

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

[Vol. I.]

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[No 19.]

"—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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Legislature of Kentucky.

Monday, December 16.—Mr. Hawkins read and laid on the table the following resolutions:

Whereas it is deemed by the legislature of this state, that they have, in the name, and on behalf of their constituents, at all times, a right to express, so far as their knowledge and information will enable them, the sense of the good people of this state, respecting the measures of the national government. And a crisis in our public affairs having arrived, which, in the opinion of this legislature, calls for the expression of her public sentiment respecting the course to be adopted in order to resist the repeated, long continued and flagrant violations of our rights as a free and independent nation, by Great Britain and France, and by the former especially—whose pretensions are an insult to our sovereignty, and which if yielded to, must end in our entire submission to whatever they may think proper to impose.

The people of this state, though not immediately exposed to those piratical depredations, which vex and destroy the commerce of their eastern brethren on the ocean, cannot be less deeply interested in their effects. They look to the sufferings and wrongs of a single member as intimately affecting the whole body. But when an evil becomes so general and inveterate in its delinquent effects, as to threaten dissolution, unless a proper and forcible remedy is applied—the state of Kentucky, yielding to none in patriotism; in its deep rooted attachment to the sacred bond of the union; in its faithful remembrance of the price of our freedom, and in the heartfelt conviction that our posterity have a sacred claim upon us, to transmit to them unimpaired this God like inheritance, cannot fail to be penetrated with any event which threatens even to impair it; much less then can she be insensible to those daring wrongs of a foreign power, which lead to its immediate destruction.

If the people of this state have looked up with confidence to the general government, whose functions empowered, and whose duty imperiously called for a remedy to the evils so intolerable in their progress, and in their consequences so menacing—and redress for which has been so long delayed) it has not been without a firm and settled purpose not always to bear the lash, nor finally to become beasts of burden.

Forbearance beyond a certain point, ceases to be moderation and must end in entire subjection.

It is not the purpose of this legislature to recapitulate, nor enter into any argument, to prove the existence and extent of those injuries, sustained from both the great belligerents of Europe. Those who feel need not reason to produce the conviction of unjust suffering—and those who cannot feel wrongs so palpable, no reasoning will convince.

We wish we could have it in our power to say,

when Great Britain has ceased to harass and injure us—when she has shown towards us an amicable disposition in the true spirit of justice—when she has ceased her efforts to diminish that security and prosperity, which are the eternal barriers of separation from her power, and to impair that liberty and independence forced from her reluctant grasp.

We could willingly have hailed a friend in a former unnatural parent, and from the experience of her regard to principles of justice, and reciprocal good offices, have ceased to recall those war on cruelties that alienated us forever from her family.

But when we have discovered a systematic course of injury from her towards our country, evidencing too strongly to be mistaken; an utter disregard of almost every principle of acknowledged rights between independent nations; endeavoring by almost every act of violence on the high seas—on the coasts of foreign powers with whom we were in amity—and even in sight of our own harbors, by capturing and destroying our vessels; confiscating our property; forcibly imprisoning and torturing our fellow-citizens; condemning some to death; slaughtering others, by attacking our ships of war; impressing all she can lay her hands upon, to man her vessels: bidding defiance to our sea-ports: insulting our national honor, by every means that lawless force and brutality can devise: inciting the savages to murder the inhabitants of our defenceless frontiers: furnishing them with arms and ammunition lately, to attack our forces, to the loss of a number of brave men: and by every act of power, and intrigue, seeking to dispose of our whole strength and resources, as may suit her unrestrained ambition or interest—and when her very offers of redress go only to sanction her wrongs, and seek merely a removal of those obstacles interposed by our government, to the full enjoyment of her iniquitous benefits; we can be at no loss what course should be pursued.

Should we tamely submit, the world ought to despise us—We should despise ourselves—She, herself, would despise us.

When she shall learn to respect our rights, we shall hasten to forget her injuries. Wherefore:

1. Resolved, by the general assembly for the state of Kentucky, that this state feels deeply sensible of the continued, wanton, and flagrant violations by Great Britain and France of the dearest rights of the people of the United States, as a free and independent nation: that those violations, if not discontinued, and ample compensation made for them, ought to be resisted with the whole power of our country.

2. Resolved, that as war seems probable, so far as we have any existing evidence of a sense of justice on the part of the government of Great Britain, that the state of Kentucky, to the last mite of her strength and resources, will contribute them to maintain the contest, and support the right of these

country against such lawless violations; and that the citizens of Kentucky are prepared to take the field when called on.

3. Resolved, that (while they have full and undiminished confidence in the administration and general government of the United States) in their opinion, the crisis calls for energetic measures; and that a temporizing policy, while it might seem to remove the evil to a greater distance, would serve only to secure its continuance.

4. Resolved, that we will most readily lend our support also, to any measures which may be adopted by the general government, to counteract the arbitrary restrictions, or unjust violations of our commerce, by France.

5. Resolved, that copies of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted: one to the president of the United States, to be by him laid before congress, and one to each of our senators and representatives in that body.

Legislature of North Carolina.

RALEIGH, December 24.

The following resolutions, expressive of their approbation of the general government, were adopted by our legislature on Saturday last; the two first with very few dissenting voices, the last *unanimously*.

In General Assembly, Dec. 19. 1811.

Resolved, that the sentiments contained in the message of the president to the congress of the United States are such as must gratify the feelings, and advance the welfare of a nation sensible of its rights and determined to maintain and defend its sovereignty and independence.

Resolved, That the evils which we have been compelled to endure for years past, have arisen wholly from the unprincipled conduct of the belligerent nations of Europe.

Resolved unanimously, That we will cheerfully co-operate with the general government, in the prompt and effectual execution of such measures as may be deemed best calculated to promote the interest, and secure the Union, Liberty, and Independence of the United States.

JOS. RIDDICK, S. S.
JOHN STEELE, S. H. C.

Legislature of Georgia.

MILLEDGEVILLE, (Geo.) Dec. 11.—The following animated report was yesterday read before the senate and ordered to lie on the table. When it shall be taken up we hope and believe it will pass both branches of the legislature *unanimously*.

The committee on the state of the republic, to whom was referred the governor's communication enclosing the president's message, report,

That the important information communicated to congress by the president's message in relation to our foreign affairs, loudly admonishes the people of this state to suffer no circumstance to surprize their vigilance, or to find them unengaged in suitable preparation for any event; congress is required "to feel the duty of putting the United States into an armor and attitude demanded by the crisis;" a precaution applying so forcibly to our own condition and interests that it cannot fail to excite a correspondent feeling of the necessity of a reasonable readiness. On the verge of hostilities with nations long unmindful of the obligation of national law, it would be needless to enumerate their repeated wrongs or our unsuccessful appeals to their justice

or redress. Should the destinies which await the nation compel a vigorous resistance to the encroachments so long continued upon the envied prosperity of our country, we will approach the contest, animated by the fervent conviction, that we shall be supported by every principle of a just and honorable cause.

The conduct and character of our federal administration affords us the most assured and illumined proofs of virtuous measures and manly intentions—reflections that must embolden every patriot and soldier in his progress through the trying perils of warfare should he be reduced to that regretted alternative.

It is not now for us to repose on a boasted display of our designs, nor to rely on a pompous expression of our feelings; but should our services be required, it becomes us in the strength of calm and united exertions invigorated by the constant sentiment of inflexible rectitude to meet the deprecated struggle with stern and unwavering contempt of individual danger convinced, that truth, reason and justice will be arrayed against guilt, rapacity, and violence. The general government doubtless feels on this eventful occasion, an anxious solicitude for a knowledge of the temper and sensibility of the nation; we will, therefore, with undissembled cheerfulness, hasten to declare our cordial approbation of its administration, and our confidence in its future determinations.

And as an honest pledge of the sincerity of this declaration, we do *unanimously resolve*, that should the national legislature, in its wisdom, determine our interests, our rights, or our honor to have been outraged beyond the tardy remedy of negotiation, and that an appeal to arms must be substituted, we will, under the favor of Heaven, with our consent, and with proud alacrity, fly to aid, maintain, and support the government of our choice, and to defend, protect and preserve our beloved country.

Fire at Richmond.

NARRATION.—We cannot paint the details of the scene of Thursday night—no description can do justice to its horrors—and there were so few persons so cool and self-collected as to accurately paint any part of the mass of woes which fell in a moment upon us. Some scenes are so fraught with horror that a delicate pencil would have to skip them.—Besides, time enough has not been had to bring together an accurate group of woes.

