and here and there a little herbage. No provisions were made for the subsistence of our camels—The proportionate burthen laden on each of them was about seven hundred weight. The vallies between the high grounds and mountains are plains of sand, in some places deep and quick. In many instances we were compelled to march two, three or four days through these dreary plains without affording any forage to these patient animals; & it was only when we fell in with such coarse vegetation as I have before described, that they were loosed from their hampers and permitted to roam under the vigilance and responsibility of their drivers: they seemed to prefer the roughest weeds, and were peculiarly fond of the thistle and wild thyme. Though, from the scantiness of this wretched kind of forage, they became low in flesh, not one of them failed; and I am persuaded from my own observation, that they did not have water more than four or five times during a passage of fifty days. The scanty supplies which we took from accidental cisterns and rare reservoirs hardly kept alive our famishing host, and our cavalry horses, which cannot subsist without drink. One Arab was allowed to the care of ten camels. How useful might this animal be rendered on the plains of our southern climates? Cold weather and freezing is destructive to them; and they make a laborious and weary progress among rocks.

In such parts of the southern states as where roads are imperfect, and where the mails and other communications are carried by horses, the dromedary would also be a useful introduction. This animal seems to be a species of the camel; less in size; not calculated for burthen; slender of frame; easy of motion, and speedy of travel. Its general daily march is about sixty miles—when pushed one hundred. It feeds on the same plants as the camel, and is equally docile and obedient. It is remarkable that the camel always kneels to receive its burthen, and has the sagacity to know and complain, when too much is imposed for his strength; he kneels also to be unladen.

Other kinds of useful annimals might also be brought from Africa. They have the finest mules on the Barbary coast I have ever seen in any country; and the means of producing the same quality here may be easily obtained and transported. An excellent species of sheep are found there, upon which some beneficial experiments have been made upon the plantations of Judge Peters of Pennsylvania. Some valuable tropical fruit trees from that coast, unknown in our country, I think might be made to flourish in the vicinity of New Orleans, on the banks of the Mississippi, and on our southern frontiers; particularly the palm tree. It produces a fruit extremely nutricious, which forms a chief article of subsistence to the sun-browned wanders of the interior of Barbary and Egypt, is very delicious, and is a rare treat as a desert upon the boards of gentlemen in Europe and America.

This sketch is imperfect, but not incorrect. A passenger and a late hour must apologise for imperfection. I shall be glad to correspond with any gentlemen who feel and will take an interest in this subject, and, if circumstances allow, would willingly have a concern in an enterprize which I believe might, in process of time, be rendered very useful to our country.

Accept, sir, I pray you,
the assurance of my considerate friendship and respect.

WILLIAM EATON.

New-York, Sept. 5.

On Saturday last, one of the pilots of this port spoke a ship in the offing, from Ireland, that sailed from thence on the 22d July. The commander of her informed that the expedition sailed on 17th or 18th of July, and that the embargo was confined to the ports of England. He further stated, that the Russian army had joined the French; but, that negociations for peace were still pending between France and Austria, and the general opinion was, that a peace would be concluded without another battle.

Baltimore, Sept. 6.

From the Danube, July 2.

They write from Vienna under date of June 29, that the French are making preparations to cross the river, so that a decisive battle is momently expected to take place.

From Saxony, July 3.

The Austrians are driven from Saxony, in which their whole disposable force never exceeded 6,000 men.

Copenhagen, July 15.—On the 7th of July ten English vessels of war landed 400 men at Cuxhaven and Ritzbuttel, of which places they immediately took possession. It is said that the English have also landed some troops at Bremerlehe. On the 11th of July 18 English armed vessels were seen to lay off the mouth of the Elbe, apparently with troops on board. They have razed the fort of Ritzbuttle. The duke of Brunswick, Oels, is still in Saxony.

From Elsineur.

Notwithstanding our anxious hopes, that American vessels with colonial produce, *bona fide* the property of American citizens, would be suffered to trade with us unmolested, which hopes were so strongly manifested that several American vessels have already entered our ports; it appears however that we have been deceived. American trade at this moment is entirely at an end. Nobody doubts that colonial produce of the first necessity belonging to neutrals, would have been freely received in our harbors & would have brought a good price, as the state of the market proves; it could be wished that American vessels, laden with colonial produce, the property of American citizens and coming direct from America, would be permitted to visit our ports.

