

THE PEARL.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 15, 1838.

THE AFFECTING NARRATIVE of James Williams, is published by the numerous, and respectable American, Anti-Slavery Society. Coming from such a source its correctness may be relied upon. The writer of the narrative makes the following remarks:—

The following pages contain the simple and unvarnished story of an AMERICAN SLAVE,—of one, whose situation, in the first place, as a favourite servant in an aristocratic family in Virginia; and afterwards as the sole and confidential driver on a large plantation in Alabama, afforded him rare and peculiar advantages for accurate observation of the practical workings of the system. His intelligence, evident candour, and grateful remembrance of those kindnesses, which in a land of slavery, made his cup of suffering less bitter; the perfect accordance of his statements, (made at different times, and to different individuals,) one with another as well as those statements themselves, all afford strong confirmation of the truth and accuracy of his story. There seems to have been no effort, on his part, to make his picture of Slavery one of entire darkness—he details every thing of a mitigating character which fell under his observation; and even the cruel deception of his master has not rendered him unmindful of his early kindness.

The editor is fully aware that he has not been able to present this affecting narrative in the simplicity and vivid freshness with which it fell from the lips of the narrator. He has, however, as closely as possible, copied his manner, and in many instances his precise language. THE SLAVE HAS SPOKEN FOR HIMSELF. Acting merely as his amanuensis, he has carefully abstained from comments of his own."

We expect in our next number to conclude the narrative.

Our readers will oblige us by a careful perusal of the article, entitled ENFORCEMENT OF GENTLENESS—copied from a late number of Chambers' Edinburgh Journal. On a future occasion we may offer some observation on the subject ourselves.

News.—The most important news of the week will be found in our columns. We had concluded that all angry feelings had subsided along the frontier, but the late shameful outrage has undeceived us. The proclamation of Lord Durham will, doubtless, command the attention of all classes of politicians. We wish his Lordship all success in his high office of mediation. A peacemaker producing reconciliation is a noble and distinguished character. The documents we have inserted on the Boundary Question are of much importance. The Montreal papers give the details of a duel at Montreal. One of the parties, Major Warde of the 1st Royals was killed. And this is called an "affair of honour." Such honour is worthy the age of Vandalism! "THOU SHALT NOT KILL," is the solemn command the Eternal! Would that individuals and nations acted on it!

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency the Right Hon. JOHN GEORGE, EARL OF DURHAM, Viscount Lambton, etc. etc. Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Military Order of the Bath, one of Her Majesty's Honourable Privy Council, and Governor General, Vice Admiral and Captain General of all Her Majesty's Provinces within, and adjacent to the Continent of North America, etc. etc. etc.

The Queen having been graciously pleased to entrust to me the Government of British North America, I have this day assumed the administration of affairs.

In the execution of this important duty, I rely with confidence on the cordial support of all Her Majesty's subjects as the best means of enabling me to bring every question affecting their welfare to a successful issue, especially such as may come under my cognizance as Her Majesty's High Commissioner.

The honest and conscientious advocate of Reform and of the amelioration of defective Institutions, will receive from me without distinction of Party, Races or Politics, that assistance and encouragement which their patriotism has a right to command, from all who desire to strengthen and consolidate the connexion between the Parent State and these important Colonies; but the disturbers of the public peace, the violators of the Law, the enemies of the Crown and of the British Empire will find in me an uncompromising opponent, determined to put in force against them all the powers, civil and military, with which I have been invested.

In one Province the most deplorable events have rendered the suspension of its representative constitution, unhappily, a matter of necessity—And the Supreme power has devolved on me.

The great responsibility which is thereby imposed on me, and the arduous nature of the functions which I have to discharge, will naturally make me most anxious to hasten the arrival of that period when the Executive Power shall again be surrounded by all constitutional checks of free, liberal and British institutions.