It is painful to touch upon the catastrophe of those who have gone forever. Their ashes are in the grave—but their memories are entombed in our hearts.

The generous and worthy Smith, who but a few days since was crowned with one of the highest honors which Virginia can bestow, is snatched from his country, his distracted family, his children and his friends!! It is not certainly known whether he had effected his escape from the building and rushed again into the flames to save his child!—There is a confusion in the story, and perhaps it is as well if it never were cleared up!

Abraham B. Venable, the president of the bank of Virginia; a man who has filled our public stations with very high repute; who has been in the house of representatives and in the senate of the United States during the most interesting periods—he too is gone! He has left no wife or children; but a long train of relatives and friends to weep his loss.—He was in the box with ladies; he begged them not to be precipitate or impatient; but was

at length driven towards a window in the lobby with a crowd of others. The suffocating smoke came rolling on. Mr. V. and some who were with him were thrown down. Mr. Noland fell towards the window and was saved: Mr. V. fell the other way and perished in the smoke!

Many doubtless perished in the same way. The volume of smoke, which could not at first escape through the roof, was bent downwards; black, dense, almost saturated with oily vapours. Many were suffocated by it, who might have had strength enough to leap the windows.—Several were saved by the fresh air which they inhaled at the windows—or even at a cranny.

Poor Bots! a man of astonishing assiduity and attainments at the bar, has perished, with his wife and her niece—he fell perhaps a victim to his hopes. He thought it more prudent to sit still with his wife while the crowd passed by; but her sister-in-law, Mrs. Page, yielding to the sympathetic impulse of her fears, rushed forward, and is saved.—What a seal has death set upon his family! At one fell swoop five helpless children converted into orphans.

How heavily on the hand of death fallen upon the Harvies! Poor mourners, deeply have ye drank of the cup of affliction. Within five short years we have numbered among the dead, the venerable John Harvie, the distinguished Lewis Harvie, the amiable Mrs. M'Craw, and the interesting little boy of Doctor Brockenbrough. But by one blow the distressed mother, Mrs. Harvie, has lost her noble and high-souled daughter Juliana, her excellent son E. J. Harvie, and that sweet little girl, Mary Wintlock, her beloved grand daughter!!! Reader, conceive if you can, what you never have felt.

Lieutenant James Gibbon, of the United States Navy, has gone with the rest! Young as he was, he had tasted of the cup of affliction. He was taken captive in the Philadelphia, and imprisoned in the prisons of Tripoli.—On this fatal night, he and Mr. John Lynch, were in the same box with Mrs. Gallego, Miss Conyers, Mr. Venable and others—when the alarm was first given, they endeavored to quiet the apprehensions of the ladies, but when the front scene was in flames, they reached over for Miss Conyers who had sunk motionless below—they took her over; they held her between them in a state of insensibility, her head falling over Mr. Lynch's left arm. In this manner they proceeded towards the head of the stairs, when Gibbon said "Lynch, leave Sally to me. I am strong enough to carry her: she is light and you can save some body else." Mr. L. replied, "God bless you, Gibbon, there is the stair," and then turned round to seek some of the other ladies. Poor Gibbon, and his lovely and interesting companion sunk together.

We must drop this recital. We have already stated the deaths of Mrs. Gerrardin, and her sweet boy—of Mrs. Gibson, whose husband is perhaps now on his way from Europe;—what a blow upon his heart! of the venerable Mrs. Page; of Mrs. Leslie; of the lovely Nancy Green, the daughter of Mr. Green, the manager; of the amiable Mrs. Robert Greenhow. The particulars of most of their fates are wrapped in oblivion. Their ashes are in the grave.

These perished amid the flames—but Mrs. Patterson and Mr. Wm. Brown were overwhelmed by the crowd.

Let us change the scene. It is a far more grateful task to describe the fate of those who have, as it were, miraculously escaped. It is some relief to

our feelings, to contemplate those who seem again to have "revisited the realms of light." I is almost as if the grave had given them up again from its jaws. We are sorry, indeed, that our limits do not permit us to give any but hasty sketches and sketches of even s.

Mr. John G. Jackson was overcome by the suffocating smoke and fell senseless. His last reflection was that his feet were descending; but whether the floor or stairway were broken, or he had reached the descent, he was not conscious—but insensibly he descended to the level of the pit where a strong current of fresh air revived him, as he lay among a heap of prostrate persons. He struggled to rise and found himself on his feet with a lady clinging to him and beseeching him to save her. With difficulty he found the door, not being acquainted with the house, but at last he emerged with the lady, when the fire was pouring through the front windows, and ere they had advanced far the roof tumbled in.

Mr. M. W. Hancock carried with him to the play, his niece, the two Miss Helons, and three boys. When the alarm was given he hid all in his power to save his proteges—but was at last separated from them all. The flames were approaching with a degree of fury and rapidity that perhaps was never exceeded. Hitherto the scene had been all bustle, confusion and consternation; it now changed to one of awful horror and desperation that beggars all description. He attempted to reach the centre window in the lobby of the lower boxes. He at last succeeded in mounting on the heads of the crowd betwixt him and the window, and finally reached it, surrounded by the unending and afflicting cries of those suffocating around him—He stepped within the window and with difficulty raised the lower sash; he thrust his feet out when the sash was suddenly pressed down and caught his feet betwixt it and the sill. He extricated one foot, but could not the other, until those behind him who had sufficient strength left to mount over him and the lower sash which kept him down, did so. He found himself so far gone from suffocation that he gave himself up as lost; the flames, however, rushed over his head and the introduction of fresh air at the bottom of the window gave him new life. Those behind him being no longer able to keep him down, he with a last effort raised the sash, extricated his foot and jumped out. It gives us sincere pleasure to add that the three boys and girls whom he carried with him have all escaped with their lives.

Mr. John Lynch was the only person who passed the window after Mr. Hancock. After he had left poor Gibbon, he met with a variety of horrid adventures. All was utter darkness in the lobby, and suffocation threatened. It was an awful crisis—and but that one of the windows were burst open and let in fresh air he thinks all in the lobby must have perished; at length he reached the window, where he found, a gentleman fixed fast, whom he since believes to have been Mr. Hancock. After an awful lapse the flames, were rushing on in all directions, his hair caught fire, hope deserted him; he was struck with horror at the idea of being burnt alive. He rushed toward the window waving his hands as quick as possible over his head and clothes. This was a dreadful moment; he saw many drop down on each side of him suffocated—the window was now free, and he was securely on the bottom of it when he heard an awful crash behind him. He threw himself out and providence preserved him.

Mr. Robert Greenhow precipitated himself down the stairs over fire brands and bodies, with his fine son in his arms—and was saved.

Mr. Head Lynch made a wonderful escape with his child. His lady was saved by a strong man's pulling her by the hair of her head over the bodies in the stair way.

Mr. Stetson fell in the lobby with his head to the wall—but for a crack which his mouth accidentally caught he would have died for want of air—he fresh air that streamed through it revived him enough to lift his head to the window—a fresh draught of it revived him, and he jumped out.

Mr. Gordon was saved in a state of insensibility. His lady was saved by jumping through a window and clinging to a man, and her little daughter by hanging to her mantle. They had three children there, and not one of them was lost.

Several individuals were active in rescuing the lives of their fellow creatures. Dr. McCaw let down several from the window—Mr. Doyle, Mr. Grant, and others who were out, received many as they were let or jumped down.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF INVESTIGATION.

We the committee appointed by our fellow citizens "to enquire into the causes of the melancholy catastrophe which took place in this city on Thursday night last, a catastrophe, which has spread a gloom over a whole city, and filled every eye with tears; have given to this melancholy duty all the attention in our power. We feel it due to ourselves, it was due to our weeping fellow-citizens; it was due to the world to collect all the lights which might serve to elucidate an event whose effects are so deeply written on our hearts. We have seen every person who was behind the scenes, that was best able to assist our enquiries—we have heard their statements and after sifting them as accurately as possible, beg leave to submit the following report to our afflicted citizens:

On the night of Thursday last, the pantomime of "The Bleeding Nun, or, Agnes and Raymond," came on for representation after the play was over. In the first act, amongst other scenes, was the scene of the cottage of Baptist the robber, which was illuminated by a chandelier apparently hanging from the ceiling. When the curtain fell on the first act, and before it rose on the second, this chandelier was lifted from its position among the scenery above. It was fixed with two wicks to it; one only of them had been lit; yet when it was lifted above, this fatal lamp was not extinguished. Here is the first link in the chain of our disasters. The man who raised it does not pretend to deny it—but pleads that he did so in consequence of an order from some person whom he supposed authorised to direct him. That person was behind him; the voice had reached him without his seeing the person and he does not pretend positively to recognise him. We have not the most distant idea that there was the slightest mischievous intention in the order or in the act—it was inattention—it was the grossest negligence. The lifter of the lamp says that he was aware of the danger, and remonstrated against the act; yet yielded with too fatal a facility to the reiterated orders of a person whom he saw not but supposed authorised to direct him. We cast not the slightest imputations upon the managers or on any of the regular comedians of the stage; their positions at the moment as well as other circumstances, forbid the idea that the order ever passed from their lips; yet the act was done. The lighted lamp was lifted—the torch of destruction gleamed at the top of the stage.

