From the (Sandwich Islands) Friend of May 1, 1846.

Overland Mail!!

By the arrival of the U. S. schooner Shark, Lt. Com. Howison, we have received our regular files of N. Y. papers (Mercury and Express) up to Feb. 5; and have also been favored with the perusal of a N. O. paper as late as February 21.

We have also seen a "slip" cut from a Washington paper, which brings news "22 days" later from England, or down to the last of January. ☞The intelligence from that country is of the very highest importance, and hence we refer our readers to the abstract of English news found below.

From them and letters which have been kindly submitted to our perusal we glean the following:

THE OREGON QUESTION.—The relations between the United States and Great Britain, in regard to the Oregon territory, have rather an ominous aspect, though we cannot think a war will grow out of the present difficulties. In order that our readers may know how the case stood at the last advices, we give the following synopsis: By a convention between the two countries on the 20th of October, 1818, it was agreed that what is now called the Oregon territory, with its harbors, bays, &c., should be free and open for the term of ten years, to the vessels, citizens and subjects of the two nations. In August, 1827, another negotiation on the matter was terminated by the renewal of the 3d article of the former convention, and providing for the indefinite extension of all its provisions, with the agreement that either party might terminate it at any time it should be thought advisable, by giving one year's notice after the 20th of October, 1828.

Attempts at two or three different times have been made by members of congress, to pass a bill directing the president of the U. States to give this notice, but they have been unsuccessful. In the former negotiations between the two countries propositions have been made by each party, as follows: Great Britain offered the U. States to run a line along the 49th parallel of latitude to the north easternmost branch of the Columbia river, and thence down that river to the sea, giving to Great Britain all the country north, and to the United States all the country south of that line, except a small detached territory, extending on the Pacific and Straits of Fuca, from Bulfinch's harbor to Hood's canal, which also was to be given to the U. States. The U. S. on the other hand, offered to divide the land by a line drawn along the parallel of 49 degrees from the Rocky mountains to the sea, giving Great Britain the free navigation of the Columbia river. Neither proposition being acceded to, matters remained in statu quo until November, 1842, when the British government notified the American government of its wish to enter into negotiations concerning the boundary. Nothing, however, was done of importance until the 23d of August, 1844, when the negotiations commenced between Messrs. Calhoun and Pakenham, as plenipotentiaries at Washington. In addition to the former offers of Great Britain, Mr. Pakenham offered to make free any port or ports which the United States might desire, either on the main land or Vancouver's Island. This was declined by Mr. Calhoun. Mr. Pakenham wished then to know what arrangement Mr Calhoun was prepared to propose. Mr. C. in reply claimed the whole territory drained by the Columbia river and its branches. Thus the negotiation rested until January, 1845, when Mr. Pakenham proposed to settle the question by arbitration, which was declined by Mr. Calhoun.

In July, 1845, the negotiation was again resumed by Mr. Buchanan, who offered to Mr. P. the line formerly offered, viz: along the 49th degree of latitude from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific, making free to Great Britain any port or ports on Vancouver's Island, south of that latitude. Mr. P. in reply rejects this offer, and trusts Mr. B. will be prepared to offer some further proposal, "more consistent with fairness and equity, and with the reasonable expectations of the British government," &c. Mr. B. complains that his proposition has been rejected "without even a reference to his own government," and withdraws the proposal.

In December, Mr. P. again proposes to leave the whole matter to arbitration, which is again declined by Mr. B., and thus the matter rested at our last dates, so far as the negotiations are concerned.

On the 9th of February last, resolves were passed the house of representatives directing

Oregon Spectator.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

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the president to cause notice to be given to the government of Great Britain, that the convention shall be annulled in one year after giving said notice, but this notice not to interfere with the right and discretion of the proper authorities to renew or pursue negotiations for an amicable settlement of the controversy. These resolves were passed by a vote of 163 yeas, to 54 nays. It is very doubtful, however, whether these resolves pass the senate, as Mr. Calhoun and many of the southern senators are opposed to them. Out of 56 senators, only 22 are presumed to be in favor of passing the resolves. The president has informed the senate that the attempt to renew the negotiations had failed.

MEXICO.—The affairs between the U. S. and Mexico still remained unsettled. The Mexican government had refused to receive Mr. Slidell as minister plenipotentiary from the U. States, and he had left the city of Mexico. It is also stated that Matamoras and Tampico are blockaded. The American troops in Texas had been ordered to take up the line of march for the Rio Grande or Bravo. The Mexican troops had retired from Mazatlan into the interior; all vessels in the harbor had been sent off a day or two before the Shark left. The Mexican government had ordered the governors of the states to furnish the necessary quota of men to fill up the army of invasion to the war-complement of 60,000 men. The internal affairs of Mexico are by no means quiet. Opposition in some of the states is still made to the usurpation of general Paredes.