On you—the people of British America—on your conduct and

on the extent of your co-operation with me, will mainly depend whether that event shall be delayed or immediate. I therefore invite from you the most free, unreserved communications. I beg you to consider me as a friend and arbitrator—ready at all times to listen to your wishes, complaints and grievances, and fully determined to act with the strictest impartiality.

If you, on your side, will abjure all party, and sectarian animosities, and unite with me in the blessed work of peace and harmony, I feel assured that I can lay the foundation of such a system of Government, as will protect the rights and interests of all classes—allay all dissensions—and permanently establish, under Divine Providence, that Wealth, Greatness, and Prosperity, of which such inexhaustible elements are to be found in these fertile countries.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at the Castle of St. Lewis in the city of Quebec, in the said Province of Lower Canada, the 29th day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-eight, and in the first year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(By Command,)

CHARLES BULLER,
Chief Secretary.

UNITED STATES.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MAY 23.—*North Eastern Boundary.*—Before the House adjourned, the Chair laid before it the following Message from the President of the United States:—

Herewith transmit to the House the copy of a letter addressed to me on the 25th ultimo, by the Governor of Maine, enclosing several resolves of the Legislature of the State, and claiming reimbursement from the General Government of certain monies paid to Eben S. Greeley, John Barker, and others, in compensation for losses and sufferings experienced by them respectively, under circumstances more fully explained in his Excellency's letter.

In the absence of any authority on the part of the Executive to satisfy these claims, they are now submitted to Congress for consideration; and I deem it proper at the same time, with reference to the observations contained in Gov. Kent's note, above mentioned, to communicate to the House of Representatives copies of other papers connected with the subject of the North Eastern Boundary of the United States, which, with the documents already made public, will show the actual state of the negotiations with Great Britain, on the General question.

M. VAN BUREN.

Washington, May 19th, 1838.

The following important papers are among those accompanying the above message:

Department of State, Washington, April 27, 1838.

The undersigned, Secretary of State of the United States, has the honor, by direction of the President, to communicate to Mr. Fox, Her Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the result of the application of the General Government to the state of Maine on the subject of the North Eastern Boundary Line, and the resolution which the President has formed upon a careful consideration thereof. By the accompanying papers, received from the Executive of Maine, Mr. Fox will perceive that Maine declines to give a consent to the negotiation for a conventional boundary; is disinclined to the reference of the points in dispute to a new arbitration; but is yet firmly persuaded that the line described in the treaty of 1783 can be found and traced, whenever the Governments of the United States and Great Britain shall proceed to make the requisite investigations, with a predisposition to effect that very desirable object. Confidently relying, as the President does, upon the assurances frequently repeated by the British Government of the earnest desire to reach that result, if it is practicable, he has instructed the undersigned to announce to Mr. Fox the willingness of this Government to enter into an arrangement with Great Britain for the establishment of a joint commission of survey and exploration upon the basis of the original American proposition, and the modifications offered by Her Majesty's Government.

The Secretary of State is, therefore, authorized to invite Mr. Fox to a conference upon the subject at as early a day as his convenience will permit: and the undersigned will be immediately furnished with a requisite full power, by the President, to conclude a convention embracing that object, if Her Majesty's Minister is fully empowered to proceed to the negotiation of it on the part of Great Britain.

The undersigned avails himself of this occasion to renew to Mr. Fox the expression of his distinguished consideration.

JOHN FORSYTH.

Henry S. Fox, Esq., &c. &c. &c.

WASHINGTON, MAY 1, 1838.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official note of the 27th ultimo, in which you enclose to me a communication received by the Federal Government from the Executive of Maine, upon the subject of the North-Eastern Boundary Line; and in which you inform me that the President is willing to enter into an arrangement with Her Majesty's Government for the establishment of a joint commission of survey and exploration

upon the basis of the original American proposition, and of the modifications offered by Her Majesty's Government, as communicated to you in my note of the 10th of January last; and you invite me to a conference, for the purpose of negotiating a convention that shall embrace the above object, if I am duly authorised by my Government to proceed to such negotiation.