Mr. Rice (the property-man of the theatre) says that he saw the scene was over in which the lamp was used; he saw the lamp after it was lifted up; he was aware of the danger of its remaining in that position; and spoke to one of the carpenters, three times repeatedly, "Lower that lamp and blow it out." He did not see it put out; for he was drawn by his business to another part of the stage.

Mr. West declares that he was passing by to commence the second act of the pantomime, and saw the lamp up and heard Rice giving directions to the carpenter to extinguish it.

Mr. Cook (the regular carpenter of the Theatre) declares that he saw the carpenter, alluded to above, attempting to let down the lamp immediately after the order to let it down had been given; that he has no doubt this attempt was made in consequence of the order; and he saw the cords tangle and the lamp to oscillate several inches from its perpendicular position. The chandelier above was moved by two cords which worked over two pulleys, inserted in a collar beam of the roof, and the straight line from the beam to the lamp was, Mr. Cook thinks, about 14 or 15 feet. Thus some idea may be had of the degree of oscillation.

Mr. Anderson (one of the performers of the theatre) says, that he had remarked even before the representation, how unskillfully the chandelier had played; and that an attempt to move it had caused it to ride circularly round.

Mr. Yore (another of the workmen of the machinery) most conclusively confirms this statement. He saw, that in the attempt to lower the lamp, as it was perched among the scenery, the carpenter had failed in his effort: that he then jirked it and jostled it, that it was thus swerved from its perpendicular attitude, and brought into contact with the lower part of the front scenes. The scene took fire; the flame rose, and tapering above it, to a point must have reached the roof, which was elevated 6 or 7 feet above the top of the scene.

We were assured that there was not one transparent scene hanging; that is a scene coated with varnish and extremely combustible—that there was only one paper scene hanging, which Mr. Utt the prompter, declares was removed six or eight feet behind the lamp. Thirty five scenes were at that moment hanging exclusive of the flies or narrow borders which represent the skies, roofs, &c.—and of these thirty four were canvass paintings; which though not extremely combustible on the painted side are on the other so well covered with the fibres of the hemp as to catch the flame.

Efforts were made to extinguish the flame. Mr. Cook, the carpenter, ascended into the carpenter's gallery; but in vain. He did succeed in letting down some of the scenes upon the floor, under an idea that this was the surest means of extinguishing the flame, but he could not distinguish the cords of the scene that was then on fire. The roof soon caught, and the sense of danger compelled him to fly for his life.

The committee must now be under the necessity of drawing the attention of our fellow citizens to the events which took place in front of the curtain.

Mr. West states that immediately on his entering the stage to go on with his part, he heard some bustle behind the scenes which he conceived to be a mere fracas—the cry of "fire" then saluted his ears, which gave him no serious apprehensions as he knew that little accidents of this description had often taken place; that he heard some voices exclaim "don't be alarmed," which exclamation he repeated through a solicitude to prevent hurry and

confusion, that he had not at that moment seen any flakes of fire fall behind the scene; but seeing them at length falling from the roof, he retired behind the scene and found the whole enveloped in flames; that he attempted to pull down some of the hanging pieces; when finding it unavailing, he attempted to make good his own retreat.

Mr. Robertson, who was the only performer besides, that came before the audience, assured the committee, that at the moment when he first discovered the flame, it was not longer than his handkerchief; that he repaired immediately to the stage as near the orchestra as he could come; there he conveyed to the audience, not wishing to alarm them, by gesticulation to leave the house; that in the act of doing that, he discovered the flames moving rapidly, and then he exclaimed "the house (of the theatre) is on fire;" that he went directly to the stage box where some three or four ladies were sitting, entreated them to jump into his arms; that he could save them by conveying them through the private stage door; and that he still entreated, until he found it necessary to make his own escape; that his own retreat by the private door was intercepted by the flames; that he found it necessary to leap into the stage box, and join the general crowd in the lobby; that he gained one of the front windows; assisted in passing out some ten or twelve females, but at last found it necessary to throw himself from the window.

This narrative is due to the exertions of a gentleman, who first sounded the alarm; and to whom there are a few who have not done that justice which he deserves. Let us now return to the transmission of the fire—where the point of flame reached the roof. The roof was unfortunately not plastered and ceiled—there was a sheathing of plank, pine plank we are told, nailed over the rafters; and over these, the shingles. The rosin of the pine had perhaps oozed out of the plank, through the heat of our summer's sun, and stood in drops upon it. Yet however these may have been, no sooner did the spire of the flames reach the roof than it caught. The fire spread with a rapidity through this combustible material, unparalleled, certainly never equalled by any of the too numerous fires which have desolated our city.—In four or five minutes at least, the whole roof was one sheet of flame—it burnt through the bull's eye in front—it sought the windows where the rarefied vapour sought its passage; fed by the vast column of air in the hollows of a theatre, fed by the inflammable panels and pillars of the boxes, by the dome of the pit, by the canvas ceiling of the lower boxes, until its suffocated victims in the front were wrapt in its devouring flame, or pressed to death under the smouldering ruins of the building.

Here might we pause in our melancholy task. We have traced the conflagration to the fatal lamp, lit as it was lit, then jirked and jostled out of its perpendicular position, to the scenery—to the roof; until every thing was enveloped in its fury.—But there is one part of the subject which though it does not fall strictly within the letter of the *Resolution*, or perhaps the line of our duty, is yet too interesting to be passed over. Why, this fatality? Why have so many victims perished on this melancholy occasion? It cannot be said, that it was the combustibility of the building and the rapidity of the fire, great as they undoubtedly were, which altogether produced this mortality of the species; for we cannot believe, if large vomitories had been erected for the passage of the crowd, if there had been doors

enough to admit them, that more than one tenth of an audience should have perished on the occasion.

It was the opinion of the committee that the ill construction of the theatre itself, was principally its cause. How numerous were the occasions on which it had long before been said, as the crowd was slowly retiring at the end of a play, "Suppose the house were on fire, what should we do?" Yet we slept with too fatal a security over the evil—we trusted, and we are ruined. New doors were not opened; the winding stair-case was not straitened, the access to the avenues of the theatre was not enlarged.

Even the relics of our fellow-citizens as they lay, pointed out the causes of this fatality. They were found screwed in heaps at the foot of the narrow stair case which led from the boxes; and, though with less profusion, on the ground immediately under the lobby of the boxes above, from which lobby, their retreat down the stairs had been intercepted by the crowd which choked them up. On that fatal night, there were in the pit and boxes 518 dollar tickets and 80 children, exclusive of 50 persons who were in the galleries. Of these, 598 had to pass through one common avenue, and although all the spectators in the pit may have escaped, except a few who may have jumped into the boxes, yet the crowd in the lower and upper boxes had no other resource than to press through a narrow angular stair case or to leap the windows.

The committee cannot close their melancholy labors without expressing one hope, that irreparable as our own calamities have been we may not have suffered altogether in vain; that our own misfortunes may serve as beacons to the rest of our countrymen, and that no theatre should be permitted to be opened in the other cities of the United States until every facility has been procured for the escape of the audience.

[Pursuant to an ordinance of the common council of the city of Richmond, the place of burying the remains of those who suffered by the fire was changed from the public ground to the area formerly enclosed within the walls of the theatre, which was ordered to be enclosed by a wall five feet high.]

The interment took place on Sunday the 30th. A mournful procession was made to the "devoted spot." The mangled remains were chiefly enclosed in two large mahogany boxes; and were deposited in the centre of the place where the pit stood. The city was bathed in tears.]

Register of the Dead.