Immediately after the embargo in America was taken off, we were told through an English channel that 150 vessels were ready with their cargoes to sail from different ports of the U. States bound to the Baltic. We soon after saw several vessels pass, bearing the U. S. colors, part of them under English convoy, and part otherwise; the latter were brought by our privateers into different ports of Denmark and Norway. Six vessels bearing the American flag, have been carried in; we have seen no more of them for these four weeks past. This quick termination of the arrivals of American vessels is easy comprehended. We entertain no doubt that their pretended American vessels are nearly connected with the *rulers of the sea*, and we are the more induced to believe it so, since the remainder of these spoken of vessels have ceased to arrive. It is more than probable that their *near neighbors* have advised them to stay at home.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.

The N. Y. Evening Post of the 4th inst. says, that "Mr. Madison, *instead of imitating Mr. Jefferson and throwing obstacles in the way,* was so polite and courteous as to cause the necessary directions to be given to the proper officers of the port of Norfolk, to render him (Mr. Jackson) every assistance in facilitating his landing."

We have no intention to deny that the civilities due to the minister of every foreign nation with whom we are not actually at war have been rendered to Mr. Jackson. But in what instance did Mr. Jefferson, during his administration ever throw an obstacle in the way of the reception of a British minister? In none whatever. It is presumed that allusion is made to the reception of Mr. Rose at Norfolk.—In this case there was a delay in the reception of the minister; but it was a delay of his own creation, on account of some doubt in his mind as to the treatment of the frigate in which he came, arising from the existing interdiction of British armed vessels, the same which now exists. When the cause of difficulty was understood, so far from throwing obstacles in the way, instructions were immediately sent to the collector on the subject, which entirely satisfied Mr. Rose's scruples. Not only did he meet with an amicable reception, but, it being understood that he was in the river on his way to Washington, a barge was sent down the river from the Navy Yard at this city to expedite his approach, and provision was made for his personal accommodation.

The civility or courtesy that is due from one government to the Representative of another, if displayed by Mr Madison towards Mr. Jackson, has been no less displayed by the late President of the U. States towards that gentleman's predecessors.

Duelling.—In this day's paper will be found an impressive address of an association lately organised in N. York for the suppression of this savage practice. As duels are more fostered by a desire of notoriety than perhaps any other cause, we would recommend, as an effectual method of prevention, a combination amongst Editors of newspapers to exclude from their papers all notices of duels or duellists. Every such notice is but a record of the barbarity of the times; for though to youthful and ardent spirits it appears a desirable object to be paragraphed from one end of the continent to the other, the frequent recurrence of duels can operate on reflecting minds in no other way than to excite pity for the weakness of human nature, which can be wrought up by the magic of *fashion* to deeds so repugnant to the principles of humanity. It is under the influence of these feelings that we have rarely permitted ourselves to take any notice of a duel.

City Council.—We are requested to state that there is a determination amongst the citizens of the First and Second Wards of this City, to contest the late Election of the City Council; and we are further requested to state that this intimation is given to guard the citizens against being involved in any consequences which may ensue from the decision which may be made on the subject by the proper tribunal.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Was Great Britain bound by the act of Mr. Erskine?

An ambassador is a person sent in a public manner from one sovereign power to another, and he is the lawful representative of the party who sends him. Ambassadors are of two descriptions: 1. *Special Envoys*, who are ministers sent by the government of one nation to that of another, in order to settle some particular affair, or to regulate some particular business, such as the making a treaty, or the like. 2. *Ministers resident and plenipotentiary*; who are sent from one nation to attend constantly upon the courts of another nation, not to carry on any particular purpose, but to manage its business generally in those courts and to observe what passes there.*

Mr. Erskine was minister resident and plenipotentiary near the U. States for Great Britain. The word "*plenipotentiary*" is derived from the French substantive *plenipotentiaire*, which has its origin from the Latin adjective *plenus*, (full,) and the noun *potentia*, (power); signifying that the person who has the title of minister *plenipotentiary*, has *full power* from the nation of which he is the representatives, to transact all sorts of business with the nation to which he is sent without any hindrance or reservation whatsoever.

To induce nations to which ambassadors are sent to place the necessary confidence in them, those ambassadors are furnished with *certificates of appointment* from the governments by whom they are deputed, which certificates are called *letters of credence*. These credentials are drawn up in the name of the sovereign, are signed by him, and must be delivered to the government near which the ambassador is to reside, before he will be received and acknowledged as the authorised minister of his nation.—Letters of credence contain a specification of the powers vested in the ambassador. If he is a *special* envoy, he is restricted to the negociation of the particular business upon which he is delegated; but if he is a minister *plenipotentiary*, his powers are *full*, & there is no restriction at all. These credentials also comprise an exhortation to the government to whom they are addressed, in behalf of the ambassador who presents them, beseeching it "*to give full credence to what he shall say.*"

A minister plenipotentiary, therefore, combines in his official character, and for the sphere in which he acts, all the powers of the sovereignty which he represents. What he does *for* his nation is done *by* his nation.

