

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

Vol. I.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1812.

[No. 17.]

"—I wish no other herald,
"No other speaker of my living actions,
"To keep mine honor from corruption
"But such an honest chronicler."

Shakespeare—HENRY VIII.

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RANDOLPH'S SPEECH.

Concluded from supplement to No. 17.

ite of 4 or 5000, and yet grow rich: who perhaps at his moment were making out blank assignments on these land rights.

He would beseech the house, before they ran their heads against this post-Quebec, to count the cost. His word for it, Virginia planters would not be taxed to support such a war—a war which must aggravate their present distresses; in which they had not the remotest interest. Where is the Montgomery, or even the Arnold, or the Burr, who is to march to the Point Levi?

He called upon those professing to be republicans to make good the promises held out by their republican predecessors when they came into power—promises, which for years afterwards they had honestly, faithfully fulfilled. We had vaunted of paying off the national debt, of retrenching useless establishments; and yet had now become as infatuated with standing armies, loans, taxes, navies and war, as ever were the Essex junto. What republicanism is this?

Mr. Randolph apologised for his very desultory manner of speaking. He regretted that his bodily indisposition had obliged him to talk perhaps somewhat wildly; yet he trusted some method would be found in his madness. On the other resolutions he should perhaps be obliged to trouble the house again.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

GOVERNOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Fellow citizens—Three years have this day elapsed since, in this house, surrounded as I now am by the representatives of the people of Pennsylvania. I solemnly swore to devote all the energies of my mind to the promotion of their happiness.

I have a well grounded reason to believe that my zealous efforts have not been unsuccessful; be cause, they have received the approbation of a free and enlightened community. My reelection, and the circumstances attending it, fill my heart with gratitude, and produce a more perfect and entire devotion, if possible, of all my faculties, to the service of the people who have thus honorably distinguished me. I am sensible that my personal merits have contributed but little to the concentration of the public suffrage. A faithful adherence to republican principles, an earnest desire to promote the public prosperity, and a general coincidence of opinion upon public measures with the representatives of the people, united to a cordial co-operation with them in all their efforts to promote the public weal, are the true causes of the unanimity which has been so happily manifested at the general election.

We are, fellow citizens, placed in authority at a momentous period of our history. The storm of war which has long been desolating the old world,

howls along our coasts and hovers over our habitations; whether it may be dispelled, or descend upon us in all its fury, remains undetermined. The representatives of the people of the several states are now in council. They have access to the best sources of information, as to the conduct of the belligerents. They well know the sentiments of their constituents, and we may safely rely on their wisdom and patriotism faithfully to discharge the trust reposed in them.

If they should determine that we have not only exhausted the cup of forbearance, but tasted of that of humiliation, and that our only hope of having our wrongs redressed and our rights respected, and of holding our equal rank among the nations of the earth, is by an appeal to the last resort; then let us as citizens and public functionaries, manfully prepare to do our duty. Let the voice of faction be heard no more, but let every arm be raised to defend the rights and liberties, and maintain the independence of the only free people upon the earth. Let us differ (if we must differ) about men or minor political questions; let us, however, be unanimous in our measures against the common enemy. Let the sword and the shield be upheld by the nation as a band of brothers and freemen, who having a righteous and common cause, are determined that neither art nor intrigue, force nor fraud, shall induce them to abandon the common standard, upon which is impressed the glorious motto of 'virtue, liberty and independence.' With such determinations, we shall be as invincible as our cause is just and sacred.

Again permit me, though faintly, to express to you, and through you, to all my fellow citizens, the gratitude I feel for the distinguished manner of my reelection; to renew the assurances of my devotedness to the happiness of our common country; and to assure you of my good wishes for your personal happiness and welfare.

SIMON SNYDER.

Lancaster, Dec. 17, 1811.

Indiana Territorial Legislature.

VINCENNES, Nov. 23, 1811.

The legislature of the territory met on Monday the 11th inst. James Beggs was appointed president of the council, and gen. W. Johnson was appointed speaker of the house of representatives.

On Tuesday the governor met both houses in the representatives' chamber, and delivered the following

SPEECH:

Gentlemen of the legislative council, and

Gentlemen of the house of representatives,

The execution of an order received from the President of the United States, at the head of a body of our troops, prevented me from meeting you at the time to which you were prorogued by my last proclamation. Although this circumstance may produce some personal inconvenience to you,

and perhaps a little additional expence to the territory. It will not I am sure be regretted when it is recollected that the result of the expedition which I had the honor to command is a complete victory over the hostile combination of Indians which has been formed by the Shawanese Prophet. It is with equal pleasure and pride, gentlemen, that I have it in my power to inform you that in an action where undaunted valor was conspicuous in every corps, our own militia behaved in a manner to do credit to themselves as well as the territory.

The numerous duties which claim my attention at this time gentlemen will prevent me from giving my opinion upon such subjects as require legislative provision. The most important of these, however, you will find discussed at length in my former addresses. Permit me to recommend to you industry and concord in the discharge of your functions, and be assured of my cordial co-operation in every measure which may be calculated for the benefit of our constituents.

WM. H. HARRISON.

Vincennes, 19th Nov.

To his excellency WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, governor and commander in chief in and over the Indiana territory.

Sir.—The noise of representatives of the Indiana territory in their own name, and in behalf of their constituents, most cordially reciprocate the congratulations of your excellency on the glorious result of the late sanguinary conflict with the Shawanoe Prophet, and the tribes of Indians confederated with him; when we see displayed in behalf of our country not only the consummate abilities of the general, but the heroism of the man; and where we take into view the benefits which must result to that country, from those exertions; we cannot for a moment withhold our meed of applause.

We shall cordially and industriously endeavor to co-operate with you, sir, in such measures as may best comport with the immediate interests of our territory—and although we may lament the occasion which gave rise to the necessary delay of legislative business, yet we feel it to be our duty as patriots, as representatives, and as men, to submit without a murmur to any inconvenience which the good of our common country may require.

GEN. W. JOHNSON.

Speaker of the house of representatives.

Representative's Chamber.

November, 1811.

Gentlemen of the house of representatives,

Believing as I do that the highest reward which a republican soldier can receive, is the approbation of his fellow citizens. I cannot be otherwise than highly gratified at the applause which you have been pleased to bestow on my conduct as commander of the late expedition. It has ever been my wish, gentlemen, to deserve the confidence of your constituents. To promote their welfare and happiness, has been for years, the great object of my cares, and if in the late action it had pleased the Almighty to seal with my life the victory, which was to ensure their safety, the sacrifice would have been cheerfully made.

WM. H. HARRISON.

Philosophical Disquisitions.

No. III.

It seems that I have accounted for animal existence, by first supposing a vegetable one, this is cer-

tainly correct, and as a proof of it, I refer you to the first chapter of Genesis. There you will find vegetation had clothed the earth's surface, before any mention is made of an animal; besides, vegetables are a more simple form of matter; it is absurd to suppose the Wise Disposer of all things should commence with the most exquisite workmanship and dwindle down to simplicity.

After vegetation is mentioned in the 1st chap. 11th v. we find from the 19th to the 26th that God is employed in making all the inferior animals, and in the 26th man is formed, with power and dominion over them. Man being the last animal formed, and formed too from materials which have undergone such a variety of changes in point of refinement, must be composed of matter wonderfully polished and wrought up to the highest pitch of perfection; he therefore is an animal of the highest possible order, he claims a superiority in every respect over all others. There is in man the most delicate workmanship; of the best possible contrivance. When we view this animal properly, we find organization carried to the greatest degree of perfection. Three things strike our senses, motion, sensation, and thought. Motion is of three kinds, voluntary, involuntary and mixed. Sensation, or the power of having feeling excited by means of impressions, is diffused throughout the body; the nails and hair excepted; and thought originates from the brain; now motion, sensation and thought exist in most animals, but man possesses them in a much higher degree than any other. Motion, sensation and thought must be as various as the different causes which act upon the body, each degree of exciting matter which acts upon the animal organization, produces a certain degree of motion, which depends upon the affinity existing between the two portions of matter.

All the various motions then, depend upon the manner exciting matter acts upon organized animal matter. The different sensations originate from the great variety of motion, and the various faculties of the mind depend entirely upon the manner sensation acts upon the brain. As a proof that motion, sensation, and thought are as various as the causes which act upon the animal, we never yet found two animals whose organization was exactly alike, nor did we ever see two animals whose motions corresponded in every particular; nor was there ever two minds that thought alike on all subjects; in fact, we never saw two portions of any kind of matter resemble each other in every particular, and it never will be the case as long as there is a continued change of figure in matter. I can conceive of two small portions of matter of equal bulk, that resemble two other portions of equal size. I can likewise conceive of two organized bodies similar to each other, that are acted upon by two causes similar to each other, and the effects produced to be similar; but if the organized bodies and unorganized matter could be strictly examined, I doubt very much, whether there would be the same arrangement of parts found in each. Were it possible to have two animals whose organization agreed in every particular, their motions would not correspond; because the exercising matter which acts upon them would not agree in every particular with the exciting matter which acts upon the other, although the action would be such as to produce similar motion in each other.

The great varieties of exciting matter, which produce the different motions in animals are too numerous to mention; but the causes we are most intimately acquainted with are the various stimuli

experienced daily, such as air, heat, food, light, &c. Each application of stimuli produces motion in the various organs, which changes the form of the organ. Organization then is continually undergoing a change; in consequence of which, the organized body loses the matter of which it was first formed, but the form and organization are still preserved by a new portion of exciting matter.

The blood which circulates in the veins and arteries, is washed off by different glands; a process called secretion: this secreted fluid is thrown off by insensible perspiration and other outlets. The animal is now obliged to resort to food, drink, &c. to supply the loss of disengaged matter. From the great quantity of solid and fluid matter which is continually thrown off from the body by the animal economy, and the daily application of a fresh supply, I infer, that every part of the solid and fluid mass, of which an animal is composed, must be continually undergoing a change. Composition and decomposition are continually taking place, not only in the most delicate fibre, but the hardest bone; so that all the principles, of which an animal was once formed, now exist in other animals, earth, atmosphere and plants; certain portions of it might have united to certain other portions of disengaging matter, which had an affinity for each other, and form worms, insects, frogs, &c. The component parts of which those inferior animals were first formed, may now give them existence.

