

THE PEOPLE'S MAGAZINE, AND WEEKLY JOURNAL.

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NOTICE.

The People's Magazine, New Series, has been sent hitherto to the Subscribers for the first half-year, expiring in October last, in the expectation that every mail would bring a remittance in advance for the current year, according to terms. As there is to be no credit on the Magazine, however, this is the last number that can be sent to parties that have not remitted. But it is hoped that all such will remit forthwith. Subscribers for 12 months to the First Series are respectfully informed that their subscriptions expire with the end of this month.

Remittances may be enclosed to Mr. Wardworth in the same letters with subscriptions for the Montreal Witness, Temperance Advocate, &c.

THE LAND OF THE FREE.

(From the London Patriot.)

Oh, England, England! happy land,
The birth-place of the free;
Long may thy strength and glory stand,
Sweet home of liberty!

And were our island half as large
As is a freeman's heart,
We'd welcome every slave on earth
To share with us a part.

No bitter scorn of ebon skin
Should chase him from our shore;
We'd take the swarthy stranger in,
To serve in bonds no more.

And every serf that lowly bends
Before a tyrant's nod,
Should dwell with us as brethren, friends,
Safe from the oppressor's rod.

Birmingham.

M. M.

THE LATE THOMAS CLARKSON.

BY BERNARD BARTON.

He has not lived in vain,
Who, for man's birth-right brave,
Hath snapp'd the negro's chain—
Given freedom to the slave!

'Twas worthy all the toil
Of thy long, arduous life,
To have won so proud a spoil
In such a noble strife.

Nor has he lived in van,
Who by his life hath taught
What zeal untired can gain,
To one fixed purpose brought.

The longest span of time
No lesson well could teach,
More fraught with truth sublime,
Within the humblest reach!

INDIANS OF THE SOUTH—THE FLORIDA WAR.

Of the Florida Indians, under the English dominion from 1763 to 1784, I know little, for the Archives were carried away; but, by the description of Bertram the younger, a naturalist who travelled among them, they were few in number, living comfortably in towns remote from each other.

During the Spanish dominion, which followed after the treaty of 1783, they were, with the exception of the real Seminoles, generally in a troubled state among themselves; and the Government, too weak to attempt any control, left the management of them for seven

years to the Scotch house of Panton, Leslie, & Co., which, by license, continued a monopoly in trade, first granted by the English. There are in the Archives at St. Augustine, letters from a half-breed Creek chief, named Alexander McGillivray, to the Spanish Governor, which are excellent models of straightforward business correspondence. I am told by Mr. John McGillivray, of Cornwall, that he was the son of Lachlan McGillivray, a relative of the McGillivrays here, and educated in England. He died about the year 1800, and by a letter from Mr. Panton it appears his children were daughters.

When the American Government obtained possession of Florida in 1821, the Indians were in a more disjointed state than ever. A portion of the Creek nation residing within the United States, had stretched along the Apalachicola River, down to its mouth. There were various small "towns" scattered about, containing either outcasts from Georgia or remnants of larger communities, and in what is now the county of Alachua, were the "Seminoles," who, though the word signifies "wanderers," had, wherever they came from, settled down in a small but well ordered community, possessed of considerable wealth, in negro slaves and cattle. It is incorrect to apply the name "Seminoles" to the Florida Indians at large, for they considered themselves the highest tribe, and I have heard them claim it with pride, as a peculiar distinction.

In 1823, it was agreed by a treaty held at Moultrie, near St. Augustine, if agreement it can be called, where one party was totally opposed to the arrangement, that all the various bands, including the Seminoles, should retire to a district marked out on the western coast of the Peninsula, south of Alachua, and choose one head chief for the whole, with an understanding that they should remove west of the Mississippi in 1842. The Creeks on the Apalachicola were, however, permitted to remain as they were, the chiefs having large reserves guaranteed to them. They continued friendly, and driving a most advantageous bargain with the United States for their property, had all emigrated in 1838, with the exception of some two hundred who commenced depredations in 1839, and remained to the last.

It is proper to observe, that the Spanish Government having been three centuries in possession of the Floridas, and regarding the existing Indians as recent emigrants, or interlopers, acknowledged in them no right of soil or territory, and consequently the cession was made to the United States, without any reserve whatever of Indian titles. Legally therefore, the Indians were placed, in regard to vacant lands, precisely in the position of the whites, and as they had not the means of purchasing, the right of ejectment always remained with the Government. The whole number, when assembled in the "Nation," as their district was called, did not probably exceed 5,000 souls.

They probably agreed ill among themselves, and by straying outside their boundaries, were continually in trouble with white settlers as lawless as themselves, between whom counter-charges of cattle-stealing and other offences were as unceasing as true, till 1834, when the whites, seized with the common mania of the day, that land was becoming exceedingly scarce and valuable, began to fear, though their population never exceeded one to the square mile, that they would soon be crowded if the Indians were not forthwith removed, and a new treaty was concluded at Payne's Landing.

This treaty is continually commented upon, as something peculiarly wicked, by persons who probably never saw it; but the character of the American Commissioner, Colonel James Gadsden, of South Carolina, is a guarantee that it was about as fair as any Indian treaty can be. The great difficulty was the non-existence of a second party to