To this doctrine only one exception is admissible. The thing to which an ambassador binds his government must be *probable* and *just*; otherwise the nation would not be definitively bound by the pledge of its representative; and it would be the folly of the government treating with the ambassador, to place any confidence in stipulations not likely to happen and not conformable to justice.

A complete illustration of the character of a minister plenipotentiary from one government to another, may be found in the familiar instance of a member of Congress. A delegate in the House of Representatives, is an ambassador for one portion of the people to consult with the delegates or ambassadors of other portions of the people in the National Legislature; his certificate of election is his letter of credence, which he delivers to the Speaker, (as a minister plenipotentiary delivers his letter of credence to the Executive,) before he is acknowledged; when he is accredited there is no longer any question as to his authority; his votes are invariably considered valid; and his acts conclusively bind the people whose representative he is. A minister may make a bad bargain, and a member of Congress may sanction a bad law; but for the sovereign of the first to violate the one, or for the people to refuse to obey the other, is rebellion against the jurisprudence and customs of nations in the monarch, and against the fundamental principles of society in the citizens. The only proper remedy for the sovereign, is negociation; and for the people, a constitutional repeal of the act.

Thus, from facts, from custom, and from reason, it is manifest that *the act of a minister plenipotentiary binds his government*; and if it were not so, it would be impossible to treat with him, because there could never be any certain dependence on his declarations or on his actions. But neither fact, custom nor reason, may be sufficient to satisfy scrupulous minds on this head; and, therefore, more fully to convince them of the conformity of this doctrine to the opinions recognized by all nations who admit the arbitrament of law, the most unequivocal authority is now produced. Rutherforth, in his "*Lectures on Grotius de Jure Belli et Pacis*," (Whitehall edition, pages 581 and 582. vol. 2.) says "What they [sovereigns] do by their deputies, such as envoys, ambassadors, or plenipotentiaries, is their own act; and consequently in respect of the nation it produces the same effect, as if they had done it themselves. In public compacts, which sovereign princes or other constitutional governors of a nation make by deputies or agents, the law of nature is the same, as in promises, which individuals make by proxy: *what the deputies do under the authority of their public commissions binds their principals; EVEN THOUGH THEY EXCEED SOME PRIVATE INSTRUCTIONS, WHICH THEIR PRINCIPALS HAD GIVEN THEM.*" Nothing can be more explicit; and Rutherforth is a writer of too exalted a reputation to require any recommendation. His "Institutes" are to be found in the library of every enlightened Englishman and American.

From all which it indisputably follows; as Mr. Erskine was the minister resident & plenipotentiary from G. Britain to the United States; as he was clothed with all the functions which that character includes; and as the arrangement which he entered into with the American government in Apl. 1809, was neither a thing improbable as it related to time, manner, or circumstance, nor unjust in its nature; that *G. Britain was bound by the act of Mr. Erskine.*

There has been drawn into this question a case which has no relation to it, and which, if it proves any thing, establishes the justness of the preceding reasoning. It has been said that the violation of Mr. Erskine's arrangement with America is excusable, because the President of the United States rejected Mr. Monroe's project of a treaty. To this apology for the British ministry it is sufficient to reply by appealing to the well known fact that this treaty was, at the time of signing it, not considered as obligatory until formally ratified; and in order that there should be no misunderstanding in this respect, there was inserted in the treaty the following special article, viz. Art. 26: "This treaty, *when the same shall have been ratified* by his majesty, and by the President of the United States, with the advice of their Senate, and the respective ratifications mutually exchanged, shall be binding and obligatory on his majesty, and on the said states."† It may also be remarked, that all arrangements, compacts or agreements, which are subject to revision and rejection by the government of a nation whose ambassador has entered into them, contain a clause to that effect.

But a further answer to the apology set up for England presents itself.—Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney, previously to signing that treaty, "fully explained [to the British commissioners] the condition upon which they did proceed in the business, that is, that the American government would not be bound to ratify the treaty, if it should not be satisfied."‡ There could, therefore, be no deception in the case of the rejected treaty, because the ministers of the United States informed the British commissioners that they had exceeded their instructions, and of course that what they signed was not to be considered binding on the government of the U. S.

The squabble which has been artfully introduced and mischievously fomented, on the question whether Mr. Canning or Mr. Erskine is most to blame, is a silly altercation, and an enquiry with which the American administration has nothing at all to do. Passing by subordinate agents, the government of the United States can see in the whole affair nothing but the sovereign power of the British nation, which alone must bear all the odium and all the dishonor of the transaction.