Perspirable matter, urine, feces, &c. which were thrown off from every class of animals last year, may exist in a rose, pink, or orange this year. My present organization, no doubt, is composed of principles, which once organized ten thousand different plants and animals, and it would not be absurd to suppose, that some individual of the United States possesses part of the matter, which once organized Adam and Eve. If we imagine matter to be annihilated, this would be a very absurd supposition; but it cannot be absurd, unless we suppose the matter of which our forefathers were formed, has gone to the moon or some other planet.

Since the matter of which our earth is composed, is in continued motion and changing its situation continually; is it not probable, that every part of it, at one period or other, may exist in an atmosphere, plants and animals? and the matter which now occupies the center exist on the surface forming an atmosphere and organizing plants and animals? Marine productions, found far below the surface, seem to prove that a considerable revolution of this kind has already taken place.

But if life is the continued application of new matter, which supplies the place of the old, how is it that an animal dies? why does it not exist to all eternity? For this plain reason, that it is a law of God, that no generated being can always continue. Another reason is, that exciting matter is withheld: the old not being capable of motion; without it, death necessarily follows: if the exciting matter be too great it destroys the organized body? death is likewise the consequence.

Life, strictly speaking, seems to be nothing but a variety of motion. Where is the animal or vegetable, in existence, that does not possess motion? I believe it is a-certain beyond a doubt, that an animal may exist without thought, or sensation; but neither thought nor sensation can exist without motion; therefore it necessarily follows that thought and sensation owe their existence to motion, which is produced, as I have observed, by the continued application of exciting matter on organized matter. This application has a tendency to destroy the organ

as soon as it is formed; but it is preserved by the affinity of new matter, the old gradually losing the principles of which it was first formed, until it becomes entirely clear of all original matter and has acquired a fresh supply from the action of new matter.

Now if all exciting matter, which acts upon animal organization, could be withheld, it is evident, that the animal would remain perfectly organized to all eternity; for there would be no cause whatever to destroy it: and were it in our power to place an animal suddenly in a very low temperature so as not to destroy any organic part, the animal might remain frozen ten thousand years and at the end of that period be resuscitated at pleasure, only by admitting the ordinary portion of exciting matter, which is necessary to the life of the animal. Frogs have been resuscitated after they have been confined in the hardest rock, perhaps for three, four, five or six hundred years, or as many thousand for aught I know.

A very remarkable phenomenon, of this kind, is related by Mr. Peters of Vermont, to Samuel Harrison, Esq. His letter is as follows: "A rock, nearly twenty feet square on its superficies, and about ten feet thick, lay in the high road opposite to my house, and as report said, had been growing higher for one hundred and fifty years, whereby it had become a nuisance to carriages and travellers. To remove this inconvenience, I ordered my negroes to dig a ditch around the rock, three feet wide, and to go down with the ditch to its bottom. This being done, I engaged a miner to perforate the rock with an augur, near the middle of its surface. The augur was two inches wide, and with it he made a hole five feet deep. He then charged the rock with half a pound of gun power, and fired it off with a match, while the spectators stood at a proper distance, to shun the danger and to see the effect. The explosion was very great, the rock was rent into eight or ten large pieces, besides many fragments; we soon hoisted up the fragments; at last we came to the two centre and largest pieces, between which the augur had passed. Having taken up the smallest, the largest piece stood edgewise. I then went down and viewed the path of the augur, which had passed by a cavity as large as a goose egg, in which lay a frog, who completely filled the cavity, his thigh was bleeding by reason of a wound. The orifice was too small to pull him out; the miner soon enlarged, and I took out the frog, bound up the wound, and placed him on some mud near a puddle of water, which I enclosed with a board fence. The frog was alive and struggling for deliverance, when I first discovered him in his bed, which was as smooth as the inside of a glass tumbler."

Now this frog must have been incrustrated and confined when the rock was forming, for there is no way of accounting for his imprisonment any other way; and it is highly probable the rock has been formed several thousand years. In this case, light, heat, air, food, &c. were withdrawn, and the temperature was favorable to the preservation of the animal. As soon as air, light, heat, &c. acted upon quiescent organization, motion was produced and the frog was forced into existence by the continued application of exciting matter.

Many classes of animals, in high latitudes, remain torpid in the winter months, but as soon as the genial warmth of spring begins to act upon them, they possess all the phenomena of life. The continued application of exciting matter produces motion by the affinity it has for organized animal

matter. May not all exciting matter, which produces the great variety of diseases, act by lessened or increased affinity? which necessarily produces too little or too much motion in the animal on which it acts? Is it not the affinity which the food has for animal matter, that causes an increased action in all the fluids as well as the solids of the animal, that takes it in? Is not the affinity, which oxygen has for the blood, that keeps up a certain degree of heat necessary for the health of the animal that respires it? Are not all exciting matters variously modified? Do they not act upon animal matter, producing effects friendly or unfriendly to the animal on which they act?

Life then depends entirely upon the affinity which exciting matter has for animal matter. If there is little or no affinity, there will be little or no motion; if the affinity be considerable, motion will likewise be considerable. The union of one portion of exciting matter with another portion of animal matter, lessens the affinity for a second dose of the former; so that the old compound is obliged to give place to the new, and by this means the old is entirely displaced. This is the case with respect to perspiration, urine, feces, &c. The old compound is removed, in consequence of motion being produced by the formation of new matter. The parts thrown off or separated for want of affinity, unite with the first matter, for which it has an attraction. Thus it is, that matter continues its journey, and it seems that it is no nearer a quiescent state now, than it was soon after it was formed and acted upon by repulsion.

It is nothing, in fact, but a continued round of circulation, the relative situation of each individual particle, continually changing places with each other, and this motion must continue until the great cause, which first produced it, thinks proper to remove repulsion. When that is the case, each particle will unite with its fellow; the atmosphere, plants, animals and minerals will return to the sun; the sun will be a solid mass, kept together with affinity; and if the God of nature thinks proper to take away this power of attraction, matter will cease to exist. This idea, of the non-existence of matter, is a very singular one; perhaps it would lead to some very important discoveries if we could trace it properly. Can matter exist without attraction? Suppose all attraction to be suddenly removed from matter, in what form would it exist? It could not possibly assume a solid, liquid, or semifluid state; for each supposes some degree of attraction, I therefore, cannot conceive of any possible form, under which matter could exist, if its attraction should be entirely removed.

CEBES.

Biographical.

FROM THE NATIONAL REGIS.

Sketch of the Genius of ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JR. Esq. a distinguished American Poet.

Of the genius of this great poet, whose labors have so largely contributed to the reputation of American literature, it would be difficult to speak in terms of exaggerated praise. To the bonities of nature who had lavished on his intellect, her richest and proudest favors, were superadded those acquired excellencies, which are the fruits of vigorous study and ambitious cultivation.

As a poet, he ranks among the first of the first class. The piercing keenness of his mind gave it an easy admission into the most secret and hidden sources

of knowledge, and his prompt and active imagination seized instinctively on whatever was most beautiful and engaging in nature or in art. His enthusiasm imparted a warm and vivid lustre to his thoughts; his comprehensive and critical knowledge of language enabled him to convey the conceptions of his fancy with uncommon clearness and energy. In a word he always felt, and thought, and spoke like a poet.

A mind so happily informed as Paine's; so alive to feeling, so pregnant with invention, so fraught with sentiments, so blest with the divinity of genius; could not fail of success in the æthereal creations of poetry. All his efforts in this favorite pursuit have received the highest praises of his countrymen; and the "*Invention of letters*," the "*Passions*," the two "*Prologues*" in dedication of the Boston theatre, the "*Monody on Moore*," the "*Epilogue to the Clergyman's Daughter*," and the national song of "*Adams and Liberty*," may be classed among the ablest specimens of English poetry. The character of his poetical genius resembled that of Pope, more than any other poet, particularly in the smoothness of his verse, the exactness of his rhymes, the richness of his language, and the condensation of his thoughts. His great fault was that of being sometimes too studiously classical.—He always felt proud of his learning, and would occasionally display it at the expense of his poetry, by drawing his images and allusions from facts and circumstances too little known, to be understood by the generality even of intelligent readers.

His prose is, in the highest degree, stately and magnificent. It is the style of Doctor Johnson.—He had a passion for the elegancies and refinements of composition. His sentiments are carefully balanced, and his periods diligently rounded. Every word is selected with taste and disposed with skill. In all his works, he strove after attainable perfection, nor was he ever satisfied with what he had written, while, there was a fault to be rectified, a beauty to be added, or a grace to be heightened. Of revision, he was therefore never impatient; on the contrary, he seemed to take delight in reviewing his first thoughts, and bestowing upon them such correction and improvement as they could receive from a cautious and deliberate criticism.

With the philosophy of the fine arts, no man was ever better acquainted than Mr. Paine. These arts were the favorite and most frequent subjects of his meditations. His mind dwelt on them with fondness, and delighted to ascend to their first principles. As a critic, therefore, he stood on very high ground. But he was not like certain grave and austere critics, who make it their whole business to detect latent faults, and urge skillful objections. He was candid and liberal in all his decisions. He had a soul to be pleased as well as to be offended; and although no man had quicker perception of literary blemishes, yet so nice was his discernment of excellence, and so great his pleasure on its discovery, that he would readily pardon two defects, for the sake of one beauty. To young authors he ever manifested the kindest disposition. He read their compositions with attention—he praised their merits with liberality, and pointed out their faults with delicacy and tenderness. It is greatly to the honor of Mr. Paine, that he never felt the envy of rivalry. He was among the first and loudest in the applause of a brother author. Nor was this applause forced or hypocritical; whenever he saw genius it was impossible for him to repress the emotions of satisfaction. For the same of

American literature he always displayed a cordial solicitude; and frequently expressed his sorrow and indignation at the detestable expedients, employed by so many of our own countrymen, to bring it in to disgrace.

Some, there are, who have denied the solidity of Mr. Paine's critical abilities, on the ground that he too frequently decided by *feeling* rather than by judgment. This objection, though plausible, is, by no means, satisfactory. In some of the fine arts, the *feeling* so instantaneously follows the judgment, that it becomes identified with it; in others, as in music, the judgment follows the feeling and is determined by it. The best reason we can give why we approve of a piece of music, is because it pleases us. So it is with the highest flights of poetry, whatever greatly interests our passions, so as to produce the effect intended by the poet, can with as much certainty, be pronounced good, as though it were actually proved to be so by a pedantic display of elaborate reasoning. Of what value then (it may be asked) are the works of Aristotle, and Quintilian, and Longinus besides a host of moderns who have written on the science of criticism? To this question I answer, that, to the poet, they are of no value. The art of poetry is not derived from the rules of the critics; but the rules of the critics are collected from the practice of the poets. Critics are not the legislators of poets, but are the mere expounders of those laws which the poets have promulgated. Every great poet is a critic by instinct, and in many cases, can decide more correctly by *feeling*, than the mere critic can, with all his boasted rules to assist him. There are certain beauties of so high an order that they cannot be perceived but by those who are susceptible of the finest and most delicate emotions. In such cases, the mere critic drops to a level with the mechanic, and finds his square and compasses of criticism of little use, except to show his impotency.—But Mr. Paine did not decide by *feeling*, except in cases where *feeling* is proper to be consulted as the test of the poet's skill. He was familiarly acquainted with criticism as a science, and could apply its reasonings with wonderful precision and elegance.