¶ In addition to the 63 persons (says the Enquirer) who were published in our last* from the report of the committee, we are pained to be compelled to subjoin the following melancholy list:—

Perished in the flames—Miss Elvira Coutts, Mrs. Pickit, not wife of Mr. C. P. Miss Littlepage, Jean Baptiste Rox, Thomas Learoix, Robert Ferrill, a mulatto boy.

Expired since—On Saturday night, Mrs. John Boshen, and at 11 o'clock on Sunday night, E. J. Harvie, esq. in consequence of an injury received in his efforts to save his *unfortunate sister* from the flames!!

To the citizens of Richmond.

In the sincerity of afflicted minds, and deeply wounded hearts, permit us to express the anguish which we feel for the late dreadful calamity, of which we cannot but consider ourselves the innocent cause—From a liberal and enlightened community we

* See page 330.

fear no reproaches, but we are too conscious that many have too much cause to wish they had never known us. To their mercy we appeal for forgiveness, not for a crime committed, but for one which could not be prevented. Our own loss cannot be estimated but by ourselves—'tis true (with one exception) we have not to lament the loss of life—but we have lost our friends, our patrons, our property and in part, our homes—Nor is this all our loss—In this miserable calamity we find a sentence of banishment from your hospitable city. No more do we expect to feel that glow of pleasure which pervades a grateful heart, while it receives favors liberally bestowed. Never again shall we behold that feminine humanity which so eagerly displayed itself to soothe the victim of disease, and view with exultation the benevolent who fostered the fatherless, and shed a ray of comfort on the departing soul of a dying mother. Here then we cease—the eloquence of grief, is silence.

James Roe,	William Anderson,
Hopkins Robertson,	Thomas Burke,
Charles Young,	A. Placide,
Charles Durang,	J. W. Green,
William Twiss,	Wm. Clark,

From the Enquirer of January 2.

CONCLUSION.—There are some of the unfortunate victims of Thursday night, whose particular fates we have in vain attempted to penetrate. We have taken uncommon pains to collect an authentic narrative of the events of this disastrous night; we have requested the aid of every person whom we had heard was capable of furnishing any information, and to whom the subject was not too tender to be mentioned; yet it is with some pain we have failed in our efforts. We should be sorry even to wear the most distant appearance of neglecting the late or the memory of any one who perished on that deplorable night—but this appearance at least is inevitable. There were few persons so cool and collected as to be able to illustrate the horrors of that night; several, who were able to point out particular threads in the disastrous web of destiny are no doubt unknown to us: And some who have promised to reduce their narratives to paper, have been prevented from doing so by their engagements or their feelings. The following are the only statements which we have received. They are enough, however, to communicate a faint idea of the collective horrors of the scene; what a group would have breathed upon the canvass, if a few faint strokes of the pencil are so affecting! If such were the feelings of a few individuals, what must have been the emotion of 500 people? How impotent is the pencil of Raphael in the Vatican, where he attempts to paint the conflagration of Rome!

We should still proceed in our researches—but the reader has contemplated horrors enough. It is time to leave the paths of death. We have dwelt long enough upon this melancholy theme; and we are anxious to relieve our columns from the sombre sable of woe. With this paper, therefore, let us cease the strains of grief; let us drop the subject. There is only another point of view in which we yet propose to consider it; but this is not directly calculated to harrow up the feelings of such as have lost their friends. Let us open the pages of history, and see whether this is the only city, which has been afflicted by so severe a visitation—whether this is the only people, whom "the paths of pleasure" have led to the grave!

We have learnt nothing very particularly authentic of the fate of Mrs. Thomas Wilson—we have

merely heard that with the cool and deliberate resolution of a strong mind, she remained for a time in her first position, fearing rather the consequences of precipitation and tumult, than the rapidity of the flames. They indeed baffled all reasonable calculation, and too many have fallen victims to this fatal mistake! Mrs. Wilson perished—one of the best of wives, the best of mothers, the most exemplary step mother that ever lived! Words cannot express the agony of her distressed family—the deep dejection of all her friends.

The fate of Mrs. Heron is also wrapt in oblivion. She had been unfortunate enough to lose her husband by a disastrous accident—and her children have now lost their mother by one still more rapid and resistless. She was eminently true to all the domestic charities of life. But neither the hand of affection, of friendship, nor respect could snatch her from the tomb.

Mrs. Cook, the lamented wife of Mr. William Cook, and her daughter Rebecca, perished together. Long shall the desolate husband and father, weep over their ashes. Three motherless children are left behind her.

But why spread before the reader, all the havoc of the scene?—The young have sunk as well as the married: The interesting Margaret Copeland, the third daughter of Mr. Charles Copeland; Patty Griffin, the only child of her aged mother; Miss Nelson, Miss Page, Miss Craig, all of them dear to their families and friends; William Southgate, the only prop of the family of Wright Southgate, &c. Each has his merits; each has his publicator.

What a scene was exhibited for several hours after the tragic event. Many were ignorant of the fate of their friends. Almost every one had his fears and suspicions. During the next day two persons could scarcely meet without exchanging expressions full of solicitude:—"Have you lost any of your family?—Is your family safe?" "I am glad of it, I am glad of it."

Many escaped with extreme difficulty. Several have broken a limb. Mr. John Richards has broken his leg; Mr. Carter Page has broken his. Miss Pendleton has also broken a limb. Mrs. Scott, of Fairfax, is much burnt. Some were severely burnt, whose clothes were whole.

We trust that the number of the dead is now exhausted. We had understood that some strangers had arrived at particular taverns whose names were unknown—and these were said to be missing. We have enquired, and are happy to find it a mistake. We follow several details by persons who escaped, which we are compelled, at least, to defer.

Cannon, Small Arms, &c.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Monday, Dec. 16.—Mr. Seybert delivered the following report:

The committee to whom was referred "so much of the president's message as relates to the manufacture of cannon and small arms, and the providing munitions of war," after having, according to order, considered the several subjects submitted, beg leave to

REPORT IN PART,

That, it is, at all times, expedient for a nation to be supplied with an ample stock of all such articles and materials as are requisite for defensive or offensive operations. Such provisions will make its citizens confident at home, whilst they, at the same time, guarantee respect on the part of foreign nations. No one, it is presumed, will deny that an extensive supply of implements of war is preferable to the

amount of their cost lying buried in the vaults of the treasury, more especially when it is considered, that on occasions of the first importance they are indispensably necessary, and that for the greater part they are imperishable from their nature. The proposition just laid down will appear evident, when it is recollected that the least rumor of a war will immediately add to the value of such articles, very generally, from 50 to 100 per centum; nay, this declaration might be carried much further, and it may be our place to notice the fact, that under circumstances far from being the most unfavorable, refined salt petre has commanded the enormous price of one dollar and fifty cents per pound; whereas its ordinary value is about 30 cents per pound in our markets.

It is also well known, that manufactured articles, which are made in haste, are generally very defective—this should be particularly guarded against in the case of fire arms of every description. When it becomes absolutely necessary to provide such equipments, contractors always insist upon their own terms. Experience has proved that contracts under such circumstances on national account, we do not confine this assertion to our own country, have been made to great disadvantage. Regular annual supplies, in time of peace, should always be preferred. It would be unwarrantable in the extreme to hazard a want of this kind until the last moment—until the enemy may be at our doors. It will be in vain to look for additions from Europe at a period when the extensive naval force of an enemy, aided by many private armed ships, shall swarm on the ocean. Who could then be so hardy as to entertain the expectation of frequent arrivals in our ports;

it is with peculiar satisfaction your committee finds itself, under the warranty of the proper department, to state that many of the most necessary articles of which the country is a considerable stock on hand, and that others of them are abundant in our territory. Or, in the words of the message, we may be permitted to repeat that "the manufacture of cannon and small arms, and the stock and resources of all the necessary munitions are adequate to emergencies."

The flourishing state of the foundries throughout the United States; they have been heretofore successfully employed on government account, in Rhode-Island, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, the district of Columbia, &c. The regular supplies of small arms, of every description, from the establishments which are now under the control of the government, and these seconded by the several contracts which have been already made with individuals in various parts of the Union, together with the ease with which they may be multiplied so as to meet the demands which circumstances may require, independent of the arrangements made on the part of the states individually, are some of the many proofs which demonstrate the great resources of this republic. What nation can boast of more or better iron than the United States? Our foundries have not only been in successful operation, they are far from being *infantile*, and have arrived at perfection. Upon the best authority we state the furnaces, forges and bloomeries in the United States to be five hundred and thirty. The art of boring cannon is, in many places in Europe, deemed a secret of great importance; they there keep their cutters concealed from strangers in leathern bags. In the United States this process is so well understood, that an inspector of our artillery has declared to the work—"he never was compelled to reject a gun on account

of a defect in the bore," though he examined "upwards of two thousand cannon of different calibres."