REGULUS.

* Grotius.

† See the rejected treaty in the volume of public documents published by order of Congress in 1808–9, pages 161, 182

‡ See the letter from Messrs. Monroe and Pinkney to the American Secretary of State, bearing date London, April 22, 1807—public documents of 1808–9, pages 184, 185, et passim.

Remarkable phenomenon in natural history.—In sinking a well, at Mr. Anthony Holmead's plantation, near Georgetown, at the depth of fifty-four feet, the workmen struck upon a substance, which, on examination, appears to be charcoal intermixed with sulphur, and some metalic substance which drops in a [illegible] appearance. The body of earth above those substances is clay of different kinds. The coal and sulphureous substances occupied from four to five feet in depth, after which the workmen came to a sandy bottom and water. Here of course their labors ended. Large pieces of coal intermixed with sulphur may be seen at this office. How came wood at such a depth in the earth? What turned it to charcoal? Was the surface of the earth ever so low as fifty-four feet below the present surface? Here is a wide field for conjecture. We shall not enter it at this time. But the facts we have stated may be depended on. Several respectable gentlemen from this town were eye witnesses of the circumstance, and have preserved specimens of the various substances, for the [illegible] of the curious.—*Ind. American.*

From the [illegible].

A few additional circumstances [illegible] be added to the imperfect accounts already published, concerning the late great battle on the Danube.

Mr. Henry Freands, a passenger in the brig Inca, says, that about the [illegible] of July, the French ambassador at Hamburgh communicated the event to the senate of that city, which was immediately published in French and German, in alternate pages—which he read in the island of Sylt; that he there saw the details in the Danish papers, which were lengthy; that on the French side, no generals of note were killed, but on the Austrian several fell, whose names he cannot recollect; that previous to the battle, three bridges of an extraordinary kind were constructed, and rapidly finished, by sailors from Boulogne; and the Archduke's retreat at the head of 40,000 men, was permitted in consequence of delivering various strong holds on the Danube; but he has no recollection of seeing in the accounts that were published, that Prince Charles was wounded. The Eutaw was to sail two days after the Inca; and he has no doubt of all the details, which are very lengthy, being received by her. These battles were fought near the ground on which those of the 21st and 22d of May were fought—the Archduke having fortified his camp in the strongest manner.

Extract of a letter from Mr. L. F. Von Hollen, dated

Hambro', July 21, 1809.

'It is reported here that an English expedition is destined for this part of the continent. If that should be the case, and the Elbe be open, vessels from your country might perhaps then proceed to Hamburgh, or otherwise to Tonningen. There are French Douaniers on the Weser, Jade and at East Friesland; but it is not yet determined what steps the Dutch government will take respecting American vessels.

'To day all these prospects seem to vanish. It is reported here that the Austrians, after having been defeated by the French on the Danube, were compelled to sign an armistice very disadvantageous to them; French troops, it is said, are marching towards the coast, in order to prevent the British carrying on a trade.

'In consequence of these reports, the prices of American and West India produce had risen considerably. A trade might, notwithstanding, be carried on to Tonningen, and I advise you to do so, provided the British do not prevent you from it.'

Charleston, August 29.

On Friday last, a batteaux with three men in it was upset along side of a fishing smack in our harbor, and in a moment an enormous Shark caught one of the men, and no part of his body has since been found.

Two Tiger Sharks were caught on Sunday last on the market wharf; one of them was eleven and a half and the other ten and an half feet long.

ABSCONDED

FROM the Subscriber on Sunday evening 27th of August, my apprentice, named GEORGE LATHAN, is between 16 and 17 years of age, about 5 feet 8 inches high, had on when he went away a round black hat nearly new, a drab colored coatee and blue velvet trowsers. This is to warn all persons not to harbor said apprentice or trust him on my account, as I shall not be answerable for him, but shall prosecute those who do. I will give Six Cents reward, but no other charges to any person who will deliver to the jail in Washington city said George Lathan.

CHARLES VARDEN,
New Jersey avenue.

September 8—3t.

BENJAMIN ADAMSON,
CABINET MAKER,

BEGS Leave to inform the public, that he has taken the second House on Pennsylvania avenue, west of the President's and formerly occupied by Mr. Wenn, where he intends carrying on his business in all its various branches, and that he has a considerable stock of Furniture, &c. on hand. Orders will be executed with punctuality and dispatch, and every exertion will be made to please those who may favor him with their custom.

B. A. Has also a considerable quantity of MAHOGANY on hand, which he will dispose of on reasonable terms.

September 8—3tlaw3w