FLORIDA GAZETTE.

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⁂ *All Letters, on business, to the Editors, must be Post-paid.*

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF FLORIDA.

(Concluded from last week.)

Pensacola was founded by the French in 1699, and is the capital of West Florida, at the mouth of Escambia and Coenecup rivers, lat. 30. 15 north, and lon. 87. 14 west. The harbour is said to be spacious and safe; the bar admitting vessels drawing twenty feet water. The entrance into the bay is defended by a small fort on the west end of Rose's island and a battery on the main land nearly opposite. The Governor's place is a large stone building, ornamented with tower. Since it has been in possesion of Spain, it has been on the decline. There was formerly a fortification on the sand hills back of the town, but too distant to afford substantial protection to the town or harbour. In 1781, it was taken from the British by a Spanish force, commanded by Don Bernard Galvez, after an obstinate defence. During the siege, a shell bursted open the door of the powder magazine, under the redoubt; which was blown up, and one hundred men killed and wounded. The place was soon after surrendered by capitulation, and remained in possesion of Spain until it was ceded to his Catholic majesty by the treaty of 1783.

In common with the other provinces of Spain in north America; West Florida has been an unprofitable and an expensive burthen to the Spanish government. The civil and military officers and soldiers constitute a majority of the inhabitants; and more than half of the remainder, may justly be compared to the followers of a camp. By the treaty of the 3d of Sept. 1783, East and West Floridas were ceded by Great Britain to Spain.

"Article 5th, His Catholic majesty agrees that the British inhabitants or others who may have been subjects of the King of Great Britain in the said countries, may retire in full security and liberty where they shall think proper, and may sell their estates and remove their effects as well as their persons; the term limited for their emigration being fixed to the space of 18 months—but if from the value of their possessions they shall not be able to dispose of them within the said term; then his Catholic majesty shall grant them a prolongation proportioned to that end." Such as chose to remain in the provinces were secured in all their rights as Spanish subjects.

By the treaty of the 3d of Sept. 1783, between the United States and the King of Great Britain, the line of demarcation between the Floridas and the U. States commences on the Mississippi, in lat. 31 deg. north running due east to the middle of the rivers Apalachicola or Chatahouchie, thence along the middle thro' to its junction with Flint river, thence straight to the head of St. Mary's river, and thence along the middle of the St. Mary's river to the Atlantic ocean, In this treaty, no notice is taken of the proclamation of the King of England of March 2, 1770, by which the northern limits of west Florida were extended to a parallel latitude with the mouth of the Yazoo; which afterwards was made the source of difficulty by the Spanish government, in running the line of demarcation; but the Spanish government ultimately yielded, and the line was run, according to the treaty, in 1783.

By the treaty between France and the U. States dated at Paris on the 30th of April 1803 all the territory mentioned in the 8th article, of the treaty of the 16th of Feb. 1763, between France, Spain and England; was ceded to the United States, as follows.

"Article, 1st. Whereas by the third article of the treaty, concluded at St. Idelfonso, October 1st. 1800, between the First Consul of the French Republic, and His Catholic Majesty, it was agreed as follows: His Catholic Majesty, engages on his part, to cede to the French Republic, six months after the full and entire execution of the conditions and stipulations herein, relative to his Royal Highness, the Duke of Parma, the Colony and Province of Louisiana, with the same extent that it now has in the hands of Spain, and that it had when France possessed it; and such as it should be after the treaties subsequently entered into between Spain and other States. *And Whereas;* in pursuance of the treaty, and particularly of the third article; the French Republic has an incontestable title to the domain and to the possession of the said territory. The First Consul of the French Republic, desiring to give to the United States, a strong proof of his friendship, doth hereby cede to the United States, in the name of the French Republic, forever, and its full sovereignty, the said territory, with all its rights and appurtenances, as fully and in the same manner as have been acquired by the French Republic, in virtue of the above mentioned treaty, concluded with His Catholic Majesty."

Notwithstanding the unequivocal language of right and title, guaranteed by the foregoing article of treaty, the Spanish government refused the surrender of West-Florida. The American government ultimately resorted to military force, and took possession of the Fort at Mobile and the Province.

During the late War, between the United States and Great-Britain, it became an object with the latter, to form an alliance with the Creek and Seminole Indians. To accomplish these purposes, the aid of the Spanish Governor of Pensacola was important; to give free access through the Floridas, to British emisaries, to supply the Indians with munitions of war. Under the pretext of a deficiency of military force to preserve neutrality, a British force was permitted to garrison a Spanish fortress at Pensacola. From this place, Colonel Nicholls enlisted a force, fitted out an expedition against the Fort at Mobile, commanded by Major Lawrence, but was compelled to retire to Pensacola, with a considerable loss of men, and of the Commodore's frigate Hermes.