UNITED STATES.—The new tariff prepared by the secretary of the treasury, proposes ad valorem duties as follows:

Iron and manufactures of iron, 30 per cent.; coal, 30; manufactures of wool, 25; unmanufactured wool, 20; manufactures of cotton, hemp and flax, 20; wines, 30; spirits, 75; sugar and molasses, 30; manufactures of silk, 30; do. of worsted, 25; coffee, tea and salt, FREE.

The U. S. frigate Congress, was spoken the 8th Dec. lat. 2 degs. 25 north, long. 26 degs. 52 west; 39 days out and expected to be in Rio in 15 days. [She had not arrived at Valparaiso on the 27th February, as we learn by a whale ship at Lahaina.] The ship "Brooklyn" left New York for the Oregon on the 4th of February, with 175 emigrants, principally farmers and mechanics, from New England. Two other vessels were expected to leave Boston and Salem in March.

The exports from the U. S. the past year, amounted to nearly one hundred and fifteen millions of dollars. Imports one hundred and seventeen millions.

Dr. White left Washington for the Oregon on the 8th of February. He was to be escorted with all despatch by U. S. dragoons, through the Indian territory.

The line of the magnetic telegraph between New York and Boston was to be completed in February last. It is to be extended to the valley of the Mississippi.

The Girard College near Philadelphia is finished.

PARLIAMENT was prorogued to the 22d of January, on which day it met. The Queen's speech, as well as the tone of the press, with regard to the U. S., was of the most pacific character. Expressions of regret were made on all hands, that the difficulties between that country and the United States about Oregon, are yet unsettled.

Sir Robert Peel in a four hour's speech, introduced his plan for the fiscal regeneration of the country. It was simple and comprehensive. He announced the reduction of duty on a number of articles which press upon the commercial and agricultural interests, and impressed upon the manufacturers the necessity of preparing for the advent of free trade.

Sir Robert Peel in his speech spoke highly of the report of the American secretary of the treasury. Said report, at the request of Lord Monteagle, was ordered to be reprinted and placed on the table of both houses of parliament, an honor which was probably never awarded to a similar document before.

The timber duties are to undergo a revision. The duty on foreign free labor sugar is to be reduced 3s. 6d. per cwt. The corn-laws he proposes to abolish totally and unconditionally, on the 1st of February, 1849, and in the meantime, a modified sliding scale is to be substituted for the one at present in existence. The law of settlement is to be altered and the high way rates are to be remodelled. The alteration of duties proposed on American produce are as follows: Bacon, beef, (fresh and salted,) pork, hay, hides and meat, *free*. Tallow candles, 5s. per cwt.; cheese, 5s. per cwt.; hams, 7s. per cwt.; tallow, 1s. per cwt.; buckwheat, Indian corn and rice, 1s. per quarter, instead of the former heavy duties. Yankee clocks are to be admitted at 10 per cent., instead of 50 per cent. ad valorem.

FRANCE.—The French Chambers were opened by the King on the 30th of December, by a speech from the Throne, which was very pacific and friendly to England. Mr. Guizot had noticed the remarks of Mr. Polk's message relative to war and Texas, expressing his surprise at the language used, and stating that he considered it his duty to claim in reply for France, an entire independence of action.

☞The frigate Congress, commodore Dupont, bearing the broad pennant of commodore Stockton, sailed from Norfolk Nov. 4.

OFFICERS AND PASSENGERS.—*Commodore*, R. F. Stockton. *Commander*, Samuel F. Dupont. *Lieutenants*, John W. Livingston, Jas. F. Schenck, Theodore P. Green, A. F. V. Gray, Richard L. Tilghman, E. G. Parrot. *Fleet Surgeon*, Charles Eversfield. *Purser*, William Speiden. *Chaplain*, Walter Colton. *Master*, Van Rensalaer Morgan. *Commodore's Secretary*, J. Parker Norris. *Commodore's Clerk*, Constantine Sargent. *1st Lieut. Marines*, J. Zollin. *Passed Midshipmen*, Edward F. Beale, (*Acting Master*,) John Guest, Wm. H. Thompson, James M. Duncan, M. K. Warrington, Charles H. Baldwin, Maurice Simons. *Midshipmen*, Samuel B. Elliot, Theodore Lee, Archibald H. Warring, Benjamin F. Wells, Josiah S. Byers, William Mitchell. *Gunner*, Charles Cobb. *Carpenter*, John Southwick. *Sailmaker*, John Peed. *Passengers to the Sandwich Islands*, Anthony Ten Eyck, diplomatic agent, lady and children, Miss Johnson, and J. Turrill, consul, lady and family.