I have the honor to state to you, in reply, that my actual instructions were fulfilled by the delivery of the communication which I addressed to you of the 10th of January; and that I am not at present provided with full power for negotiating the proposed convention. I will forthwith, however, transmit to Her Majesty's Government the note which I have had the honor to receive from you, in order that such fresh instructions may be furnished to me, or such other steps taken as the present situation of the question may appear to Her Majesty's Government to require. I avail myself of this occasion, to renew to you the assurance of my high respect and consideration.

H. S. FOX.

The Hon. John Forsyth, &c.

FROM NORTHERN FRONTIER.—*During Outrage.*—An express from Washington reached this city yesterday afternoon, bringing despatches to Gov. Marcy, from the district Attorney, Marshall, etc. at that place, by which we regret to learn that a most extraordinary outrage was committed within the American waters early on Thursday morning. The British steamboat Sir Robert Peel, lying to about seven miles from French Creek, on the River St. Lawrence, was forcibly seized by a body of armed men, supposed to be Canadian refugees, set on fire and entirely consumed.

The following extracts from letters to the executive afford all the information yet received touching this affair. We trust that by the prompt action of the Civil Authorities, aided by the Military, all farther aggression or apprehended retaliation may be prevented; and that the perpetrators of the outrage may be discovered and brought to merited punishment.

Gov. Marcy conceiving the circumstances such as to require the immediate interposition of the State Authorities, left town soon after the arrival of the express in the evening cars for Utica, and thence, by relays of horses, to Watertown.

From George C. Sherman, District Attorney.

WATERTOWN, MAY 30, 1838.

Dear Sir,—I have this moment received by express, from H. Davis, Esq., Custom House Officer, at French Creek, a letter of which the following is a copy, and the information therein contained may be relied upon as correct:

Clayton, May 30, 1838.

"Sir—Last night the British Steamer Sir Robert Peel, was boarded near this place by about 50 armed men, in disguise; the persons on board driven on shore, and the boat set on fire, and wholly consumed. You are requested to aid the proper authorities in the affair, or to advise the proper course to be taken.

"Respectfully yours,"

"H. DAVIS."

G. E. Sherman, Esq.

In addition to the above, the messenger informs me that although no lives were lost, as is yet known, the mate of the Sir Robert Peel is badly hurt on board the vessel.

Our Steamer Onaida, on her way to Ogdensburg, this morning, volunteered and took the crew on board, and carried them to Kingston.

The whole community here is excited and alarmed to the greatest extent at this unwarrantable outrage, and a retaliatory spirit, that has only slept on the other side, will, it is feared, be again excited, and to an extent beyond control. The steamer Sir Robert Peel, it is said, was taking wood, at Mullet Creek, or at the narrows below, about 7 miles from the Creek.

From Jason Fairbanks, Deputy Marshall.

"I intend immediately to repair to the French Creek with Dr. Currier, the collector, and an officer, authorised to call out the militia, if necessary. A letter has just been received from Creek, calling for a force to protect them from being burnt to night as a measure of retaliation.

"All is excitement here, a rumour is afloat that the pirates were to make a simultaneous attack upon eight different boats at different places."

From Francis Malleby, Master U. S. Navy.

"The vessel was set on fire, within seven miles of French Creek, and within our waters while taking in wood. There appears no doubt that the expedition was got up from this side, although no persons have been identified as actors in the scene. It is satisfactory to state that no lives were lost."

We are glad to learn that the subscriptions for the Festivities at the approaching Coronation, is going on well. More than £400 we understand, has been subscribed, and yet more will undoubtedly be tendered. This desire displayed to do honour to the occasion is most gratifying—and speaks well for the state of feeling in this Town—a feeling which circumstances connected with the approaching ceremonial prove, is prevalent throughout the Province. We confidently believe, there is not a town of any note.