We are now to consider Mr. Paine as a conversationist. It was in conversation (confessedly the most difficult of all arts) that he gave the most brilliant displays of mind. It was here that his genius proudly triumphed in all its sovereignty. No matter what the subject—whether scientific or literary, its discussion was in the highest degree masterly and eloquent. His information was so extensive and so various—his imagination so splendid, his wit so enchanting, and his language so elegant, that it was impossible to hear him without delight.

Such was ROBERT TREAT PAINE, JUN. a man, who, in genius and scholarship, has seldom been equaled—perhaps has never been surpassed—Boston has the honor of claiming him as its native; and in justice to the Bostonians, it ought to be said, that by them his talents were duly appreciated and liberally patronized. He has left an amiable widow, and several promising children. For their benefit we hope his writings will now be collected and published. We doubt not the sale of such a volume would be co-extensive with its merit—and that the public would rejoice in an opportunity of testifying their regard for a work which will do so much honor to their country.

History

Of the Invasion of Spain by Bonaparte.

ABRIDGED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

CHAPTER VII.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 288.]

Skirmishes between generals Caro and Moncey—Siege of Valencia. Moncey, repulsed, retreats towards Madrid. Battles in Catalonia. Siege of Gerona. Battle on the river Lobregat. Cruelties of general Duhesme. Affairs in the north of Spain. Capture of Logrono, Sevego, Valadon, and St. Andero. La Cuesta defeated at Cubason, by Sabathier. Junction between Cuesta and Blake. They are defeated at Medina del Rio Seco by Lucelles. Correspondence between Beresier and Blake. Proceeding at Bayonne. Joseph enters Spain and reaches Madrid, from which city he escapes in ten days. Spanish troops in Denmark. Part of them brought off by admiral Keates. Buz proclamation of the court of Denmark.

Marshal Moncey was not more successful in Valencia than general Dupont in Andalusia, though he escaped capture. When he arrived at Cuesta, he was at the head of 12,000 men besides cavalry, and he equally threatened Murcia and Valencia. The latter kingdom is well fortified by nature, by means of the rivers Gabriel and Xucar and by a chain of steep and rugged mountains. It was of great importance to Moncey to gain possession of Valencia, the most fertile and delightful province of Spain would then be at his mercy, and a communication secured with the French in Catalonia. The passes through the mountain, were defended by some troops of the line, but these guards were attacked by Moncey on the 21st of June and routed. Having passed the mountains he marched straight on to Valencia; a city which to a mere soldier would appear as defenceless as Zaragoza.

On the 24th advice was received that the French had defeated the army of the Cabrilas. The junta issued orders at four in the morning of the following day through the Alcaydes of the different precincts, that all the inhabitants, without exception, should repair to the citadel to provide themselves with arms. So great was the number of applicants that the quantity of muskets being insufficient to arm them, all the English swords, of which there were a great stock in the arsenal, were delivered out, though many were without hilts. From the citadel were conveyed a number of cannon, carrying from 18 to 20 pound shot, and from the Grau, four 24 pounders, and many more of various calibres. At the gate of Quarte, where the enemy were expected to make their attack, were planted one 20 pounder, and several 12 and 16 pounders; and the other gates were also fortified more or less, according to circumstances. A great quantity of timber, which had floated down the river, served to block up the entrances of the streets within the walls, and to form a breast work for the protection of the artillery posted without the city. Trenches were cut across the roads to prevent the approach of the cavalry, and to impede the advance of the artillery. On the 26th, Moncey was attacked at Bunolos, about a league from the city, by general Caro, a nephew of the illustrious general Romanos. He was attacked again by the same general between Quarte and Misanta. In these attacks he suffered severely; but notwithstanding such impediments he continued his march; and on the 28th he planed his cannon before the mud walls of the town. According to the usual custom, a flag

of truce was sent in, with a message, that if the French were permitted to enter peacefully, persons and property should be respected; but if not, they should enter with fire and sword. But the patriots had had sufficient evidence of the sincerity of their good allies; they knew what would be the consequence of suffering the serpent to warm himself, and they returned an answer expressing their resolution to defend the city to the last extremity. A heavy fire was then opened on the city, and an attempt was made to force the gate of Quarte, which was precisely the one that had been put in the best state of defence. The enemy occupied a broad street which runs in front of this gate. The gate was thrown open and a 24 pounder being brought up, a dreadful havoc was made of the assailants. The loss was incalculable, for their dead lay heaped on each other in the street.—The patriots, defended by the walls and their heavy artillery, scarcely lost a dozen men. While they were thus mowing down these imperial marauders, Moncey had to maintain a conflict with Caro, who had followed close at his heels, for the defence of Valencia. An impetuous charge with the bayonet made such havoc among the ranks of the French that they retired to their camp between Quarte and Mislata, which was fortified by strong intrenchments and formidable batteries. Their repulse had been so decisive that they did not attempt to renew it, but retreated towards Madrid, leaving part of their artillery, and suffering from Caro's detachment and the peasantry, that vengeance which the excesses they had committed on the march, so amply deserved. Of 15,000 men, infantry, cavalry and artillery, that marched with Moncey from Madrid, 10,000 returned, and 150 waggons carrying the wounded; 1500 were made prisoners, and sent to Carthagena. Here again we have an opportunity of paying a passing tribute to that sex, which adapts itself so admirably to every vicissitude of fortune—consoling in adversity and making the smiles of joy even more delightful. "It is impossible," says an eye-witness of these scenes of carnage, "adequately to describe the heroism and enthusiasm of the females and the manner in which they contributed to the defence of their country."

The spirit of patriotism was also displayed, with great glory, and not altogether without success, in the neighboring province of Catalonia. Duhesme, the French governor of Catalonia, had been directed to reduce Gerona, at the same time when Lefebvre was sent against Spain. He was not more successful after spending upwards of a fortnight in the siege of Gerona, into which he threw, in one night, four hundred bombs and grenades, he was forced to retreat to Barcelona, leaving some pieces of artillery and a considerable quantity of provisions and ammunition. In his retreat he sustained a great loss both of men and baggage; for, by this time, the standard of liberty had been raised in every part of Catalonia.

On the 30th of June, the French, under the orders of general Goullies and brigadier general Bessieres marched from Barcelona, against a body of Catalonian peasantry who had fortified themselves with cannon, found on the coast of the river Llobregate. Proceeding to the mouth of the river, they forced the passage, and pushing up the right bank, took several Catalonian posts in the rear. Undisciplined, without a commander of any authority, or none that could inspire any confidence; and surprised, perhaps by this manoeuvre, though it might have been expected, the peasants submitted without much resistance. At the same time general Leckie, with

a division of French, 1500 strong, assailed and took possession of the bridge of Molinos del Rey, with the three pieces that guarded the passage way; but not without a well fought battle, in which the loss of the French was supposed to be equal to that of the Spanish.

General Duhesme, in revenge for his repulse from Gerona, burnt many houses in the towns and villages by which he passed; took many prisoners, some of whom he killed in cold blood, and laid waste the whole plain or district within the jurisdiction of the city of Barcelona, all the cultivated fields, villages, convents and churches. On his return to Barcelona, he found his two forts in want of powder and provisions. During his absence, of about a month, the city had been cut off from a communication with the neighboring country, and a vessel loaded with powder and salted pork, had been taken by the English. Duhesme, who had already acquired the cognomen of the cruel, pointed the cannon of the citadel against the unfortunate inhabitants, threatening them with death, if they did not furnish him with 12,000 rations of provisions daily, and an excessive number of pipes of brandy and wine. Under the pretence of charges of an intention to rebel against the emperor, he was in the habit of carrying away from time to time, the most respectable persons in Barcelona, separating husbands from their wives and parents from their children, for the purpose of extorting ransoms for their liberation.

In the mean time the affairs of the patriots in the north of Spain wore but an unfavorable aspect, and a battle was fought at Medina del Rio Seco, in the province of Leon, which turned the tide of fortune, and might have exceedingly damped, if not altogether quashed the insurrection, if this advantage on the side of the French had not been counterbalanced by the events in the south and east just related. At the same time that he sent a force against Zaragoza, marshal Bessieres pushed forward columns for the reduction of Logrono, Segovia, Valladolid and St. Andero. All these objects were easily accomplished. The raw and undisciplined levies of patriots did not long sustain a conflict with the impetuous and well directed exertions of the veteran and victorious French. On the 7th June, general Frere, having arrived with his columns within a mile of Segovia, sent an officer to the magistrates demanding a parley. The insurgents, 5000 strong, with 30 cannons, would not suffer the messenger to approach, but fired on him with cannon.—The place was taken, but not without some resistance; a great number of wounded and others fell into the hands of the French, with all their cannon, and the city submitted. On the 8th, the town and province of Palencia submitted to general La Salle and was disarmed. On the 12th, the same general advanced to Duennas, where he formed a junction with general Merle, and continued his march to Valladolid, where the spirit of the insurrection had grown very strong, and which was a rendezvous for the patriots.

Don Gregorio de la Cuesta, a general about 70 years of age, with 7000 men and six pieces of artillery, had taken post at Cabezon, a small town on the Pisuerga, about nine miles to the north of Valladolid. General Sabathier was ordered to force a position, which had been reconnoitred, while general Merle was directed to cut off his retreat to Valladolid. The firing, according to the French accounts, lasted but half an hour, when the Spanish were completely beaten, and scattered in

every direction on the field of action, leaving their artillery, 4000 muskets, and about 1000 killed.

The gazette of Madrid, that is, the French gazette, states, that *five or six hundred* French beat fourteen or fifteen thousand rebels. The gazette of Oviedo, on the contrary, says, that the number of the French and Spaniards in this engagement, was nearly equal; but that the French had the advantage of a more numerous artillery, while the patriots had only four cannon; yet that in spite of this disadvantage on the part of the Spaniards, the French had left seven hundred dead on the field of battle, from which they carried off their wounded.