Her principal cruising ground is supposed to be the Oregon coast.

The Polynesian of April 25, copies from the Journal of Commerce, the following as an extract of a letter, dated

HAVANA, Jan. 13, 1846.

Lieut. Peel, son of Sir Robert Peel, arrived here in the last steamer from Vera Cruz, and went to Europe as bearer of despatches from the Admiral of the English squadron at the Sandwich Islands.

Since his passage a rumor is circulated that the whole English force in the Pacific is making sail for the Columbia river, with orders to anchor there.

TEXAS.

On the 12th January, President Jones issued his Proclamation, announcing the receipt of official intelligence of the passage by the congress, and approved by the President of the United States, of the Joint Resolution for the admission of Texas into the Union; and directing the members of the legislature elect to assemble in regular biennial session at Austin, on Monday, the 16th of February next, and proceed to organize a State Government.—*Polynesian.*

The Mormons.

The Quincy Whig, after stating definitely that it is understood that the Mormons will retire to Nootka Sound, from the disgraceful persecutions of their neighbors in Illinois, gives the following account of the place of their proposed residence:

"Nootka or Vancouver Island, on the northwest coast of North America, we have it from good authority, is to be the final destination and home of the Mormon people. This island is about three hundred miles long, and from seventy-five to one hundred in width. It is separated from the main land by a long, narrow strait, and lies between the 47th and 48th and 51st or 52d degrees of north latitude, extending along the coast in a northwest direction. The boundary line between the American and British possessions will probably pass across the island. The English, we believe, have one or two trading posts on the island, but for the most part it is inhabited by Indians, of not a warlike disposition. It is a long journey, but can be accomplished. If the Mormons do emigrate to that distant land, they will be out of the reach of harm from white men, and may enjoy their peculiar notions in quiet, until the devil breeds his own discords and confusions among them.

We understand from the same authority that companies are rapidly organizing at Nauvoo, for an early start in the spring. The church authorities and leading men will go out in a very large company, and without doubt the remainder will follow.

TOO TRUE.—A dark feature in the present age, said the late Dr. Channing, "is the spirit of collision, contention and discord, which breaks forth in religion, politics, in private affairs—a result a necessary issue of the selfishness which prompts the endless activity of life. The migh y forces which are at this moment acting in society are not and cannot be in harmony, for they cannot be governed by love. They jar—they are discordant. Life has now little music in it. It is not only on the field of battle that men fight. They fight on the exchange. Business is war, is conflict of skill, management, too often fraud. Christians forsaking their one Lord, gather under the various standards to gain a victory for their sects. Politics is war, breaking the whole people into fierce and unscrupulous parties, which forget their country in conflict for office and power. The age needs nothing more than peace makers; men of serene, commanding virtue, to preach in life and word the gospel of human brotherhood, to allay the fires of jealousy and hate.

Select Scraps and Maxims.

He knows nothing of man, who expects to convince a determined party-man.

The wrath that on conviction subsides into mildness, is the wrath of a generous mind.

He submits to be seen through a microscope, who suffers himself to be caught in a fit of passion.

We should not say we know another entirely till we have divided an inheritance with him.

With three sorts of men, enter into no serious friendship—the ungrateful man; the multiloquous man; the coward: the first cannot prize thy favors; the second cannot keep thy counsel; the third dare not vindicate thy honor.

For men in business.—Credit should be sparingly given, and integrity be the basis of it.

Guarantees should only be taken in writing, and a consideration always expressed therein.

The honor of an honest man, as far as dollars and cents goes, dies when he dies—therefore, honorable conditions in writing.

Lying won't stand, while truth is truth.

Rascals may flourish, but honest men will out-sleep them.

Wealth is desirable, if honestly acquired, and is blest with contentment.

Prudence in promises is a fair guarantee in the redemption of them.

A genuine scoundrel is a man who, by his sanctity, has obtained credit; and, through religious professions, keeps back property from his legitimate creditors.

A burglar is a gentleman, compared with a smooth-faced merchant-robber.

Credit or confidence given to men of doubtful integrity, is an injustice done to all who hold on to their honesty.

Liberality should never be extended to the niggardly and deceptive.

Risk anything before you risk your reputation.

Truth is a restorative—it saves the conscience, and keeps up a glow of happiness under all the workings of life.