It is notorious that we may have lead, from the mines of our country, to any amount. Our resources for salt petre in the western states are said to be inexhaustible. Of sulphur we have a considerable stock in store. Each of the states can furnish an extensive catalogue of powder mills; their number in the United States amounts to two hundred and seven, and many of them are celebrated for the excellence of their powder. Notwithstanding these facts, it is necessary to repeat, that under the present aspect of affairs, it is proper a further provision of all the munitions of war be forthwith made. Expenditures to a considerable amount when applied to such purposes, will ultimately be found to be economy in the true sense and meaning of the term, by the saving of the difference between the present prices and such as will be demanded when we shall be at war. In conformity with these views, your committee beg leave to report a bill.

Twelfth Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, January 2.—Mr. M'Kee stated to the house, that as chairman to the committee on Indian affairs, he had received a letter from the secretary of war on a subject which did not come properly before that committee, but belonged to the committee of commerce and manufactures. This letter complains of the want of goods proper for the Indian department, and suggests the propriety of making an exception in the non importation law in favor of these goods. Mr. M'Kee, in conformity with this letter, offered the following resolution, which, with the letter of the secretary of war, he wished might, for the present, lie upon the table, until members shall have had an opportunity of considering the subject.

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of authorising, by law, the introduction into the United States, such foreign goods as may be necessary for the usual supply of the Indian department."—Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Bassett wished to make a motion on the subject of a claim which had been before congress for 24 years, and which, therefore, ought to be decided upon. Much difficulty, no doubt, had attended the investigation; but, nevertheless, if the claim be a just one, it ought to be allowed—or, if otherwise, rejected. In order to obtain this object, he proposed the following resolution.

"Resolved, That the committee of claims be instructed to enquire into the expediency of referring the claim of Beaumarchais' heirs to some court of the United States, in form of a case agreed between the attorney general and the agent of the said claim, or in such other form as may be agreed on by the attorney general and the said agent."

After some objections from Messrs. Fisk, Pitkin, Quincy and Abbot, the resolution was negatived. It was stated to be a novel procedure; that if this claim were to take the proposed direction, there were hundreds of others might follow it. It was hoped that congress would never send any claim made upon the government to be decided in her courts. That, said Mr. Abbot, "would be throwing the independence of the country at the feet of the judiciary." This claim, though it appeared in the name of an individual, it was stated, was more in the nature of a claim of the French government

upon the government of this country, than an individual claim. The committee of claims, at all events, ought to come to a decision upon this subject, without attempting to remove the settlement to any other tribunal.

The speaker announced a bill from the senate extending the time of certain patents granted to Robert Fulton, which was twice read and committed; though not without some objections.

Mr. Alston stated it to be a very extraordinary thing that an application should be made for an extension of a patent which had not been granted more than two years. After some remarks from Mr. Mitchell in favor of the extension, the bill was suffered to take the usual course.

AMERICAN SEAMEN.—Mr. Wright called up for consideration, a resolution which he had laid upon the table some days ago, proposing the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill for the protection, recovery, and indemnification of American seamen. It was accordingly taken up, agreed to and a committee of five members appointed.

ADDITIONAL ARMY.—The house then took up the order of the day, which was the bill from the senate to raise an additional military force.

Mr. Wright moved to amend the bill, by adding thereto a new section providing "that the officers appointed by virtue of this act shall respectively receive their commissions during such term only as the President of the United States shall deem necessary; and it shall be the duty of the president to discharge such officers whenever their services are no longer wanted. And that no general, field, or staff officer who may be appointed under this act, shall be entitled to receive any pay or emolument until called into actual service, nor for any longer time than he shall remain therein."

This amendment was carried, there being 69 members in favor of it.

Several other unsuccessful attempts at amendment were made—on the final question "shall the bill be engrossed for a third reading?" the yeas and nays were as follows:

YEAS.—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Avery, Bacon, Beard, Bartlett, Bibb, Blackledge, Bleeker, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Cheves, Clay, Cochran, CLOPTON, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earl, Emmott, Findly, Fisk, Franklin, Gholson, Gold, Green, Grundy, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, Johnson, King, Lacock, Lefever, Little, Livingston, Lowndes, Lyle, Maxwell, Moore, M'Coy, M'Kee, M'Kim, Metcalf, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrow, Nelson, New, Newton, Ormsby, Paulding, Pickens, Piper, Pond, Porter, Quincy, Reed, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Sage, Sammons, Seaver, Sevier, Seybert, Shaw, G. Smith, Strong, Sturges, Sullivan, Tallman, Taliaferro, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Corlandt, Williams, Widgery, Winn, Wright.—90.

NAYS.—Messrs. Baker, Bigelow, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brigham, Champion, Chittenden, Davenport, Ely, Fitch, Hufty, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, Mason, M'Bryde, Mosely, Newbold Pearson, Pitkin, Potter, Randolph, Rodman, Sheffey, Smilie, Stanford, Stewart, Stow, S. Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, White, Wheaton, Wilson.—35.

Friday, January 3.—Mr. Newton, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill, to authorize the secretary of the treasury, under the authority of the president of the United States, to purchase from Winslow Lewis, his patent right to a new method of lighting light-houses, and for other

purposes. [Mr. N. stated, that by this new method, a light house which now consumes 1400 gallons of oil in a certain period, would be supplied by 400 only.] The bill was twice read and committed.

Mr. Rhea said, the persons entitled to pensions had found great difficulty in complying with the requisitions of the law as it now stood. He wished to simplify the business, and for that purpose offered to the house a resolution, which after some observations from different members, and receiving an amendment from Mr. Gholson, the chairman of the committee of claims, was agreed to, and referred to that committee.

Mr. Porter, the chairman of the committee of foreign relations, said that it having been discovered that there were some parts of the bill for raising a volunteer corps, which required correction, and which could be better done by the committee who reported it, than in committee of the whole, he would move to discharge the committee of the whole from the further consideration of the bill, in order to recommit it.

The motion to discharge the committee of the whole was agreed to, and the bill recommitted.

Mr. Jennings offered a resolution calling upon the president of the United States for information respecting the appointment of certain Indian agents, &c. in the Indiana and Illinois territories; but some objection being made to it, on the ground of a similar resolution having been already entered into it was ordered to lie on the table.

The order of the day being called for, the bill for raising an additional force was taken up and read the third time, and the question being put "shall the bill pass its third reading?"

Mr. Sheffey rose, and spoke for about three hours against the passage of the bill and in favor of maintaining the country in a state of peace.

After which, Mr. Rhea said he wished to deliver his sentiments on the passage of the bill; but as it was late, he moved an adjournment, which was carried.

Saturday, January 4.—The speaker laid before the house a communication from the secretary of war, containing an account of the application and expenditures of monies in that department for the past year.

Also, from the same department, an account of the expenditures from the contingent fund.

And a communication from the treasury department, in conformity to the act of 1810, with an account of the expenses attending our intercourse with the Barbary powers.

These several documents were referred to the committee of ways and means, and ordered to be printed.

A bill from the Senate, for establishing a quarter master's department, was twice read, and, on motion of Mr. Blount, referred to the committee to whom was referred that part of the president's message, relating to military affairs.

Mr. Morrow proposed the following resolution, which was agreed to, and a committee of five members appointed:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of confirming the northern boundary of the state of Ohio, as designated by the constitution of that state, and as provided by law for the actual surveying of the north and west boundary lines of the said state, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

The order of the day, which was the bill for raising an additional military force, was then taken up, Messrs. Rhea, Pickens, Lowndes, Harper,

Widgery and M'Kim spoke in favor of the bill, and Mr. Macon against the arrangement of the force it is to be raised; but in favor of the general principle of the bill.

The house rose at 5 o'clock, without taking the question on the passage of the bill.

Monday, January 6.—Mr. Bacon, from the committee of ways and means, to whom was referred the petitions of the collectors of several ports, made a supplementary report, which recommended that the prayer of the several petitions of the collectors of the ports of Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Baltimore and Plymouth, Massachusetts, and of the naval officer of the port of Philadelphia, ought not to be granted. Committed.

Mr. Grundy, from the committee of foreign relations, reported the bill authorizing the president to accept of volunteer corps with sundry amendments, which was committed.