The bishop of Valladolid, with the principal clergy of the city came to meet general la Salle, supplicating forgiveness for the city and its inhabitants, which was readily granted. The city and province were, however, disarmed. Ten members of the council of Placentia, Segovia and Valladolid were deputed to go to his catholic majesty (Joseph Bonaparte) at Bayonne, there to supplicate his forgiveness in the act of tendering their own fealty and that of their fellow citizens.

General Merle proceeded to the mountains of St. Andero, a canton or small province on the coast of Biscay between Austria de Santillana, Old Castile and Biscay. On the morning of the 21st of June he fell upon the patriots headed by the bishop, drove them from all their positions, and took from them two eighteen pounders, which, loaded with grape shot they had fired only twice. In other parts of the mountainous district, parties of the insurgents were driven from post to post, into St. Andero, by general Ducos. On the 23d the generals Merle and Ducos entered St. Andero, on different sides of the town. The peasants everywhere returned to their homes. The city of St. Andero, one of the first commercial ports in Spain, having made its submission like Segovia, Placentia, and Valladolid, was obliged to swear fealty to the usurper. Thus quietness was restored, for the present, to Navarre, Guipusco, and Biscay.

Marshal Bessieres, with a strong force, had the charge of keeping open the principal road between Bayonne and Madrid. It was of great importance to the patriots that this communication should be cut off. A number of patriots had been assembling for some time at Benevento under, the command of Cuesta. In this number were comprehended all the Spanish prisoners who had been sent back to Spain by the British government.* Cuesta had had the command of the force which belonged to Castile and Leon, having been nominated captain general of those provinces by the pusillanimous Ferdinand during his short reign. The Galician army was commanded by don Joachim Blake, a younger officer of Irish parentage. The Juntas of the respective provinces, being independent of each other there seems to have been a want of good understanding between the two generals. Blake was as much superior to Cuesta in abilities as he was below him in rank, and unwillingly yielded the preference; because it required the sacrifice of his own judgment, to the probable injury of the common

* Nearly 5000 Spanish prisoners who have been released, sailed this day. As they embarked, they poured forth the warmest wishes for the happiness of this country. Many of them took up the sand from the beach, kissed it with reverence and affection as the sand of a free nation, and put it into their pockets to exhibit to their countrymen upon their return.

London press, 13th July.

cause. Contrary to his judgment a battle was risked (14th July) near Medina del Rio Seco, against a detachment of the French army under general Laselles. The peasantry and the new levies attacked the enemy's infantry with such ardor that they forced them to retreat, won four of their cannon and spiked them. They had even set up their shouts of victory; when the French cavalry charged their left wing, and by their great superiority, decided the day. Blake covered the retreat of the Spaniards with great skill, and the French were not able to pursue, so severely had they suffered. But they revenged themselves with their usual ferocity when they entered Medina del Rio Seco some hours afterwards; where having first satiated themselves with massacre, and then with plunder, they committed atrocities upon the women scarcely equalled in the worst ages of military barbarity—the nuns were violated and then murdered. Six hundred persons were massacred in the streets and houses.—A Spanish officer who had received three wounds was brought before one of the French generals, who ordered a dragoon to cut him down; he put up his hands to save himself, and they were nearly severed with a sabre. Upon this he fell—but as the dragoon was going, the general called him back, and bade him shoot the black guard for he was not yet dead. The officer knelt to receive his death—the ball passed between his arm and body—he had presence of mind enough to fall—and, crawling away in the night, was brought to the Galician army to tell his tale! When the French soldiers had pillaged every thing they could find, they carried off infants, and made their parents redeem them!

Blake had discovered such talents in this action, that Bessieres thought it of importance to win him over, if possible, to the intruder's party. He, therefore wrote to him, under the pretext of assuring that the Spanish prisoners should be well treated, and took that occasion to try his patriotism, by urging him to obey the act of abdication and acknowledge Joseph Bonaparte. The Spanish general made answer, (24th July) that he acknowledged no other sovereign than Ferdinand of Bourbon, or his legitimate heirs; and, if it happened that that unfortunate family should be altogether extinguished, his allegiance would then be due to the people of Spain, lawfully represented in a general cortes.—These, he said, were the sentiments of the whole army and of the whole nation; and he warned Bessieres against the error of mistaking the forced submission of those towns which were occupied by the French troops, for a real change of opinion in the inhabitants. "Undeceive, therefore," said he, "your emperor, and, if it be true that he has a philanthropic mind, he will renounce the project of subduing Spain. Whatever partial successes he may obtain, it is evident that his brother never can reign in this country, unless he reign over a desert, covered with the blood of the Spaniards, and of the troops employed in this unjust enterprise."

This answer did not satisfy the Frenchman, who, in a second letter told Blake, that it was his duty to avoid the effusion of blood; for while France and the greatest part of Europe continued in their present state, it was impossible that the Bourbons could reign. He accompanied this reasoning by proposing a conference with him upon the subject,—a proposal which, Blake replied, it was not fitting that he should address to a man of honor. Bessieres had set at liberty our five hundred prisoners, under the name of peasants; this title the Spanish general disclaimed for them, maintaining that they were

regular soldiers, incorporated with the troops of the line, though not wearing the uniform. In explaining this, he said, "his intention was not to release himself from the acknowledging the generous conduct of the Marshal towards them, but to prevent the possibility of their receiving, upon any occasion, a treatment which they did not deserve; and which, he was sure, from the sentiments which his excellency had manifested, could not but be painful to his feelings." Blake mistook the character of the French generals;—they affected humanity only when they feared reprisals; and his answer was not what it ought to have been; for he allowed a distinction between the citizen and the soldier, instead of proclaiming, that in the circumstances of Spain, every man became and was to be accounted a soldier, in virtue of the cause which called upon him to take arms. In consequence of Blake's conduct at the battle of Rio Seco, he was appointed governor and captain-general of the kingdom of Galicia, and president of the royal audience.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Patent Paper Carpet.

The following has appeared in the Baltimore papers as an advertisement, but as it announces an interesting discovery, it becomes a proper article for the REGISTER. The editor has had an opportunity of examining, and in a degree of testing the firmness and probable durability of some of the paper prepared for carpets by Mr. Guy; and cannot in justice refrain from giving an opinion, that it will answer all the purposes designed.

The new invented patent Paper Carpet, at Mr. Robert Elliot's Paper Hanging Ware House,

I understand has been visited by vast numbers of our respectable citizens; many of whom have ordered their floors to be immediately covered with paper carpets. But I am now busy in painting a number of pictures that must be finished with the utmost possible dispatch. And as the above carpet is principally intended for summer use, a short delay cannot be attended with any material inconvenience. I am also informed that many doubt the durability of paper carpets: no wonder this; for who at first thought could suppose that a piece of tender, flimsy paper, could ever be made to wear under foot like painted canvas? Yet knives, razors, spectacles and mathematical instruments are cases with paper; snuff boxes and many other well known articles, are made of paper, and wear like wood—how strange then if we cannot contrive to make a paper carpet that will wear like cloth? However let the doubters suspend their judgment upon the subject until the spring, when I will invite them by public advertisement, to see what injury the above carpet has sustained by the scraping feet of a thousand visitors, who generally try to prove its texture by needless and unreasonable friction such as carpets in common use are never subject to. The theory of paper carpets at first seems to give common sense a kind of electric shock, and therefore may suppose it to be a dream; a mere flight of fancy; the offspring of a wild imagination; a crude, indigested whim, that Queen Mab has been driving her carriage through my brain, and left me bewildered in the labyrinth of a fairy tale! If so, I have been under the dominion of a stupid infatuation for near five years past; for in 1806, I sent into the patent office a specification of the above carpet to secure the patent, and have been engaged from that time to this, to prove its utility in every possible way; and now I know to a certainty that I can make carpets

of common hanging paper that will wear as long as canvas floor cloths; much more beautiful, and above fifty per cent. cheaper.

FRANCIS GUY.

Miscellaneous.

NORWAY.—In Norway horse flesh now forms a common article of food. Since the year 1808, there have been killed at Christiania, 460 horses for the consumption of that town.

A furrier at Copenhagen, named Gross, has invented a method of making black hats of seal-skin, and has obtained a royal patent, which entitles him to the sole fabrication of that article for three years.

Domestic exports of the U. States,

Comprising the agricultural and other production of 1791 with the last seven years, from official documents, valued in dollars of the United States.

FROM MR. BUDGET IN ANTICIPATION.

PRODUCE OF THE SEA.					
Year	Dried salt fish	Pickled fish	Wattle o and bone	Sperm candles	Total of these
1791	1,200,000	200,000	196,480	60,000	1,656,480
1803	1,620,000	560,000	280,000	175,000	2,635,000
1804	2,413,25	639,419	311,028	69,720	3,433,423
1805	2,038,00	348,000	314,000	163,000	2,863,000
1806	2,150,00	366,000	418,000	182,000	3,116,000
1807	1,896,00	362,000	476,000	130,000	2,864,000
1808	623,00	98,000	88,000	23,000	832,000
1809	1,123,00	282,000	169,000	126,000	1,710,000
1810	913,00	214,000	222,000	132,000	1,481,000

PRODUCE OF THE FOREST.					
Year	G. saw & peltry	Natural stores	Pearl & Tortoise shells	Lumber, &c.	Total of these
1791	290,208	230,000	330,000	1,216,000	2,086,208
1803	630,000	460,000	735,000	2,800,000	4,895,000
1804	1,047,305	327,931	642,000	2,548,000	4,655,466
1805	1,115,000	702,000	776,000	2,602,000	5,261,000
1806	980,000	109,000	935,000	2,537,000	4,861,000
1807	995,000	235,000	1,448,000	2,637,000	5,476,000
1808	161,000	102,000	408,000	723,000	1,399,000
1809	468,000	737,000	1,566,000	1,813,000	4,583,000
1810	317,000	173,000	579,000	2,579,000	4,978,000

PRODUCE OF AGRICULTURE.					
Year	Animals food, &c.	Vegetables food	Tobacco	Cotton	Total of Agriculture
1791	1,200,000	364,000	400,000	30,000	987,000
1803	1,135,000	1,080,000	623,000	7,920,000	3,299,000
1804	1,284,568	1,208,681	600,000	7,404,117	3,388,526
1805	3,385,000	1,175,000	634,000	9,445,000	1,562,000
1806	3,274,000	1,165,000	657,000	8,332,000	3,237,500
1807	3,086,000	1,443,000	547,000	1,423,000	3,783,000
1808	968,000	235,000	833,000	2,221,000	674,000
1809	1,811,000	873,400	277,400	8,515,000	2,333,400
1810	2,169,000	1,075,000	504,800	1,510,000	2,350,200

PRODUCE OF MANUFACTURES.					
Year	Domestic manufactures	Foreign materials	Total manufacture	Grand total	in each year
1791	600,000	400,000	1,093,000	14,600,000	
1803	790,000	565,000	1,356,000	42,235,000	
1804	1,134,864	454,916	2,189,000	41,095,000	
1805	1,579,000	721,000	2,300,000	42,387,000	
1806	1,889,000	818,000	2,707,000	46,504,000	
1807	1,652,000	468,000	2,120,000	48,760,000	
1808	309,000	35,000	344,000	9,433,000	
1809	1,266,000	240,000	1,506,000	31,403,700	
1810	1,359,000	558,000	1,917,000	42,366,000	

N. B. Several articles not here specified are included in the total sums.

Fire at Richmond.

