

UNITED STATES.

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.  
ANOTHER "BLAST OF WAR."

In Senate—Monday, January 18—The Special Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

GENTLEMEN—In my message at the opening of your session, I informed you that our charge d'Affaires at Paris, had been instructed to ask for the final determination of the French Government, in relation to the payment of the indemnification secured by the treaty of the 4th July, 1831, and that, when advices of the result should be received, it would be made the subject of a special communication.

In execution of this design, I now transmit to you the pages numbered from 1 to 13 exclusive, containing, among other things, the correspondence on this subject between our charge d'Affaires and the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, from which it will be seen that France requires, as a conditional precedent to the execution of a treaty unconditionally ratified; and to the payment of a debt acknowledged by all the branches of her government to be due, that certain explanations shall be made, of which she dictates the terms. These terms are such as that government has already been officially informed, cannot be complied with; and, if persisted in, they must be considered as a deliberate refusal on the part of France to fulfill engagements binding by the laws of nations, and held sacred by the whole civilized world. The nature of the act which France requires from this Government, is clearly set forth in the letter of the French minister, marked No. 1. "We will pay the money," says he, when the government of the United States is ready on its part to declare to us, by addressing its claim to us, officially in writing—that it regrets the misunderstanding which has arisen between the two countries—that this misunderstanding is founded on a mistake—that it never entered into its intention to call in question the good faith of the French government, or to take a menacing attitude towards France"—and he adds, "if the Government of the United States does not give this assurance, we shall be obliged to think that this misunderstanding is not the result of an error."

In the letter marked No. 6, the French Minister also remarks that "the Government of the United States knows that upon itself depends henceforward the execution of the Treaty of July 4, 1831."

This pretension is rendered the more unreasonable by the fact that the substance of the required explanation has been repeatedly and voluntarily given before it was insisted on us a condition—a condition the more humiliating because it is demanded as the equivalent of a pecuniary consideration. Does France desire only a declaration that we had no intention to obtain our rights by an address to her fears rather than to her justice? She has already had it frankly and explicitly given by our Minister accredited to her Government, his ratification by me, and my confirmation of it officially communicated by him, in his letter to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 25th of April, 1835, and repeated by my published approval of that letter after the passage of the bill of indemnification. Does France want a degrading, servile repetition of this act in terms which will involve an acknowledgment of her assumed right to interfere in our domestic councils? She will never obtain it. The spirit of the American people, the dignity of the Legislature, and the firm resolve of their Executive Government, forbid it.

While, however, the Government of the United States was awaiting the movements of

the French Government, in perfect confidence that the difficulty was at an end, the secretary of State received a call from the French charge d'Affaires in Washington, who desired to read to him a letter he had received from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was asked whether he was instructed or directed to make any official communication, and replied, that he was only authorized to read the letter, and furnish a copy if requested. The substance of its contents, it is presumed, may be gathered from Nos. 4 and 6, herewith transmitted. It was an attempt to make known to the Government of the United States, privately, in what manner it could make explanations apparently voluntary, but really dictated by France, acceptable to her, and thus obtain payment of the twenty-five millions of francs.

Copies of papers marked Nos. 9, 10, and 11, show an attempt on the part of the French charge d'Affaires, to place a copy of this letter among the archives of this Government, which, for obvious reasons, was not allowed to be done.

It will be perceived that this letter of the French Minister of Foreign Affairs was read to the Secretary of State on the 11th of September last. This was the first authentic indication of the specific views of the French government received by the Government of the United States, after the passage of the bill of indemnification. Inasmuch as the letter had been written before the official notice of my approval of Mr. Livingston's last explanation and remonstrances could have reached Paris, just ground of hope was left, as has been before stated, that the French Government, on receiving that information in the same manner that the alleged offensive measure had reached them, would desist from their extraordinary demand, and pay the money at once. To give them an opportunity to do so, and at all events to elicit their final determination, and the ground they intended to occupy, the instructions were given to our charge d'Affaires which were adverted to, at the commencement of the present session of Congress. The result, as you have seen, is a demand of an official expression of regrets, and a direct explanation addressed to France, with a distinct intimation that this is a *sine qua non*.