Mr. D. R. Williams, said by an act of 1808, a regiment of light artillery was directed to be raised. This was considered by the secretary of war as horse artillery; but the bill did not provide for mounting them. He therefore introduced a bill supplementary to an act for raising, for a limited time, an additional military force, which was twice read and committed.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the secretary of the navy, in pursuance of a resolution of the house of the 26th ult. requesting a statement of the vessels which had been repaired since the year 1801, and the cost thereof, which was ordered to be printed.

The house then took up the bill for raising an additional military force; which after speeches from Messrs. Stanford, Boyd, and Stow against it, and by Mr. D. R. Williams in favor of it, finally passed, 94 to 34. The yeas and nays were as follow:

YEAS.—Messrs. Alston, Anderson, Archer, Avery, Bacon, Bard, Bartlett, Bassett, Bibb, Blackledge, Bleeker, Blount, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Cheever, Clay, Cochran, Clopton, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dawson, Deha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Emott, Findley, Fisk, Franklin, Gholson, Gold, Green, Grundy, B. Hall, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Hyneman, Johnson, Kent, King, Lacock, Lefever, Little, Livingston, Lowndes, Lyle, Maxwell, Moore, M'Coy, M'Kee, M'Kim, Metcalf, Milnor, Mitchell, Morgan, Morrow, Nelson, New, Newton, Ormsby, Paulding, Picken, Piper, Pond, Potter, Quincy, Reed, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Sage, Sammons, Seaver, Sevier, Seybert, Shaw, G. Smith, J. Smith, Strong, Sullivan, Tallman, Talliaferro, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Cortlandt, Williams, Widgery, Winn, Wright—94.

NAYS.—Messrs. Bigelow, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brigham, Champion, Chittenden, Davenport, Ely, Fitch, Hufty, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, Macon, M'Bride, Mosely, Newbold, Pearson, Pitkin, Porter, Randolph, Rodman, Sheffield, Smilie, Stanford, Steward, Stow, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Wheaton, White, Wilson—34.

Tuesday January 7.—Mr. Bacon reported a bill for defraying the expenses of six companies of rangers for the year 1812, which was twice read.

Mr. Newton, from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported a bill for the relief of those numerous petitioners who have purchased goods previous to the proclamation, and which now remain in Great Britain and her colonies. Mr. N. observed that the committee had paused on these petitions, till they saw that congress had taken a position from which they would not go back—"a manly attitude." Made the order of the day for Friday.

Mr. Seybert reported a bill for authorizing the purchase of ordnance and ordnance stores. Mr. S. observed that as we had the men we should provide the arms necessary to put into their hands. We had great resources, 534 forges, 207 powder mills, lead in abundance could be procured—sulphur was the only article of difficulty. [The bill appropriates \$ 1,500,000; and has passed its second reading in the house.]

The house then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Tallmadge in the chair, on the bill for the relief of disabled and superannuated officers and seamen.

Several amendments to the bill having been agreed to, the committee rose, and the house laid it on the table.

A message was received from the President of the U. States, by Mr. Coles, transmitting a report from the directors of the mint relative to the operations of the mint during the last year. Read and ordered to be printed.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the resolution against the repeal of certain provisions in the statutes of limitation. Mr. Nelson in the chair.

Mr. Clay spoke against the resolution. It was disagreed to, and a resolution in favor of the repeal of those statutes so far as regards certain descriptions of claims embraced in a resolutions submitted by Mr. Bacon, and reported several times *verbatim*, was adopted—yeas 49; nays 36.

The committee then took up the resolution to instruct the committee of claims to report according to the merits of all revolutionary claims, although they may be barred by the statutes of limitation.

Mr. Gholson spoke in its favor; Mr. Bacon against it.

Before a decision obtained the committee rose.

And the house adjourned at 3 o'clock.

Wednesday, January 8.—The speaker laid before the house a petition of the Ursuline Nuns at New-Orleans, praying that the hospital which adjoins their convent and is in a decayed state, may be removed, and that they may be permitted to build a house thereon for the education of females.—Referred.

The speaker laid before the house an address and resolutions of the legislature of the state of Ohio, approbatory of the measures of the general government, which were ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker also presented a statement from the secretary of the navy, in conformity to the act requiring the same, respecting the compensation of clerks.

And another, of the contracts made by the secretary of the navy during the past year; which were ordered to be printed.

Mr. M'Kee, from the committee to whom was referred the message of the President of the United States, transmitting two letters of Governor Harrison, respecting the affair on the Wabash, made a report recommending sundry resolutions making provision for the sufferers in that engagement; as well as for the widows and orphans of those who were killed. The report was committed.

The following bills were read a third time and passed, viz. an act to enable the secretary of the treasury to decide upon the case of the Elizabeth Ann, belonging to Ezekiel Hubbard; and an act authorizing the purchase of ordnance, ordnance stores, camp equipage and other quarter-master's stores and small arms.

VOLUNTEER CORPS.—On motion of Mr Smilie, the house took up the order of the day, and went into a committee on the bill to authorise the president of the United States to accept of certain volunteer corps, Mr. Bassett in the chair.

The bill being read, an amendment was proposed to prevent the land which is provided for the heirs and representatives of any volunteer who shall fall in the service from being sold to speculator's; but, after various attempts at amending the amendment, and considerable discussion, it was discovered that no volunteer could dispose of this land, as he never would have any right in it, as it vested in his heirs in case he died in the service only. The amendments were of course disagreed to.

A motion was afterwards made to allow every volunteer, who had served twelve months, on leaving the service, eighty acres of land; but this was disagreed to on the ground that the men who entered into this service, would enter from patriotic motives and ought not to be put on a level with the regular soldiers.

The committee rose without going through the bill, and obtained leave to sit again. [The blank in the 8th section was filled with \$3,000,000 to provide for 50,000 men.]

A message was received from the senate informing the house that the senate had agreed to all their amendments to the bill to raise an additional military force except the proviso in the first section, and the three additional sections, to which they disagree.

The proviso disagreed to is in the following words: "Provided, however, That commissioned officers for six only of the said regiments shall be appointed, until three-fourths of the privates requisite to complete such six regiments have been enlisted, when the commissioned officers for the remaining seven regiments shall be appointed."

The following are the 3 resolutions disagreed to: "That the officers, who may be appointed in virtue of this act, shall respectively continue in commission during such term only as the president shall judge requisite for the public service; and that it shall be lawful for the president to discharge the whole or any part of the troops, which may be raised under the authority of this act, whenever he shall judge the measure consistent with the public welfare."

"That no general, field, or staff officer, who may be appointed by virtue of this act, shall be entitled to receive any pay or emoluments until he shall be called into actual service, nor for any longer time than he shall continue therein."

"That in the recess of the senate, the president of the United States is hereby authorised, to appoint all or any of the officers other than the general officers proper to be appointed under this act, which appointments shall be submitted to the senate at their next session, for their advice and consent."

Adjourned. [For Thursday's proceedings—see last page—352.]

Mr. Sheffey's Speech,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE BILL FROM THE SENATE TO RAISE AN ADDITIONAL MILITARY FORCE—JAN. 3, 1812.

Mr. Sheffey professed to have no intention to embarrass the progress of the bill. The deep interest which every man felt, or ought to feel, in the prosperity of the country, compelled him to give his reasons for voting against the bill. He differed

essentially from its friends; but he would by no means impeach the purity of their motives; and he would expect the same liberality to be extended to him by gentlemen. He conceived the bill to be pregnant with ruin to the interests and liberties of the country. If the majority of this house had determined to change the attitude of the nation, they ought directly to have presented the question of war; and although he should have resisted war in every possible shape yet the moment the house would say that war must be declared, no man would go further than he would in voting means to prosecute that measure with vigor and success. But a full development of the causes and the objects of the war had not been made in a satisfactory manner.—There was a great difference between those causes and those objects. The causes of a war might be ample, without its presenting a substantial object. The object, as well as the causes, might be sufficient; and yet the means of conducting the war might be inadequate.

