. In the morning the commander, so far from surrendering to discretion, which was refused, and an offer to surrender as prisoners of war made. This was accepted by the Mexican officer, but no sooner had the Texans marched out of the encampment and stacked their arms, than a general fire was opened upon them by the whole Mexican force, when the prisoners endeavoured to escape—three only of whom affected it; among them was Col. Johnson and one man who had been wounded.

Between the 25th of Feb. and 2d March, the

Mexicans were employed in forming entrenchments around the Alamo, and bombarding the place. On the 2d of March, Col. Travis wrote that 200 shells had been thrown into the Alamo, without injuring a man.

On the 1st of March, 32 men from Gonzales made their entrance through the enemy's lines, and re-occupied the Alamo—making the whole number in the garrison, 152.

On the 6th March, about midnight, the Alamo was assaulted by the entire force of the Mexican army, commanded by Santa Anna in person. The Mexicans fought desperately until daylight, when seven only of the garrison were found alive. We regret to say, that Col. David Crocket and his companion Mr. Denton, also the gallant Col. Benham of South Carolina, were of the number who cried for quarter, but were told there was no mercy for them. They then continued fighting until the whole were butchered. One woman (Mrs. Dickinson) and a wounded negro servant of Col. Travis's, were the only persons in the Alamo whose lives were spared. Gen. Bowie was murdered in his bed, sick and helpless. Gen. Cos on entering the fort, ordered Col. Travis' servant to point out to him the body of his master; he did so, when Cos drew his sword and mangled his face and limbs with the malignant feeling of a savage!!

The bodies of the slain were thrown into a heap in the centre of the Alamo and burned. On Gen. Bowie's body being brought out, Gen. Cos said that he was too brave a man to be burned like a dog; and then added *pew no es cosa eschade*—never mind, throw him in. The loss of the Mexicans in storming the place was estimated at not less than 1000 killed and mortally wounded, and as many more disabled, making with their loss in the assault between 2000 and 3000 killed and wounded. It is worthy of remark that the flag of Santa Anna's army at Bexar, was a blood-red one, in place of the old constitutional tricolor flag. Immediately after the capture of the place, Gen. Santa Anna sent Mrs. Dickinson and Col. Travis' servant to Gen. Houston's camp, accompanied by a Mexican with a flag, who was bearer of a note from Santa Anna, offering the Texian peace and a general amnesty, if they would lay down their arms and submit to his government. Gen. Houston's reply was "True, sir, you have succeeded in killing some of our brave men, but the Texans are not yet whipped." The effect of the fall of Bexar throughout Texas, was electric. Every man who could use a rifle, and was in a condition to take the field, marched forthwith to the scene of war. It is believed that not less than 4000 riflemen were on their way to the army when the *Csmanche* sailed, to wreak their vengeance on the Mexicans, and determined to grant them no quarter.

Gen. Houston had burnt Gonzales, and fallen back on the Colorado with about 1000 men.

Col. Fanning was in the fort at Goliad, a very strong position—well supplied with munitions and provisions, and from 400 to 500 men.

The general determination of the people of Texas seemed to be to abandon all the occupation and pursuits of peace, and continue in arms until every Mexican east of the Rio del Norte should be exterminated.

TURKEY.—The public mind has been thrown into a state of fermentation in the Turkish capital by a regulation, issued by the Sultan, abolishing the gradation of ranks, such as it stood since the establishment of the Ottoman empire, and classing the different individuals in office according to regulations and nomenclature, not only entirely novel, but subversive of the ancient notions of property and etiquette in Turkey.

Although you are well informed in Turkish matters by your own correspondents, it may not be unacceptable to you to learn that letters from excellent authority in Turkey, state that the Turks have regained the most perfect confidence in their own strength; that if France, Austria, and England, remain only neuter in the contest, they would themselves be able to compete with the Russians. I shall enclose the brief reference to Poland, Turkey and Russia, by a free translation of an ancient Lithuanian prophesy that has been handed to me:—"Poland must expect nothing from France. France will never do any thing for Poland. Her liberation will come from the united efforts of England and Turkey." When the horses of Turkey shall drink of the waters of the Vistula, then is the emancipation of Poland at hand."—*Correspondent of the Morning Herald.*