Major-General Jackson marched into the vicinity of Pensacola, and sent a flag to the Governor, demanding redress for the violation of neutrality, in suffering an expedition to be fitted out from that place against the United States. The flag was fired on, and compelled to return. The situation in which General Jackson was now placed, would not admit of a temporizing policy; he therefore determined to hazard his fame, upon the exercise of his judgment; he demanded of the Spanish Governor, that the different forts, by which the harbour of Pensacola was commanded, should be placed under the protection of the United States, until the Spanish Government should furnish the means of enforcing its neutral rights. This demand not having been complied with, the troops were put in motion, exhibiting evidences of an intention to make the attack upon the western part of the town; while the General, with the main body, entered in an opposite direction, before the garrison was aware of it. They were unexpectedly saluted by a battery in the street, which, after a few vollies, was carried by the bayonet. The Governor appeared with a flag, and offered to surrender the town and forts, unconditionally. The Barancas, which was the most important object of the expedition, remained to be taken possession of, but it was destroyed by the British troops, who suddenly embarked on board of their shipping, and left the bay. The General returned from Pensacola, leaving the Spanish Governor well satisfied, that the American troops had not molested the persons or property of the Spanish subjects.

After the conclusion of the war between the United States and Great Britain, some adventurers, who pretended to be subjects and agents of the British government, opened a trade with the Indians through the Floridas, and with the hope of finding their interest in the issue, gave aid and countenance to hostilities, which were carried on by the Creek and Seminole Indians, against the frontiers of Georgia; and several families were murdered. Another army was ordered into the nation, under the command of Gen. Jackson, and the Indians retired into Florida. They were pursued and defeated in several skirmishes; and under the protection of the Spanish government, three of the principal agents, who had joined and aided them in the war, were taken prisoners. These men were tried by a General Court Martial, and two of them, Robert C. Ambrister, and Alexander Arbuthnot, were found guilty—sentenced to suffer death, and were accordingly hanged. John I Arbuthnot, being less criminal, was spared on account of his youth. This measure which policy and justice required, put an end to hostilities, and closed the war.

The preliminaries of a treaty between the United States and Spain, has been the subject of a tedious negociation, and by the latter, a variety of evasive subterfuges were reeorted to, for the purpose of producing delay. Finding however, that there was a disposition on the part of the American government, to take forcible possession of the Floridas, as a compensation for a large amount, due by Spain for illegal spoliations committed on the property of citizens of the United States, the Spanish Minister, agreed to a session of the Floridas, as a remuneration, in Feb. 1819. Care had previously been taken by the King of Spain, to lay a plan to replenish his coffers and increase the wealth of some of his favorites, by giving them grants for the whole of the unlocated territory. The American government by this arrangement, would have made itself responsible for the debt due by Spain to the citizens of the United States, and his Catholic Majesty and his favorites, would have pocketed the value of the spoil, out of which these debts were intended to have been paid. Eight months were wasted in Madrid by the American Minister, before the point was yielded by the Spanish Government, and the grants made null and void. The treaty according to the original intent and meaning, finally received the King's sanction, and was ratified by the United States, on the 22d day of February, 1821. A law was immediately after passed by Congress, authorising the President of the United States, to take possession of the Floridas, and establish a territorial government; of which *Major-General Andrew Jackson*, is appointed Governor.

[*Erratum.*—In the contents preceding this Sketch, 6th line from the bottom—for "Boundaries established by treaty, and the Floridas ceded to Great-Britain in 1783" —*read*—Boundaries established by treaty, and the Floridas ceded to *Spain* in 1783.

From the National Intelligencer.

NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS.

Office of the Commissioners,
Washington, 14th June, 1821.

The Commissioners, appointed under the 11th article of the Treaty of Amity, Settlement, and Limits, between the United States of America and his Catholic Majesty, concluded at Washington, on the 22d day of February, 1819, to ascertain the full amount and validity of the claims men ned, or referred to, in the said Treaty being organized as a Board, according to the provisions of the Treaty and the act of Congress in that case made and provided have passed the following Orders; of which, all those interested will be pleased to take notice:

"*Ordered*—That all persons having claims under the Treaty of Amity, Settlement, and Limits, between the United States of America and and his Catholic Majesty concluded at Washington on the 22d day of February, 18.9, which are to be received by this Commission, do file a memorial of the same with the Secretary of the Board; to the end, that they may be hereafter duly examined, and the validity and amount thereof decided upon, according to the suitable and authentic testimony concerning the same which may be then required. The said memorial must be addressed to this Board; must set forth, particularly and minutely, the various facts and circumstances whence the right to prefer such claim is derived; and must be verified by the *affidavit* of the claimant.

"And, in order that claimants may be informed of what is now considered by the Commission as essential to be averred and established before any such memorial can be received by this Board, it is further—

"*Ordered,* That each claimant shall declare, in his said memorial, for and in behalf of whom the said claim is preferred; and whether the amount thereof, and of every part thereof, if allowed, does now, and, at the time when the said claim arose, did belong solely and absolutely to the said claimant, or to any other, and if any other, what person. And in cases of claims preferred for the benefit of any other than the claimant, the memorial to be exhibited must further set forth, when, why, and by what means, such other has become entitled to the amount or any part of the amount of the said claim. The memorial, required to be exhibited by all claimants, must also set forth, and certainly declare, whether the claimant, as well as any other for whose benefit the claim is preferred, is now, and at the time when the said claim arose was, a citizen of the United States of America—where he is now, and at the time the said claim arose was, domiciliated—and, if any, what change of domiciliation has since taken place. The said memorial must also set forth, whether the claimant, or any other who may have been at any time entitled to the amount claimed, or any part thereof, hath ever received any, and, if any, what sum of money, or other equivalent or indemnification, for the loss or injury sustained, satisfaction for which is therein asked.