He had looked for a development of the objects of that measure which the house was called upon to adopt against Great Britain, and from which, when once taken, they could not recede. He had seen only high colored statements of the wrongs which she had inflicted upon us. In the presence of this august assembly and of the nation, he would not hesitate to say that we had ample causes of war not only against Great Britain, but the other belligerent too. Our not going to war when these causes first arose, was a proof that the objects of war were not substantial. The orders in council were justifiable cause of war. One belligerent had no right to wound its enemy through the medium of neutrals. Indeed, those orders were hostile to the policy it was the interest of England to pursue. Either the Berlin decree was a mere dead letter, or it was not. If that decree were nugatory, then surely it could not justify the British orders. If it were not nugatory; if it prevented British manufactures from going to the continent, the British orders could not subvert the policy of England against her enemy. They interdicted American vessels from going to France, when the Berlin decree itself had prohibited them from going there with British manufactures. And as to the remainder of American trade with France, it was in articles which were not necessary to her people, and which she could raise at home. The trade in colonial produce, carried on in American vessels, was prohibited by the Berlin decree. The British orders therefore injured neutrals, without affecting the enemy. This furnished one cause of war to us; but was it prudent to go to war for this cause? He admitted that in the impressment of seamen, Great Britain had injured us; but not to the extent generally supposed. He protested against waging a war for the protection of any other than native born American seamen, or those who were citizens when the independence of the country was achieved. It was enough to protect them while they remain within our territories. Within these we had a right to make regulations. But we had no right to make regulations on the ocean, which would conflict with the pretensions of all civilized nations, who claimed the allegiance of their native born subjects, either by the divine right of the governors, or by implied compact. He should not enquire whether these claims were compatible with the rights of man. It was sufficient that they grew out of the established usages and principles of civilized kingdoms, which we had no right to contro-

vert out of our own limits. He would therefore not protect any other than our natural American citizens on the ocean. We did not deny the right of England to search for property; she went farther, and claimed the privilege of searching for her seamen. The similarity of our manners and language occasioned her to abuse the privilege in some cases by the impressment of our seamen. This was not an abuse of principle, but of honor. And before we go to war with her for impressment, he would make her this offer:—he would agree not to let any man enter our merchant vessels but a natural citizen of these United States. Impressment, he allowed was another cause of war.

But should a nation go to war for an indignity without a sufficient object to be attained by it? What was the great object of the proposed war? It was the right to trade with the continent. We had an unquestionable right to this trade; but what was it practically worth? Would it repay us for the treasure which would be expended, and the blood which would be spilled, in a war? He asserted that the trade with the continent, were the orders in council revoked, would be worth very little, and that it would daily diminish from the anti-commercial policy of the French cabinet! We had boasted of the justice which France had done us by the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees. To what did this plentifulness of imperial justice amount? In 1807, our exports to France—he did not include Italy and Holland—were equal to 2,700,000 dollars; the whole of our export commerce was \$8,500,000 dollars. What is your commerce now, to the dominions of France? Where is the trade with those dominions which your merchants then carried on in colonial articles, received in exchange for their horses and their lumber in the West Indies, and sold on the continent for bills on London, for French wines, and German linens? This friendly commerce with his imperial majesty was now cut off. Where is your trade in tobacco? In 1807, you shipped 68,000 hogsheads of tobacco: at this time only 4,000 hogsheads are consumed in France.—And as to cotton, the other great staple of the southern states, she imposes a duty on it equivalent to a prohibition of its exportation. The policy of France was to encourage the culture of cotton in Italy and her southern provinces. She aimed at the extinction of all foreign commerce to her dominions. From this view, he was satisfied that the object of the war which we are about to engage in, to obtain a repeal of the orders in council, would not be worth two millions per annum. If the orders were repealed to-morrow, our trade to the continent under the imperial regulations and edicts, would not amount to two millions per year. What American merchant, but an adventurer, who disregarded every principle of prudence, would engage in so shackled a commerce? Even when he should go to France, and dispose of his export cargo: when the greater part of it should have been extorted from him by his imperial majesty and his rapacious agents, in the shape of duties and charges, he would be forced to take wines and silks in return. In 1807, he proceeded to shew, the exports in our own products to Great Britain amounted to 28 millions; and the exports to the French West India islands, to the Isle of France and the Isle of Bourbon in India, and to the Cape of Good Hope, all of which had been since conquered by Great Britain, amounted to four or five millions per annum. Our exports then to France would, by the repeal of the orders in council, amount to two millions; our exports to Great Britain a

mounted to thirty-two millions. And would the house go to war and sacrifice this export trade of thirty-two millions for two millions? They could not expect to have a great increase of commerce during war; Spain, Portugal and the Brazils might come under French dominion; the trade to which only amounted in 1807, to three millions.

But they had been told that they must fight for honor. Could they change the aspect of the civilized world? He considered the great defect in the policy of this government for several years past to have proceeded from a supposition that they could effect by their measures a change in the policy of Europe. They thought that they held in their hands the destinies of the world; that by frowning on the belligerents, they would yield to our demands.—We were mistaken; and we must wait until the present state of Europe should be changed, before we could be reinstated in our rights. There were times when nations, as well as individuals, must suppress their feelings. This was the period when neutrals possessed no means to support their rights. The claims of belligerents always conflicted with the rights of neutrals. Heretofore, during war, there generally existed two or three neutral powers. A belligerent had therefore not dared to attack the rights of neutrals, lest they should combine against him. But now we were the only neutral power.—Public law was now consigned to the grave; neutral rights buried under French dominion. It was visionary to think of protecting them. The house must tell their citizens that they were incompetent to protect their trade; that if they went to the ocean, they must go at their own peril. They had made a fine hand of selecting their enemy! They had thrown themselves into the arms of him who would give them two millions of trade for the loss of thirty two millions! As to this honor; it ought always to be guided by prudence. We ought not to engage in a war for this chivalric, fanciful, Quixotic notion of honor, without looking at the consequences. How should we feel at the end of a seven years war, after sacrificing thousands of valuable lives, and so much blood and treasure, we should be compelled to sit down quietly under the British orders in council? He considered the notion of honor practically fallacious. We paid a tribute to the dey of Algiers, to buy him off from depreying on our commerce; and we paid a tribute to the French emperor, not in dollars and cents, but in something as valuable, for the privilege of going to the British dominions, where we had an indisputable right to go by the law of nations. Why had we not gone to war to prevent this dishonor? Because prudence forbade it. Gentleman must bend to circumstances; circumstances would not bend to them.

But gentleman contend that war will invigorate the nation, and give us a military character; that peace will render us effeminate, and expose us to fall a prey to an invader. Sir, how many nations have been enslaved by peace—how many by war? We have been referred to the seven United Provinces, and told that they were enervated by peace and commerce. He denied the fact, and said that Holland had been embroiled in most of the continental wars. He adverted to Switzerland, which he said had possessed so much practical civil liberty, to prove that for centuries of peace, a nation might preserve its military character. But, on the idea that peace would enfeeble us, shall we, he asked, make ourselves miserable now, in order that we may not be miserable hereafter? Should we lay an excise, internal taxes; create armies, and navies, to

preserve a military character? he disclaimed such an idea!

If there be a substantial object of war at the present time, he contended that we had not the means of carrying it on: we had not the means of compelling Great Britain to relinquish her orders in council. We could not raise men to take Canada. The patriotism of those who might be enlisted under this bill was chimerical. All patriotism was a phantom.—The bill was framed on the principle of interest.—The troops were to have pay and bounties. Gentlemen had said that the members of this house came here to paralyse the ardor of the people. Let them not be misled. Let them recollect the fate of Mr. Adams. Look at the addresses to him; the fulsome collection of fulsome matter which some body had printed and bound up in a volume, pledging the lives and sacred honor of so many meetings of the people to support him in a war against France. Yes, sir, you can get pledges, pledges and pledges on paper in abundance. The men in power then were so foolish as to think that these pledges, which were the mere buzzings of insects, were given in earnest by the people. Mr. Adams even went so far as to assert that "the finger of Heaven pointed to war." If you rely on public opinion and patriotism to carry you through a war of foreign conquest, you will soon find yourselves on dry land; you will soon find yourselves ebbling. I am glad of it. This is a valuable principle in the people. They are quiet at home. They will not support you in the invasion of a foreign country. When the soil and the liberties of their country shall be assailed, then, and not till then, will their spirit be found equal to a contest with an enemy. You have been told that you could raise volunteers to achieve the possession of Canada. Where are those volunteers? I have seen none of those patriotic men who were willing to go to Canada in the private rank: all of them want offices. You may raise a few miserable wretches for your army, who would disgrace the service, and only serve as unprincipled minions to their officers. Will your farmers' sons enlist in your army? They will not, sir. Look at the army of '98. It had twelve or fifteen regiments nominally. It was disbanded in eighteen months; when half the men had not been raised. Why, sir, you had more patriotism on paper then, even than you have now; and yet you could not raise half the forces for your army. If you pass the bill, you will not raise 25 thousand men in three years. The object of the war may by that time vanish. The nation will be saddled with all the vast expenses of these troops for nothing. No nation can safely engage in a foreign war without being prepared for it when they take the resolution. Are you prepared? Your secretary at war has told gentlemen that even blankets could not be procured; and you saw a letter from him yesterday, which informed you that the small supplies for the Indians could not be had without a relaxation of your commercial restrictions. Will you send your soldiers to Canada without blankets? Or do you contemplate to take it by the end of the summer, and return home to a more genial climate by the next winter! This would be well enough; but I think it will require several campaigns to conquer Canada.