All diplomatic intercourse between the two countries is suspended—a state of things originating in an unreasonable susceptibility on the part of the French government, and rendered necessary on our part by their refusal to perform engagements contained in a treaty, from the faithful performance of which, by us, they are to this day enjoying many important commercial advantages.

It is true that this unequal position of affairs should cease, and that legislative action should be brought to sustain executive exertion in such measures as the case requires.

In the altered state of the questions in controversy, and under all existing circumstances, it appears to me, that, until such a determination shall have become evident, it will be proper and sufficient to retaliate her present refusal to comply with her engagements, by prohibiting the introduction of French products, and the entry of French vessels into our ports. Between this and the interdiction of all commercial intercourse or other remedies, you, as the representatives of the people, must determine. I recommend the former, in the present posture of our affairs, as being the least injurious to our commerce, and as attended with the least difficulty of returning to the usual state of friendly intercourse, if the Government of France shall render us

in Scotland have been milder than usual, but I shall speak of what I have seen. It is now over twenty years since I left that country, and became a denizen of this, consequently have a chance of being acquainted with both; and from a pratty careful observation since I came here, I think there is as great a quantity of snow falls in the interior of Scotland as does in Nova Scotia, and is generally drifted about with a stronger wind which makes it more disagreeable, the frost here is much more intense, and in ordinary of longer duration; but I have seen it, different winters there, three months frost and snow without intermission, and, although I did not see it, I had it from good authority that the people going to church crossed the the river Doveron seventeen successive Sabbaths on the ice; and I can safely say that there were four misty days there for one here. As to the proportions of the different countries susceptible of improvement, this has decidedly the advantage; it is generally allowed that there is not more than one third of Scotland fit for tillage, whereas this country has not much over a third but might be tilled. As to the quality of the soil it is not easy to say which has the advantage, there being so little done here to prove it, but as far as I am capable of judging there is a greater proportion of what might be arable land here good, than there: the Lothians, the Carse of Gowrie, Easter Ross, the Boyn, &c. are excellent tracts of land, but this is but a small part of the whole, and there is much but indifferent, and some very poor. I do think the section of this country lying between the Gut of Canso and Wallace harbour, might be made (and I have no doubt will be made) to maintain a more dense Agricultural population than the same extent in any part of Scotland. From the superior mode of culture now practised in the old country, I have no doubt; but the average returns of crops are greater there now than here; but I can remember since eight returns from the seed of oats upon infield, and four on the outfield, was the average—so that the general average was six returns; barley was much about the same; and as to wheat, I do not remember, there was very little raised in the part of the country I was most acquainted with.

If we had the means of ascertaining the returns here, I have little doubt but they would equal, if not exceed the above; as to hay, I am confident heavier crops are raised here than I ever saw there. The most valuable of the esculent roots can be raised in this country easier than they can in Scotland; the potatoe, which is deserving of the first place, may compare with, I believe, any in the world; and carrots, beets, parsnips, may be raised to any extent, with little trouble; and we can raise a variety of garden vegetables, such as pumpkins, squashes and cucumbers, that they cannot bring to maturity in the open air at all, consequently it is only the very rich that can afford such luxuries: I have seen the sowing of clover and flax seed tried there, but it did not answer: It will readily occur to any one that I have not mentioned turnips, which there is a staple article, I have raised here at the rate of from six to seven hundred bushels to the acre. I shall not carry the contrast farther now, in case I should be thought tedious; what has been said may satisfy any candid enquirer, and to remove prejudice is almost hopeless. What I conceive would answer an excellent purpose in this case, would be, to have a statistical account of the country, drawn up in imitation of Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account of Scotland: some person would be found in every district who would take the trouble of collecting all the leading facts of the same, which would at once be an excellent fund of information, and might be had at a cheap rate.

Yours truly,  
OLD RUSTICUS.

MADEIRA WINE.

10 CASKS, of 15 gallons each, for sale by ROSS & PRIMROSE. 24th Nov.