RICHMOND, DECEMBER 28, 1811.

Overwhelming Calamity.—In the whole course of our existence, we have never taken our pen under a deeper gloom than we feel at this moment. It falls to our lot to record one of the most distressing scenes which can happen in the whole circle of human affairs.—The reader must excuse the incoherence of the narrative: there is scarcely a dry eye in this distracted city. Weep, my fellow citizens, for we have seen a night of woe; which scarce any eye hath seen, or ear hath heard, and no tongue can adequately tell.

How can we describe the scene? No pen can paint it; no imagination can conceive it. A whole theatre wrapt in flames—a gay and animated assembly suddenly thrown on the very verge of the grave—many of them, oh! how many precipitated into eternity—youth, and beauty, and old age, and genius overwhelmed in one promiscuous ruin.—Shrieks, groans and human agony in every shape,—this is the heart-rending scene that we are called upon to describe. We sink under the effort. Reader! excuse our feelings, for they are the feelings of a whole city.

Let us collect our ideas as well as we can. On Thursday night, a new play and a new afterpiece were played for the benefit of Mr. Placide. Crowds swarmed to the theatre—it was the fullest house this season—there were not less than six hundred present. The play went off—the pantomime began—the first act was over. The whole scene was before us—and all around us was mirth and festivity.—Oh God! what a horrible evolution did one minute produce! The curtain rose on the second act of the pantomime; the orchestra was in full chorus; and Mr. West came on to open the scene, when sparks of fire began to fall on the back part of the stage, and Mr. Robertson came out in unutterable distress, waved his hand to the ceiling, and uttered these appalling words—"The house is on fire." His hand was immediately stretched forth to the persons in the stage box to help them on the stage—and aid their retreat in that direction. This is all that we caught of the stage; the cry of *fire, fire*, passed with electric velocity through the house; every one flew from their seats to gain the lobbies and stairs.

The scene baffles all description. The most heart-piercing cries pervaded the house. "Save me, save me." Wives asking for their husbands, females and children shrieking while the gathering element came rolling on its curling flames and columns of smoke, threatening to devour every human being in the building. Many were trod under foot: several were thrown back from the windows from which they were struggling to leap. The stairways were immediately blocked up: the throng was so great that many were raised several feet over the heads of the rest:—the smoke threatened an instant suffocation. We cannot dwell on this picture. We saw—we felt it—like others, we gave up ourselves for lost—we cannot depict it. Many leaped from the windows of the first story and were saved—children and females and men of all descriptions were seen to precipitate themselves on the ground below—most of these escaped; though several of them with broken legs, and thighs, and hideous contusions. Most, if not all who were in the pit escaped. Mr. Taylor, the last of the musicians who quitted the orchestra, finding his retreat by the back way cut off, leapt into the pit whence he entered the semicircular avenue which leads to the door of the theatre, and found it

nearly empty. He was the last that escaped from the pit! how melancholy that many who were in the boxes did not also jump into the pit and fly in the same direction. But those who were in the boxes, above and below, pushed for the lobbies—many, as has been said, escaped through the windows—but most of them had no other resource than to descend the stair, many escaped in that way—but so great was the pressure that they retarded each other; until the devouring element approached to sweep them into eternity. Several who even emerged from the building were so much scorched that they have since perished—some even jumped from the second window—some others have been dreadfully burnt.

The fire flew with rapidity, almost beyond example. Within ten minutes after it caught, the whole house was wrapt in flames. The colored people in the gallery chiefly escaped through the stairs cut off from the rest of the house—some have no doubt fallen victims. The pit and boxes had but one common avenue—through which the whole crowd escaped, save those only who leaped through the windows.

But the scene which ensued—it is impossible to paint. Women with dishevelled hair, fathers and mothers shrieking out for their children, husbands for their wives, brothers for their sisters, filled the whole area on the outside of the building. A few, who had escaped, plunged again into the flames to save some dear object of their regard—and they perished. The governor perhaps shared this melancholy fate. Others were frantic, and would have rushed to destruction, but for the hand of a friend. The bells tolled. Almost the whole town rushed to the fatal spot.

The flame must have been caught to the scenery from some light behind.—Robertson saw it when it was no longer than his arm—Young saw it on the roof, when it first burst through. Every article of the theatre was consumed; as well as the dwelling house next to it. But what is wealth in comparison of the valuable lives which have gone forever? The whole town is shrouded in woe.—Heads of families extinguished forever—many and many is the house, in which a chasm has been made which never can be filled up.—We cannot dwell on this picture—but look at the following catalogue of the victims, and then conceive the calamity which has fallen upon us—we must drop the pen—when we have time to collect a more particular account we shall give it hereafter. Oh miserable night of unutterable woe!—[Eng.]

In consequence of this terrible event a meeting of the common council of Richmond, was held the next day, at which four gentlemen were appointed a committee to cause to be collected and distributed in urns, coffins, or other suitable enclosures, the remains of the persons who suffered, which might not be claimed by relatives, and the same to be interred with all proper respect and solemnity; giving notice to the citizens of Richmond and Manchester of the time at which it would take place; and to have further authority to erect over said remains such tomb or tombs, as they might approve of, with such inscription as to them shall appear best calculated to record the melancholy and affecting catastrophe.

The council also recommended an entire suspension of all kinds of business for forty-eight hours; and ordained, that for four months thereafter no public shew or spectacle, or open dancing assembly, should be exhibited or held in the city, under the

penalty of six dollars and fifty-six cents for every hour the same shall be exhibited.

A very numerous meeting of the citizens of Richmond was held at the capitol, the same day—the mayor in the chair—at which a committee was appointed to collect information of the names and number of persons who perished. They recommended the Wednesday following as a day of humiliation and prayer—that the citizens of Richmond should wear crape for one month, and named several gentlemen as a committee to receive private contributions in aid of the committee appointed by the common council to erect a monument.

The following are the names reported by the above appointed committee, and may be received as nearly accurate: the report says “dead and missing.”

A LIST OF DEAD AND MISSING.

Jefferson Ward.—George W. Smith, governor, Sophia Trouin, Celia Trouin, daughters of Mr. Trouin, Joseph Jacobs, Elizabeth Jacobs, his daughter, Cyprian Marks, wife of Mordecai Marks, Charlotte Raphael, daughter of Solomon Raphael, Adeline Bausman, daughter of Mrs. Bausman, Ann Craig, daughter of Mr. Adam Craig, Nuttall, a carpenter, Pleasant, a Mulatto woman belonging to Mr. William Rose, Nancy Taterson, woman of color, supposed to have perished.

Madison Ward.—Abraham B. Venable, President of the bank, William Southgate, son of W. S. Benjamin Botts, and wife, Arianna Hunter, Mary Whitelock, Juliana Hurvey, Mrs. Heron, Mrs. Girardin and child, Mrs. Robert Greenhow, Mrs. Moss, Barrack Judah's child, Mrs. Leslie, Edward Wanton, a youth, George Dixon, a youth, William Brown, Mrs. Patterson, John Welsh, a stranger, nephew to sir A. Piggot, late from England, Margaret Copeland, Margaret Anderson, Sally Gatewood, Mary Clay, Lucy Gwathmey, Louisa Mayo, Mrs. Gerrard, Mrs. Gibson, Miss Green, Mary Davis, Thomas Frazier, a youth, Jane Wade, a young woman, Mrs. William Cooke and daughter, Elizabeth Stephenson, Mrs. Covert and child, Patsey Griffin, Fanny Goff, a woman of color, Betsey Johnson, a woman of color, free, Philadelphia, do.—Missing.

Monroe Ward.—Mrs. Taylor Braxton, Mrs. Elizabeth Page, Mrs. Jerrard, James Waldon, Miss Elliot from N. Kent, Mrs. Gallego, Miss Conyers, Lient. James Gibbon, Mrs. Thomas Wilson, Miss Maria Nelson, Miss Mary Page, Miss Laforest, Mr. Almerine Marshal.

The following letter from a gentleman in Richmond to M. Clay, esq. a representative from Virginia, gives an impressive account of the dreadful catastrophe.

RICHMOND, December 27.

SIR—I have a tale of horror to tell—prepare to hear of the most awful calamity that ever planged a whole city into affliction. Yes, all Richmond is in tears; children have lost their parents, parents have lost their children. Yesterday a beloved daughter gladdened my heart with her innocent smiles; to-day she is in Heaven! God gave her to me, and God—yes it has pleased Almighty God to take her from me. O! sir, feel for me, and not for me only; arm yourself with fortitude while I discharge the mournful duty of telling you that you have to feel also for yourself. Yes, for it must be told, you also were the father of an amiable daughter, now, like my beloved child, gone to join her mother in Heaven.

How can words represent what one night, one hour of unutterable horror, has done to overwhelm

a hundred families with grief and despair. No, sir impossible. My eyes beheld last night what no tongue, no pen can describe—horrors that language has no terms to represent.

Last night we were all at the theatre; every family in Richmond, or, at least, a very large proportion of them, were there—the house was uncommonly full—when, dreadful to relate, the scenery took fire, spread rapidly above, ascending in volumes of flame and smoke into the upper part of the buildings, whence a moment after it descended to force a passage through the pit and boxes. In two minutes the whole audience were enveloped in hot scorching smoke and flame.

