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**A visit to the South Seas, in the United States' ship Vincennes, during
the years 1829 and 1830**

Stewart, Charles S.

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Letter XII.

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with trees, now grown beautiful and lofty. It was not designed for indigenous plants, but for the most valuable of oriental growth, especially for the tea, which the king obtained from China, with a number of families skilled in its cultivation. The plants have thrived well, but most of the Chinese are dispersed, and little tea has yet, I believe, been cured. The cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, allspice, camphor, &c., are growing luxuriantly, as if in their native soil. A fine stream, passing through a lovely valley above, waters the gardens. The attendants were polite and obliging, readily furnishing me with specimens in flower and seed of the choicest plants, and offering refreshments of nuts and fruit: and I had to regret that a day, instead of half an hour, was not at my command for a more satisfactory view of the whole.

LETTER XII.

CHARACTER OF THE HON. WILLIAM TUDOR.

Education and Writings of Mr. Tudor.—His Diplomatic Services.—His Modesty and Private Worth.—Family Attachments.

U. S. Ship Guerriere, Rio de Janeiro,
April 16th, 1829.

THE whole party visiting the botanic gardens yesterday, dined at Flamengo on their return; and as the Guerriere was expected to sail early this morning, I was under the necessity, in the evening, of bidding farewell with them to Mr. Tudor, and of rejoining the ship.

This I did with deep regret, and a degree of painful emotion that might surprise you, considering the short personal intercourse we have enjoyed, were you uninformed of his exalted worth and the many charms of heart and mind which nature and education have unitedly thrown around him. He is one of the most talented, extensively informed, and truly amiable men, I have ever met. Received by him with the cordiality of a brother, and admitted at once to the confidence of his bosom, I discovered, during the fortnight of our companionship, traits so noble and so fascinating as to excite an admiration I have seldom known for one not decidedly spiritual in his character; and to win an attachment I can never forget.

With his literary reputation, you are well acquainted. A lively and superior genius was discoverable in him from early childhood, which, united to a heart of the most amiable and tender mould, made him the idol of his parents and an object of interest and affection to all who knew him. The high respectability of his family and the political and literary distinction of his father, afforded every facility for the developement and cultivation of his powers: and after completing a general course of classical and scientific studies at the university of Harvard, in his native State, he enjoyed the additional advantage of travelling for several years in Europe, and of intimate access to many of the most learned and polished circles of the period.

Possessed of a pure and high-toned patriotism, the benefits of his education and residence abroad

were, on his return to the United States, made to bear directly upon the letters and literature of our country, by the establishment and able support of the *North American Review*, a publication which has accomplished more, perhaps, in the formation of a correct public taste at home, and in the elevation of our literary character abroad, than any other; and which justly ranks, for talented and refined criticism, among the first papers of the age.

By his "Letters on the Eastern States," he became the pioneer in a field of observation on nature, men, and manners, in a great degree original, and in the cultivation of which he has been followed by others of our countrymen, greatly to the advancement of our national reputation. And while the "Life of Otis" may be referred to not only as an evidence of his talent and industry, but as embodying for posterity an interesting and valuable portion of American history, the stranger and the citizen may for ages point to the granite shaft on Bunker's Hill as a monument of honour and glory, having its origin in the classic taste and patriotic conceptions of his active genius.

After having appeared successfully in public life as a member of the legislature of Massachusetts, he commenced his diplomatic career in 1823, as Consul-General for the United States in Peru, to which office was afterwards united that of political agent of our government in that country. During a residence of five years in Lima in a most distracted and fluctuating state of public affairs, he did high honour to the American name and character. Though ne-

cessarily in constant official contact with the agents of several successive revolutions in the newly formed republic, by his candour and integrity, his conciliatory deportment and true dignity, he secured the marked respect and good will of the alternating authorities, and exerted an enlightening and happy influence over the minds of leaders who conferred on him their confidence, and sought with eagerness his counsels and advice.

His correspondence with the secretary of state at home, during this period, is spoken of in the highest terms as replete with important information and marked by a knowledge of government and the true principles of political jurisprudence, which class it with the ablest on the files of the department.

His departure from Peru on receiving the appointment of Chargé d'affaire at the Court of Brazil, was deeply regretted not only by his countrymen and other foreign residents, but by every class of the native society, and especially by the authorities in power, who had learned so to appreciate his merits as to have solicited from his government the continuance of his diplomatic relation to them.

The negotiations in which he was called to enter on his arrival at Rio de Janeiro were, from peculiarity of circumstances, exceedingly delicate and arduous, and required in their successful management a high degree of diplomatic address. Individuals most deeply interested in the result, had little expectation of the early adjustment of the difficulties existing: but by the amenity and open-heartedness which so peculiarly characterize him,

added to a determined firmness and energy of purpose, he, in a very short time, even while similar claims of other nations remained unnoticed, not only secured indemnity for the spoliation committed on the property of American citizens during the late war between Buenos Ayres and Brazil, but also negotiated a treaty of commerce on principles very desirable and greatly to the advancement of our future trade with the empire.

Don Pedro and his cabinet evidently hold him in marked esteem; and the gentlemen of the various embassies and the most distinguished foreigners I have met, speak of him in terms of high regard, and as an ornament to the country he has the honour to represent.