"And, that time may be allowed to claimants, to prepare and file the memorials above mentioned; it is further

"*Ordered,* That when this Board shall adjourn to-day, it will adjourn to meet again on the 10th day of September next; at which time it will proceed to decide whether any memorials which may have been filed with the Secretary, in pursuance of the above orders, shall be received for examination.

"*Ordered,* That a copy of these proceedings be published by the Secretary of this Board, in all the public Gazettes in which the laws of the United States are usually printed."

By Order, T. WATKINS,

Secretary to the Commission under the 11th article of the Florida Treaty.

THE PRESS.

There has been much said and sung about the liberty of the press; but that liberty is a blessing or a curse, like every thing belonging to human nature, according to its use. A press that holds a stern, independent, dignified tone; that dares to stand forth the champion of liberty and independence; to frown indignant upon tyranny in every shape; to stand as a sentinel on the watchtower of the constitution, and to sound the alarm on the approach of danger—to volunteer in the service of oppressed and insulted virtue; to bring all the moral force it may command to the assistance of the pulpit; to attack the strong holds of vice and depravity: such a press is indeed, a public blessing.

[*Baltimore Morning Chronicle.*

Messrs. Editors,

Observing in your paper of last week, a "*Caution,*" signed *William Robertson*, intending to mislead the public, reflecting, not only against the tribunal which existed in this city during the Spanish authorities, in countenancing illegal measures; whereby he pretends to say his wife is deprived of her brother's estate, but also to injure the character of two gentlemen of the very highest standing whom he had the assurance to name. Lest, from the absence of those gentlemen, the ignorant should credit those base assertions, I come forward *in my own name, and under my own responsibility*, to deny them, and to vindicate if necessary, the integrity of the gentlemen whom he has dared to villify. Mr. Frasier, late of this province, died after executing a will in his own hand writing, which is clothed with all the appearance of sound deliberation and forethought, in which, amongst other legacies, he left to a brother and sister, each one thousand pounds sterling, or the whole to the survivor. The sister, Ann, whilst in Scotland, received the whole amount of two thousand pounds, by the direction of Messrs. Yonge and Kingsly, two of the Executors named in the will. Owing to her alleging to them that the brother was dead, the rest of the property he gave to his own children. Robertson did attempt to proceed at law to set aside that will, and to defeat the intentions of a brother who had acted so liberally towards his sister. I beg leave to inform the public that no such suit is now pending, nor has Robertson exhibited proof to authorize him to appear at any tribunal either as the husband, nor that the person he represents is the bona fide sister of Mr. Frasier named in his will; however, if ever he does, the Executors are ready to establish the propriety of their conduct in the administration of that estate, and to expose the falsehoods which he has propagated against them.

Please have the above published in your next paper, and acknowledge me

Yours respectfully,
J. M. HERNANDEZ.

July 21.

EXCHANGE COFFEE-HOUSE.

Marshall & Ruckman,

RESPECTFULLY inform their friends and the public in general, that they have opened the above establishment opposite the Custom-House, where their bar will be constantly supplied with the best of Malt and Spiritous Liquors.

July 21.

ANN SCHELLING,

RESPECTFULLY informs the gentlemen of St. Augustine, that she has opened an establishment west of the store of Mr. Pablo Sabate, called

THE COTTAGE,

where they may pass their leisure hours in perfect harmony, under the shade of a refreshing grove. Every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, green Turtle Soup will be served from 11 to 2 o'clock. Families can be supplied with any quantity by sending early.

July 21. —3t*

DR. C. N. M'COSKNY,

OFFERS his professional services to the citizens of St. Augustine. He may be consulted at any time at the old government house in the square,

July 21.—tf.

SURVEYS, either of city lots, or tracts in the country, will be made with accuracy by the subscriber. Orders left at the Post-Office will be attended to by

GEORGE K. GIBBS.

July 25.—2t

POST OFFICE.

THE Public are informed, that a regular Mail will be continued between this City and St. Mary's—It will leave this, on Thursday mornings, and return the following Monday's. Letters intended to go by Mail, must be left at the Post-Office on Wednesdays.

In future, all Captains of vessels, will be required to deposit all letters brought by them, in this office, except those addressed to Consignees.

D. COPP, *acting Post-Master.*

July 17.—tf

PROPOSALS

WILL be received by the Assistant Commissary of Subsistence, to furnish Fresh Beef to the United States Troops, stationed at Fort St. Marks.

SAMUEL WASHBURN,
Asst. Com'y. Sub.

July 17.—tf.

FOR SALE,

AN excellent BILLIARD TABLE, with Maces, Cues and Balls complete. It is in order for immediate use, and will be sold low if application be made to

THOMAS CAMPBELL,
At Don Fernando Arredondo's Store-House.

July 21.

From a copy of the earliest extant issue, in the Library of Congress.