The lights were all extinguished by the black and smothering vapor; cries, shrieks, confusion and despair succeeded. A moment of inexpressible horror! Nothing, I can say, can paint the awful, shocking, maddening scene. The images of both my dear children were before me, but I was removed by an impassible crowd from the dear sufferers. The youngest (with gratitude to heaven I write it) sprang towards the voice of her papa, reached my assisting hand, and was extricated from the overwhelming mass that soon choked the passage by the stairs; but no efforts could avail me to reach, or even gain sight of the other; and my dear, dear, Margaret, and your sweet Mary, with her companions, Miss Gwathmey and Miss Gatewood, passed together and at once into a happier world. Judge my feelings by your own, when I found that neither they nor my beloved sister appeared upon the stairs. First one, and then another and another, I helped down; hoping every moment to seize the hand of my dear child—but no, no, I was not destined to have that happiness. O, to see so, so many amiable helpless females trying to stretch to me their imploring hands, crying “save me, sir! oh, sir, save me!! save me!!!” Oh God! eternity cannot banish that spectacle of horror from my recollection. Some friendly unknown hand dragged me from the scene of flame and death—and on gaining the open air, to my infinite consolation, I found my sister had thrown herself from the upper window and was saved—yes, thanks be to God saved where fifty others in a similar attempt, broke their necks or were crushed to death by those who fell on them from the same height.

Oh, sir, you can have no idea of the general consternation—the universal grief that pervades this city—but why do I speak of that? I scarcely know what I write to you. Farewell. In haste and in deep affliction.

Twelfth Congress.

IN SENATE.

Monday, December 30.—The president communicated the resolution of the legislative council and house of Representatives of the Mississippi Territory, in general assembly, approving of the course pursued by the general government towards the belligerent powers of Europe, and pledging themselves to support the administration in its efforts to obtain justice from the offending nation: which was read.

Mr. Bradley submitted the following resolution: Resolved, that the members of this house will wear crape on the left arm for one month, in testimony of the national respect and sorrow for the unfortunate persons who perished in the city of Richmond in Virginia, on the night of the 26th of the present month.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, December 27.—Mr. Nelson presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Louisiana territory, praying that the second grade of territorial government, may be extended to the inhabitants of said territory.

Mr. Poin Dexter presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of the Mississippi territory, praying that the said territory may be admitted into the union as a state; which was ordered to be referred to the committee of the whole house, on the bill to enable the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government.

Mr. Williams, from the committee on that part of the president's message which relates to filling the ranks and prolonging the enlistments of the regular troops, and to an auxiliary force,—to whom was referred the bill from the senate "authorising the president of the U. States to raise certain companies of rangers for the protection of the frontier of the U. States," reported the same without amendment, and it was ordered to be committed to a committee of the whole house to-morrow.

Mr. Porter, from the committee of foreign relations, to whom was referred the bill from the senate, "to raise an additional military force," reported the same with an amendment, which was read, and, together with the bill, was committed to the committee of the whole house on the state of the union.

The bill to continue in force for a further time the first section of the act entitled "an act further to protect the commerce and seamen of the United States against the Barbary powers," was read the third time, and passed.

The bill directing the terms on which lands sold at private sale, and that revert for failure in payment shall again be sold, was read a third time and passed.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill to make additional allowance to the post-master-general.—Considerable debate took place on this bill; but before it terminated, the committee rose, reported progress and obtained leave to sit again.

The house adjourned to Monday.

Monday, December 30.—Soon after the journal was read, Mr. Dawson rose and addressed the chair. The lowness of his voice, owing to recent indisposition, prevented our hearing him distinctly; but his observations were nearly as follows:

Mr. Speaker—Virginia, my parent state, has long to mourn the loss of some of her most valuable sons and estimable daughters, who on the night of the 26th of the present month, met their untimely ends.

Among those who perished in the flames, in the metropolis of that state, on that sad night, were the chief magistrate of the state, and a gentleman well known to many of us, and who for years held an honorable station in this house. Some of the most valuable and prominent characters in their profession, and others who promised ere long to be ornaments to their country. With these, sir, was the rising offspring of one of our present most valuable members, and many other amiable and virtuous women who adorned and improved society.

These, sir, with many others have fallen victims to that unrelenting element, notwithstanding the bold and generous efforts which were made to save them.

Their ashes are now mingled with the dust—and their spirits have ascended to heaven.

It is a great national calamity.

I well know that on such occasions, grief, although keen, is unavailing—that the decrees of fate are irrevocable and ought to be submitted to with humility. In order, however, to testify the respect and sorrow which this nation feels for the deceased, and to prove that we sympathize with the afflicted, without further cymment on this painful subject, I beg leave to offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the members of this house, will wear crape on the left arm for one month, in testimony of the respect and sorrow which they feel for those unfortunate persons who perished in the fire in the city of Richmond in Virginia, on the night of the 26th of December.

This resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mitchell presented a petition of sundry inhabitants of Orange county, New York, praying the aid and patronage of the general government in the cultivation of hemp; and

Mr. Condit presented the petition of sundry manufacturers of iron, in the state of New Jersey, praying that additional duties may be laid on the importation into the United States of bar iron, castings, nails, &c. These petitions were referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Morrow presented the petition of sundry inhabitants of Cincinnati, Ohio, praying that additional duties may be laid on hemp imported into the United States.

Mr. Poin Dexter presented a resolution, similar to that this day presented to the senate, of the legislature of the Mississippi territory; which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Bacon, from the committee of ways and means, made a report on the several petitions of the collectors of the ports of Philadelphia, Norfolk, Plymouth, (Massachusetts) Baltimore, and of the naval officer of the port of Philadelphia, referred during the present session; which was read; and

Leave being given, Mr. Bacon presented a bill in addition to "an act to establish the compensations of the officers employed in the collection of the duties on imports and tonnage; which was read the first and second time, and committed to the committee of the whole house on Thursday next.

Mr. Morrow, from the committee on public lands, presented a bill to ascertain and establish the western boundary of the tracts reserved for the satisfying the military bounties to the officers and soldiers of the Virginia line on the continental establishment; which was read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Williams, from the committee appointed on that part of the president's message which relates to filling the ranks and prolonging the enlistments of the regular troops and to an auxiliary force, reported (in part) a bill supplementary to "an act more effectually to provide for the national defence by establishing an uniform militia throughout the United States" and to "an act making provision for arming and equipping the whole body of militia of the United States;" which was read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Wright moved that the house do come to the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill for the protection, recovery and indemnification of American seamen.

The resolution was read and ordered to lie on the table.

* Mr. Venable. † Daughter to Mr. Clay.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill authorising the president of the United States to accept and organize certain volunteer military corps, and after some time spent therein, the speaker resumed the chair, and Mr. Mason reported that the committee had had the bill under consideration, and made some progress therein, and directed him to ask leave to sit again, which was granted.

Additional Military Force.—The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house on the bill from the senate "to raise an additional military force" and the amendment reported thereto, by the committee on foreign relations; and after some time spent therein, the speaker resumed the chair; and Mr. Breckenridge reported, that the committee had had the bill and amendment under consideration, and made some progress therein, and directed him to ask leave to sit again; which was granted by the house.

Tuesday, December 31.—After some petitions for claims had been presented,

Mr. Poindexter called for the consideration of the resolution which had been laid upon the table some days ago, calling upon the president for information, whether any negotiation be now pending between the U. States and Spain or any other power, respecting the claim of the United States to that part of the country of which possession was taken by virtue of the president's proclamation of October, 1810, &c. which was agreed to, and a committee appointed to wait upon the president therewith.

On motion of Mr. Kent, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this house information, whether tobacco the growth of the U. States is admitted into Holland, and if admitted, whether the administration or regie on that article as it exists in France, extends to Holland, and the Hanseatic towns, and whether the tariff in Holland is the same as that in France.

The house, agreeably to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Breckenridge in the chair, on the bill from the senate, to raise an additional military force; when

Mr. D. R. Williams moved that the committee rise and have leave to sit again, in order to take up the bill from the senate, authorising the president of the United States to raise certain companies of rangers for the protection of the frontiers of the United States; as, from information received, it was probable that this force would be immediately wanted. Serious apprehensions being entertained of renewed hostilities from the Indian tribes on our frontier.

The committee rose accordingly; and the house resolved into a committee of the whole on the proposed bill. Mr. Stoddard in the chair. The bill was gone through, reported without amendment, read a third time and passed.

The house then resumed the consideration in committee of the whole of the bill to raise an additional military force; when

Mr. Clay (the speaker) moved to amend the bill by the following proviso: "Provided, however, that officers for eight regiments only shall be appointed, until three fourths of the privates of such eight regiments shall be enlisted, when the officers for the remaining five regiments shall be appointed." Which was agreed to.

The chairman was about to put the question on the committee's rising; when

[Mr. Clay's Speech.]

Mr. Clay observed, that when the subject of raising an additional military force had been discussed some days past, it was the pleasure of the house not to deliberate upon it in committee of the whole. He should not complain of this course of proceeding, nor indeed of any other which they might think fit to take on any other occasion; but the effect had been to preclude him, who now had the honor to address the chair, from participating in debate; from taking upon him that share of responsibility for measures which it had become important to adopt at the present moment; a responsibility from which he should never shrink at any period, or on any subject. He owed it to himself, to his constituents, to his country, to express, on this occasion, his views of the great interests involved in the bill under consideration.

The first question which presented itself, in relation to this bill, was as to the quantum of force which it proposed to raise. Was it too large or too small; too strong or too weak? The contemplated army was, to his mind, too great for peace; and he was fearful, far as it was above the wishes of some of those with whom he generally had the honor to act, that it was too small for the purposes of war. The bill provided for the raising of twenty five thousand troops; the bill recently passed, was intended to complete the enlistment for six thousand more. The whole would amount to thirty one thousand. Deducting for sickness, to which raw troops were peculiarly exposed, and for other deficiencies, a reasonable number of these troops, and to give the most favorable result, we should not raise by both bills more than twenty or twenty five thousand effective men. Could a country boundless in extent, with a numerous line of forts and garrisons, liable to invasions and predatory incursions at every point, be defended, and at the same time a war carried on, by a less number of regulars than twenty five thousand? If the legislative councils did err in such a case, they ought to err on the side of safety and vigor. The question was—will you embark in a war which shall be feeble and protracted to a great length of time, or will you make a vigorous stroke and put an end to this territorial war at once? Canada is the avowed object. Suppose you conquer Upper Canada, you must leave men behind to hold it, when you march to Quebec. Your rear must be protected; it would be a new mode of warfare to leave it unprotected! Gentlemen would be deceived, if they calculated upon the treason of the Canadian people. Well, sir, you lay siege to Quebec, garrisoned, he was informed, by seven or eight thousand British forces; you must have at least double that number to take possession of the place. Suppose Quebec reduced; high as was his sense of the valor of his countrymen, he did not believe that militia or volunteers could be obtained to retain it for as long a period as would be necessary. But in respect to the question of economy, he conceived that it would be more expedient to raise a large force at once. With an army of twenty five thousand men, the territorial war would probably terminate in one year; while it would last, waged with eight or ten thousand troops, three or four years. He said the territorial war; for he was aware, that for years after the enemy should be driven from the provinces, hostilities might be prosecuted on the ocean. So much for the quantum of the proposed force. Were he to amplify, as well as he might; were he to draw too extensively on the patience of the committee, they might feel disposed to protest his draft.