But it is not the distinction he has attained either as a scholar or a diplomatist, that has won the attachment I feel. These might lead me to respect and honour him, but in themselves are insufficient to secure my love. This has been gained by qualities of heart and mind which the world has few opportunities of observing, and which always shine the brightest when farthest removed from the public gaze.

To a simplicity of heart that exhibits itself in his whole manner, he adds a modesty that throws fresh charms around the virtues with which it is associated, and which, while it shrinks from every thing like adulation, is the last to appropriate to itself an unexpected honour, or even to claim a just meed of praise. An incident occurred, in our visit to the flag-ships of Sir Robert Otway and the Baron

de Roussin, strikingly illustrative of this trait in his character. Only a short time previous, he had made an official call on both these admirals, and had of course received on board the ships of both the honours due to persons of his rank ; and regarding the present as an informal and private visit, expected the reception only of a private individual.

On descending the side of the Ganges, I perceived preparations for a salute which escaped his notice ; and when, as our boat shoved off and began to move towards the Duquesne, the first gun over our heads was heard, in the most evident surprise he turned to me with the exclamation—"What can that mean?" I could not avoid smiling at the perfect ingenuousness of his whole expression, as I replied, "a compliment to the visiter I presume;" which he interrupted by saying, "O that cannot be!"—and seemed so entirely incredulous of the fact, that I was obliged myself to call "oars" to the crew, and be the first to lift my hat, lest the delay in the customary recognition of the honour should appear a want of courtesy on our part.

Familiarity with the details of historical and biographical learning, and the whole circle of polite literature, an intimate acquaintance with many eminent men of different countries at the present day, the mastery of the most polished languages of Europe, and a fund of original anecdote, enriched by brilliancy of wit rarely surpassed, cause him to excel in conversation, and necessarily render him a most instructive and delightful companion.

With the immediate prospect of visiting Peru,

that republic often became the subject of conversation. During his residence there, he has made himself master of a fund of knowledge respecting its history, statistics, physiology, &c., which, I am happy to learn, he intends, as early as possible, to place before the public.

But that which, above every thing else, fixes the seal of endearment on the attachment of those who have the happiness of his friendship, is the breathing of a heart filled with the kindest feelings and warm with every generous affection. The friendship of an honoured and beloved mother, long intimacy with Mrs. Stewart, and a recent visit to the lady of R. H. Gardiner, Esq., of Gardiner, in Maine, a sister to whom he is no less strongly attached, seemed in our intercourse to bring these objects of affection within the limits both of sight and conversation, and his happiest moments were those in which they were thus in imagination before him.

With the fondness of an admiring brother, he tells me that all in Peru who became acquainted with Mrs. Stewart, when Commodore Stewart, in the Franklin 74, commanded the U. S. squadron there, regarded her with great affection and admiration. Her warm benevolence, he remarks, and a credulous simplicity, which took alike for reality the blandness of their climate and the soft courteousness of their address, not less than the superiority of her manners and high mental accomplishments, conduced to this effect. And when speaking to him of other foreign ladies, they have often said they are "*muy apreciabiles*," but there are none like "*la Comodora*

Stewart, tan señora, tan amable, tan buena, tan cumplida!"

These are subjects of which he never tires; and when, after the engagements of the day, and the recreation of company at home or abroad in the evening, we became seated in the library for varied talk, till the midnight hour, whatever the opening topic might be, whether Brazil or Peru, Europe or the Sandwich Islands, the living or the dead, the passing or the past, the closing moments always found us in the land of our birth, amidst the friends of our hearts, and never without producing an excitement that sparkled in his fine blue eye, and played on every feature of his intelligent face, while often, in anticipation of the joys of his expected return, he would start in impatience for the hour when he should once more be borne to their embraces and their love.

You will not wonder that I regret to bid adieu to the society and hospitality of such a friend. There seems nothing wanting in him to a perfection of character rarely to be met, but the halo of a living and spiritual piety. To the possession of this, while he pays every respect to the services and precepts of our religion, he makes no special pretension. Our conversation often embraced the faith and the hope of the Gospel; and my prayer is that he may speedily add to every other virtue that grace which would crown the whole, and which, while it imparts fresh honour to every attainment of the passing time, casts the light of immortal glory on all that is to come.

His attentions have followed me to the ship in a

packet of letters to his most distinguished friends in Peru, accompanied by a note filled with salutations of interest and affection, and a regret that I could not have been allowed one more day with him to have enjoyed a pic-nic given by Lady Ponsonby.

LETTER XIII.

DEPARTURE FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.

Organ Mountains.—Morning Scene.—Incidents on board Ship.
—Case of Conversion.—Reflections.

U. S. Ship Guerriere, at sea,
April 20th, 1829.

OUR expectation of getting to sea on the 15th inst., the day first proposed, was disappointed, and we did not weigh anchor till four o'clock on the following morning. I left my cot while it was yet scarce light for the enjoyment of a farewell view of the city and bay. Every thing on land and water appeared in a freshness and brilliancy of tint, which, but for this and a few other instances I have known, I should be disposed to consider, when exhibited on canvass, a creation only of the artist's fancy.

The atmosphere was so pure that the mountains on every side were presented in all the boldness of their wild and picturesque forms; and every bare precipice and projecting cliff, furrowed water-course and deep ravine, amid the forests that cover and crown them, stood in bold relief above the cultivated hills, wide lawns, luxuriant plantations, seats, and villas, at their bases.