He advanced to the consideration of the nature of the troops. Our republican jealousies; our love of liberty; the danger of standing armies, were themes which had been successfully touched, in discussing the subject before the committee, at least so far as their feelings were concerned, however little weight they might have produced on their judgment. He did not stand on that floor as the advocate of standing armies in times of peace; but when war becomes essential, he was the advocate of raising able and vigorous armies to ensure its success. The danger of armies in peace arose from their idleness and dissipation; their corrupted habits which moulded them to the will of ambitious chieftains. We had been the subject of abuse for years by tourists, through this country, whether on horseback or on foot, in prose or in poetry; but although we might not have exhibited as many great instances of discoveries and improvements in science, as the long established nations of Europe, the mass of our people possessed more general political information than any people on earth; such information was universally diffused among us. This circumstance was one security against the ambition of military leaders. Another barrier was derived from the extent of the country, and the millions of people spread over its face. Paris was taken, and all France consequently subjugated. London might be subdued, and England would fall before the conqueror. But the population and strength of this country were concentrated in no one place. Philadelphia might be invaded; New York or Boston might fall; every resort might be taken; but the country would remain free. The whole of our territory on this side of the Alleghany might be invaded; still liberty would not be subdued. We have or would soon have, eighteen state governments, capable and possessing the right to apply their immense pecuniary and physical military resources to oppose any daring usurper who might attempt to prostrate our liberties. The national government; one or more of the state sovereignties, might be annihilated; the country would yet be safe. We possessed another security against the dangers of armies in the great body of militia. He hoped to God that ere long he should see every man proudly shoulder a musket to defend his liberties. Massachusetts at this time presented the noble spectacle of fifty or sixty thousand of her citizens with arms in their hands, ready to point their bayonets to the breast of any tyrant who might attempt to crush their freedom. And with all these securities, do gentlemen seriously apprehend danger from a pitiful army of 25 or 30,000 men? He trusted not.

The honorable gentleman proceeded to present his views on this bill, as it involved the important question of war. And here he must beg leave to differ with those gentlemen who had thought it improper to debate upon war in the face of day. It was impossible to conceal the measures of preparation for war. Had gentlemen ever known of a war between France and Russia, for example, without receiving accounts of its being meditated for weeks and months before it actually took place? You might pass your laws in secret; but you could not secretly execute them. Men must be raised; could they be enlisted in the dark? He felt no difficulty on this point.

Gentlemen had inquired, what would be gained by the contemplated war? Sir, I ask, in turn, what will you not lose by your mongrel state of peace with Great Britain? Do you expect to gain any thing in a pecuniary view? No, sir. Look at your

treasury reports. You now receive only six millions of revenue annually; and this amount must be diminished in the same proportion as the rigorous execution of the orders in council shall increase. Before these orders existed, you received sixteen millions. You lose then to the amount of ten millions of revenue per annum by your present peace. A war would probably produce the repeal of the orders in council; and your revenue would be restored; your commerce would flourish; your wealth and prosperity would advance. But certain gentlemen tell us to repeal the non-importation, and then we shall have commerce and revenue. Admit that we could be guilty of so gross an act of perfidy, after we have voluntarily pledged our faith to that power which should revoke its hostile edicts, to enforce against its enemy this non-importation; admit this; repeal your law; and what will be the consequence? You will present the strange phenomenon of an import without an export trade. You will become bankrupt, if you should thus carry on a trade. Where would your produce find vent? Under the British orders, you cannot send it to the markets of continental Europe. Will Great Britain take your exports? She has no market for them; her people can find use for only a small portion of them. By a continuance of this peace, then, we should lose our commerce, our character, and a nation's best attribute, our honor. A war would give us commerce and character; and we should enjoy the proud consciousness of having discharged our highest duty to our country.

But England it seems is fighting the battles of mankind; and we are asked, shall we weaken her magnanimous efforts? For argument's sake, let us concede the fact, that the French emperor is aiming at universal empire; can Great Britain challenge our sympathies, when, instead of putting forth her arms to protect the world, she has converted the war into a mean of self-aggrandizement; when, under pretence of defending them, she has destroyed the commerce and trampled on the rights of every nation; when she has attempted to annihilate every vestige of the public maritime code of which she professed to be the champion? Shall we bear the cuffs and scoffs of British arrogance, because we may entertain chimerical fears of French subjugation? Shall we swallow the poison of British poison, lest we may be presented with the imperial dose? Are we called upon to bow to the mandates of royal insolence, as a preparation to contend against Gallic usurpation? Whoever learned in the school of base submission, the lessons of noble freedom, and courage, and independence? Look at Spain. Did she secure her independence by submitting, in the first instance, to the dictates of imperial usurpations? No, sir. If she had resisted the first intrusions into her councils, her monarch would not at this time be a miserable victim in the dungeons of Marseilles. We cannot secure our independence on one power, by a dastardly submission to the will of another. But look at our own history. Our ancestors of the revolution resisted the first encroachments of British tyranny. They foresaw that by submitting to pay an illegal tax, contemptible as that tax was in itself, their liberties would ultimately be subverted. Consider the progress of the present disputes with England. For what were you contending the other day? For the indirect colonial carrying trade. That has vanished. For what are you now deliberating? For the direct export and import trade; the trade in your own cotton, and tobacco, and fish. Give this up, and to mor-

row you must take up arms for your right to pass from New York to New Orleans; from the upper country on James River to Richmond. Sir, when did submission to one wrong induce an adversary to cease his encroachments on the party submitting? But you are told you ought only to go to war when your territory is invaded. How much better than invasion is the blocking of your very ports and harbors; insulting your towns; plundering your merchants; and scouring your coasts? If your fields are surrounded, are they in a better condition than if invaded? When the murderer is at your door, will you meanly skulk to your cells? Or will you boldly oppose him at his entrance?

He could wish the past were buried in oblivion. But we could not shut our eyes. The other day, the pretence for the orders in council was retaliation for the French edicts. The existence of these edicts was made the ground of sir William Scott, for the condemnation of the Fox and others. It would be recollected that sir William had delayed his sentence in the celebrated case, that proof of the repeal of the French decrees might be produced. It was produced. Nevertheless the condemnations took place. But the plea of retaliation had given way to other pretexts and other claims. To the astonishment of all mankind, the British envoy has demanded as a preliminary to the revocation of the orders in council, that the United States shall cease the continental ports to be opened for the admission of British manufactures! You are required to compel France to repeal her *municipal code* itself! Sir, these are none of the motives of the British hostility towards your commerce. She sickens at your prosperity; she is jealous of you; she dreads your rivalry on the ocean. If you doubt this look at your trade in 1806. Your trade with England was twelve or thirteen millions in her favor. We bought fifty millions worth of her manufactures, and supplied her with the raw materials for those very manufactures. We furnished her with the necessities of life, and in exchange, accepted her luxuries. How was our trade with France and Holland? Our exports to both these countries amounted to eighteen millions, our imports to twenty five millions.—Consider the superiority in trade with us, which Great Britain enjoyed over her rival would she have relinquished that superiority, would she have given up her profitable trade, for the single purpose of humbling that of her antagonist? Would she have hazarded the evils of a war with this country for this object? No, sir, she saw in your numberless ships, whose sails spread up on every sea; she perceived in your hundred and twenty thousand gallant tars, the seeds of a civil force, which in thirty years, would rival her on her own element. She therefore commenced the odious system of impressment, of which no language can paint my indignant execration; she dared to attempt the subversion of the personal freedom of your mariners. She aimed at depressing your commerce, which she foresaw would induce your seamen to enter her service, would impair the means of cherishing your navy, of protecting and extending your commerce, and would at the same time raise her own power.

Sir, we are told this government is not calculated to stand the shock of war; that gentlemen will lose their seats in this and the other house; that your benches will be filled by other men, who after you have carried on the war, will make for you an ignominious peace. He could not believe that to retain their seats was the extent of the *amor patriæ*, of gentlemen in this house. Could they let their brave countrymen, a Daviess and his associates in

arms, perish in manfully fighting their battles, while they would meanly cling to their places? But he could not persuade himself that the nation would be ungrateful. He was convinced that when they knew that their government had been strictly impartial towards the belligerents—for surely no gentleman in that house could be so base as to ascribe partially or other improper motives to them—when they perceived the sincere and persevering exertions of their government to preserve peace; they would continue to adhere to them, even in an unsuccessful war to defend their rights; to assert the honor, the dignity and independence of the country. But his ideas of duty were such, that when his rights were invaded, he must advance to their defence, let what might be the consequence; even if death itself were to be his certain fate.

The honorable member concluded with an apology for having trespassed so long upon the patience of the committee. He trusted that he had fully established these three positions: that the quantum of the force proposed by the bill was not too great; that its nature was such as the contemplated war called for; and that the object of the war was justified by every consideration of justice, of interest, of honor and love of country. Unless that object were attained by peaceful means, he hoped that war would be waged before the close of the session.

Mr. Clay was followed by Mr. Wiggery, who spoke in favor of the volunteer corps, as being preferable to regular troops, and Mr. Boyd against raising so large a number of men and in favor, if possible, of maintaining the country in peace.

The committee rose and reported the bill, with the amendments; but the usual hour of adjournment having arrived, the house declined taking up the report.

The speaker laid before the house a communication from the secretary of the treasury, containing an estimate of the expenses for the year 1812, and a statement of the receipts and expenditures for the past year, which was referred to the committee of ways and means, and ordered to be printed. Adjourned.

Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1812. Mr. Jennings, presented a petition from the legislative council and house of representatives of the Indiana territory, praying for an extension of the election franchise;

Also a petition from the same bodies, praying to be erected into an independent state. Both petitions were referred.

Mr. Macon presented to the house, sundry resolutions adopted lately by the legislature of North Carolina, approbatory of the conduct of the general government, and pledging themselves to give it their support in every measure which congress may deem necessary in maintenance of our country's rights. Ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker laid before the house, a communication from the secretary of the navy, containing an account of the application and expenditure of money in that department for the past year. Referred to the committee of ways and means and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Smilie observed, that it had been customary heretofore for the two houses to pay their respects to the president of the United States on the first day of the new year; and the hour for doing this having arrived, he moved that the house adjourn.

The yeas and nays were called on this motion, they were taken, and the question was lost 56 to 50.

The hour of the day being called for, the house took up the amendments of the committee of the

whole to the bill from the senate for raising an additional military force.

Having come to the amendment, which proposed that the officers for eight regiments only be appointed, until three fourths of the men were enlisted.

Mr. Burwell moved to amend the amendment, by striking out the words, *eight regiments*, and inserting *as*.

Mr. Wright hoped this amendment would not prevail. He considered this as a war measure; and if we were to economize in this way at the commencement of the business, he should not calculate upon operating with effect. Our country was too important, and our rights too sacred, to be frittering down measures for their defence in the manner proposed. In proportion (said he) as the commissioned officers are appointed, will the recruiting of the men progress. These officers will inspire the people, in the several parts of the country from which they may be taken, with a military spirit, which will induce them to enlist into the service. He liked the bill better before it had received its present limitation as to the appointment of the officers; but as the committee had agreed thus to amend the bill, he did not wish to stir the subject again. He hoped, however, the reduction would not be carried further.

After some remarks by Mr. Burwell and a few in reply by Mr. Wright, the amendment was agreed to—*ayes 57*.

Another motion was made to adjourn, and the yeas and nays called upon it—*lost by a larger majority than before*.

All the amendments having been considered, and others introduced, the question recurred on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading; but several members expressing a desire to see the bill, as amended, printed, before they gave a vote upon it, a motion was carried for it to lie on the table, in order to make way for another to have it printed, which was accordingly made and carried.—*Adjourned*.

Thursday, January 2.—After a good deal of minor business (which will be noticed in our next); and a variety of ineffectual attempts at further amendments, the question on engrossing the bill from the senate for raising an additional military force, was carried—*ayes 90, noes 36*.

The Chronicle.

Many vessels have been wrecked on the coast by the gales of last week.

The ship *New-Galen* has arrived at Boston from England. While the *Galen* was lying at Spithead, a seaman from the Constitution deserted to the British frigate *Havanna*. He was demanded by captain Hull, who was referred to the port admiral at Portsmouth, and by him informed that the seaman should not be restored until the admiralty board had instructed him on the occasion. In a day or two after, an American sailor swam from the *Havanna* to the Constitution, and being demanded by the British commander, captain Hull refused to deliver him, until he had received instructions from the U. States, taking for the basis of his refusal the precedent which the British officer had furnished him in the first instance. The affair stood thus when the *Galen* sailed.

The president of the United States has signed the bill for the apportionment of representatives among the several states, according to the third enumeration; it has thereby become a law,

and the ratio, for the ensuing ten years, is fixed at 33,000.

FROM THE ORLEANS GAZETTE OF NOV. 28.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at Mobile, dated November 18.—"The court of Spain has given orders to the governor of Pensacola, to give up the Floridas as far as the river Perdido. This news I received to-day from my correspondent at Pensacola, dated the 14th instant. I have also seen several other letters mentioning the same."

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in the navy, dated Norfolk, December 26.—"A most horrid circumstance took place here last evening. Young Mercer,* whom you often heard me mention, had received an insult from the mate of a merchantman—a challenge followed, and last evening about sun down they met within a mile of the town: their distance of fighting was only sufficient for them not to touch the body with each other's pistols; the word was given; both fired, and both fell DEAD! The whole town is in an uproar on the occasion. The seconds have taken safety by flight, leaving their dead comrades without a soul near them; their bodies were brought to town last evening and will this day be interred."

New Orleans.—The convention of the territory of New Orleans met, agreeably to adjournment, on the 21st of November; the main question whether the said territory should become a state? was determined in the affirmative—*ayes 35, noes 7*.

The day after, Mr. Magruder moved two resolutions; 1st. to adopt the constitution of the United States, which was unanimously carried. 2d. to renounce all claims to the vacant lands, which was referred to a committee of three. A committee of seven were then ballotted for to draft a constitution. Mr. Distrechen moved the appointment of a committee to draft a memorial to congress praying an extension of territory, so as to embrace W. Florida to the Perdido. This resolution, after some discussion, was carried by a large majority; and the address to congress referred to the committee who was to draft the constitution.

The Indians.—On Tuesday last, Mr. McKee stated in the house of representatives at Washington, on information received from several gentlemen of respectability in the western country, that the prophet had gathered a force supposed to amount to 2,000 men. This report is completely at war with the official statements of governor Harrison and the belief of the legislature of Indiana, as appears by their reply to his speech—see page 221: we also think it is at war with probability, and chiefly for the reason that we believe it nearly impossible to collect so great an Indian force at any given point.

Several shocks by earthquakes have been felt in various parts of the southern and western states—which will be noticed in detail hereafter. It seems probable that some dreadful calamity may have been experienced in a distant part of the world—probably South America; judging from the violence of the sensations felt in different parts of the union. In Georgia the effect was much greater than in Virginia—and at Lexington, in Kentucky, it is stated several chimneys were thrown down; that "the agitation of standing water was remarkable, and the trembling of houses and furniture violent and alarming."

The lot on which the theatre stood at Richmond has been purchased by the city, and the remains of the unfortunate sufferers were interred in the cen-

* Mr. Mercer was an officer in the United States' navy, and nephew to general Mercer.

tre where the pit was, over which it is intended to erect a suitable monument.

FREDERICK-TOWN, December 28.

General Wilkinson.—The general court martial assembled in this town for the trial of general Wilkinson, after a session of almost four months, closed their proceedings, and adjourned on Christmas day.

This tribunal has had before it a most intricate, laborious and interesting enquiry, wherein the life and character of a fellow citizen, whose best years have been devoted to his country, have been made subjects of investigation. The sentence has gone to the president for his consideration, and whatever may be the result, the standing of the gentlemen who composed the court, and their conduct throughout the trial, will, to every candid mind, present a guarantee for the independence, impartiality, and justice of their verdict.

It has furnished a contemplation to the inhabitants of this place to behold the order, decorum and dignity which has invariably marked the deportment of our citizen soldiers whom the occasion brought together? but one impression appears to have been left on the public mind: that is, of personal confidence and respect, and whatever may be the rantings and revilings of the censorious and insidious, the conviction results from our observations, that with such defenders, the constitution, the laws, the interests, and the honor of our country, will be asserted with effect, and maintained in violence.

[An opinion prevails, this officer has been acquitted by the late court martial, from the circumstance of his being very politely waited upon (in a body) by the officers composing it, as soon as the verdict was given. We may expect the result will soon be officially promulgated; until when no officer is at liberty to speak of it.]

Late Bank of the United States.

The trustees of the late Bank of the United States have made an application to the legislature of Pennsylvania for a charter, with a capital of 7,500,000 dollars—and Theodoros Baily and others have given notice of their intention to apply to the legislature of New York for an act to incorporate a bank with a capital of six millions of dollars.

The title, in Pennsylvania, is proposed to be the American Bank—in New-York, the Bank of America. Though it is not avowed that the application to be made to the legislature of New-York, is to be made on behalf of the late directors, or present trustees of the late Bank of the United States, there seems no reason to doubt, though two incorporations are desired, these banks will, in fact, be "one and indivisible."

The petition to the legislature of Pennsylvania was referred to a grand committee of 31 members, one from a county; who, without a dissenting voice, reported a bill, the leading features of which are noticed below. It is, however, considered as doubtful if the bill will pass, several members of the committee having declared they would not feel themselves bound to support it in the house.

The first six sections of the bill incorporate the company, as usual, with a capital of \$7,500,000, under the stile aforesaid, to continue until the first Monday in April, 1832.

By the seventh section it would appear \$375,000 are to be paid as a bonus; which money, it is proposed, to appropriate as follows: 175,000 to making an artificial road from Harrisburg to Pittsburg, by the route agreed upon by the late commissioners for that purpose. \$100,000 to make a like road from the town of Northumberland to the town of Waterford on Lake Erie. \$50,000 to erect a bridge over the Susquehanna at Columbia, and the like sum to erect another bridge over the same river at Harrisburg.

The succeeding sections are as customary.

It is highly probable, from the low price of bills on England, being about twenty per cent. below par, if the stock of the late bank of the United States has been in the British market, that the greater part of it has changed owners, within the year past—offering, at a fair price, an eligible mode of making remittances.

The Editor's Department.

The proceedings of congress are assuming the highest importance. We cannot now hesitate to believe that decisive measures will be adopted. The calculations of dollars and cents, and of the ins and outs, we would hope, are laid aside forever by the weightier matters affecting the sovereignty and honor of our country. The bill from the senate for raising twenty five thousand additional troops may be considered as virtually adopted by the house of representatives; the amendments proposed by the latter do not affect its general principles. We are highly gratified with the common repugnance of the people to a standing army, and hope it will ever exist in this country—but there now is an object for using a provisional force—that object is openly declared to be Canada, and the people will cheerfully bear it.

If the days of submission have passed, and congress shall vigorously pursue the line marked out, they may expect the full support of the nation. The times require unanimity, and unanimity most happily subsists; one general sentiment pervades the public body of the people; if congress will not direct it to rescue our citizens from a worse than Algerine bondage; to secure our frontiers from the tomahawk of the savage; to maintain our right to carry the productions of our own soil to the proper markets for them, and redress many other just causes for complaint, they assuredly will merit and receive the execration of all good men of every party, the truly British (if any there are) excepted.

To enable our readers more correctly to estimate the real state of things, we have, by great exertion, the pleasure of presenting them with Mr. Clay's (speaker) speech, delivered in a committee of the whole on Wednesday last. We are indebted for the sketch of it to the "American" of this city; eulogium upon it is useless; every word and line of it breathes the language of an independent patriot, who "has counted the cost of the contest and found nothing so intolerable as the voluntary abandonment of the rights and honor of his countrymen."

Many articles in type are postponed.

The necessary absence of the editor, the greater part of the present week, may account for any omissions in his usual attentions to private correspondences or public duties.

If any subscriber has not yet received the first four numbers of the Register, he is requested to give immediate notice, lest we may be unable to supply him as speedily as we desire, from the continual increase of our patrons.