You will act absurdly if you expect the people of that country to join you. Upper Canada is inhabited by emigrants from the United States. They will not come back to you; they will not, without reason desert the government, to whom they have gone for protection. No, sir, you must conquer it

by force, not by sowing the seeds of sedition and treason among the people.

But suppose you raise the men, what will Great Britain be doing in the meantime? Will she be asleep? You march to Canada; where will be your security at home? will you desert your own country; will you leave your cities to be sacrificed, plundered and sacked, for the sterile deserts of Canada, of Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, and all the frozen regions of the north? Sir, go to Canada, and you will soon have to recal your army to defend your southern soil; to rescue your people from rapine and destruction. You will have to employ your energies in protecting the South from British invasion. Sir, will the little force you leave at home, be able to oppose the power of British 74's? Look at Copenhagen. It is true, sir, as honorable gentlemen say, that I am secure behind the Alleghany, after the eastern States shall have fallen. Liberty is there secure! But as a member of this confederacy, I cannot consent to exchange my present situation for such a state of things.

In relation to our pecuniary inability to raise an army, Mr. Sheffey entered into a detailed calculation to shew, that the 30,000 troops proposed by the bill which was passed this session, and the present bill could not be set in motion with a less sum than 45,000,000 of dollars. His statement he made from actual expenditures on the army in 1809, which consisted of 6,800 men, and cost in that year upwards of three millions; or about 490 dollars each man.—It was true that the house had an estimate on their table which allowed to each man 170 dollars per annum: but they knew that estimates always fell short of the actual expenses by 100 per cent. It was the case in 1808. He said that this nation paid for every thing one hundred per cent. more than any other nation. He did not know what became of the money. Perhaps the rats eat it. The expenses of our republican administration amounted to a third more than those of the profligate John Adams. Supposing the war then to last three years, it would cost at least 130 millions, which would be equal to one-fifth of the annual proceeds of the labor and industry and soil of the whole people of the United States. The income of the British government was only one tenth, until it was doubled by those friends of the people, Mr. Fox and others! He asked for the objects of taxation, by which this vast sum could be raised. Where were they? They could not be found in the country. Including the duties on importations from England, the revenue derived from imports and tonnage during the last year was only 7,500,000 dollars. But in war, where should we have a commerce whence to derive revenue? Would we go to the West Indies, which were in the possession of the British? We could not then trade to the north of Europe, because we had to go by the British channel. We should not find much commerce in Spain and Portugal; nor in the Mediterranean; for the British were masters of the Mediterranean. Would we go to British India? No. And our trade to China would not be worth a cent. He asserted that during this proposed war, our revenue from commerce would not amount to two millions per annum. Where then, he repeated, were we find 130 millions to carry on this extravagant, Quixotic war? We could not borrow. There was no capital in the country; and if there were, we could not borrow it without paying the interest annually, and giving some substantial security for the ultimate redemption of the principal. The reason that Great Britain, the wisdom of whose

system be enlogized, had been enabled to sustain her paper credit so long, was the one per cent. which had been thrown into the sinking fund, and was always applicable only to the redemption of the principal of her debt. This gave her creditors confidence. He ridiculed the folly of engaging in the fanciful project of invading Canada, to compel Great Britain to relinquish the orders in council, the relinquishment of which would not, he said, produce a single salutary effect. He said our notion of honor was too fanciful.

If this army were raised, and put into the hands of the executive, there might be danger. He knew this notion was out of fashion. But he adverted to the situation of our army at the close of the revolution, and intimated that had it not been for Washington we should now be groaning under a military despotism. The cloud which hovered over the country, had been dissipated by the genius of that man, whose equal was not to be found, and who, under Divine Providence, had brought us safely through the revolution. War would damp the spirit of liberty. We were in former times afraid of armies; but it seemed they excited no alarm now. What had produced the change? Alas, Alas! we were then out, and now in power. He feared that we were running the same race with that nation, from whom we derived our civil and political institutions. We had seen the history of her Walpoles, her Pulineys, her Fox's and Grenvilles.

He knew gentlemen would stare at him, when he contended that they were going to war against Great Britain, while she was struggling for the liberties of the world. But this had great weight on his mind. She was the only power that stemmed the torrent of universal despotism. He had little experience in the human heart, who believed that there would remain any security for us after the maritime dominion, as well as the dominion of the land should be concentrated in the hands of the great Napoleon. These conquerors had always been the same. When they had subdued the world, they sat down and shed tears because they could find no other world to conquer. Our victory over Great Britain would be our defeat.

Gentlemen, to his surprise, had asked, what would be gained by peace? He would answer, happiness, prosperity, liberty and tranquility. Though deprived of foreign luxuries, we were at this time the happiest and most prosperous nation upon whom the sun had ever shone. To complain was ingratitude to that Being who had given us liberty and security at home. Give me these, and take your orders in council; take your commerce to France—to the whole world.

Could he believe that war would compel the English cabinet to do us justice, he would unite heart and hand with gentlemen to declare it. But we should be misled in supposing it. We had laid an embargo and a non-intercourse, which, with some reason, we thought would bring Great Britain, to a sense of justice. We had been deceived. We could not starve nations out. The existence of the world did not depend upon our *fat*. He was unworthy of the name of a statesman, who would engage in a war without looking to the consequences. It becomes us, Mr. Speaker, to remain in our present situation: to let the present state of the world pass away. Until the great waters subside: until the ancient land marks re-appear, and the flood shall have gone. Desert not, I pray you, this your ark of safety. Embark not, sir, on the tempestu-

ous ocean, whilst its billows are running mountain high. If you do, I fear you will sink to the bottom.

Mr. D. R. Williams in reply.

Mr. Williams expatiated at length on all the topics involved in the bill before the house.* He observed that it was natural; not only natural, but justifiable, for gentlemen to be anxious to express their sentiments on measures of importance, more especially of such vital importance as that now under consideration. The question was not merely on the passage of this bill; but the question was, shall we have war? He too felt objections to the details of the bill. Its provisions were new. It organized an army on a new plan. It was not the plan of marshal Ney, as had been said. But he should vote for it, because he approved the principles upon which it had been brought forward. Its adoption would produce war with Great Britain; and he was decidedly in favor of that measure. The only question was, would they repeal the non-importation and go to war with France? or would they resist the orders in council? For however unpleasant the fact might be to gentlemen, it was nevertheless true, that our faith was pledged to France; that to repeal the non importation, would violate that faith which was yet pure and uncontaminated. He himself had no hand in producing this state of things; this was not however, any reason why he should not help to take us out of it. But he was for resisting the orders in council in preference to repealing the non importation. He should not enter into petty details of what was, or what was not done in '98. Shall Great Britain exercise an unequalled supremacy over us? shall we submit to her taxation; to that despotism which she has set up over us? Honored with a seat in this assembly

* The *American*, from which we have copied Mr. Williams' speech, as well as Mr. Sheffey's, has the following remarks, (we presume) written by the reporter for that paper—who also acknowledges his disability to do justice to the speaker.

"I cannot convey to you a just idea of the speech of Mr. WILLIAMS, from South Carolina, in support of this war measure. No man whose mind was not feasted with the ecstatic delight which it afforded, can conceive its irresistible weight of argument, its glowing pathos, its fire, its splendid dress, the impressive manner with which it was delivered, nor the Roman energy and overwhelming vehemence of the speaker's elocution. This gentleman is an ornament to the councils of his country. His speech alternately excited indignant rage against the inveterate foe of the nation; contempt of those who had depreciated their resources, and exalted the power of the enemy; drew forth tears for the slaughtered East Indian, as well as American, and filled the grateful soul of the patriot with unspeakable feelings, while the orator dwelt upon the noble virtue and brilliant achievements of our illustrious ancestors of the revolution. You have seen and heard COOPER. The voice of Mr. Williams is more vigorous, more powerful, more commanding than that of this celebrated tragedian. I could perceive a striking resemblance between his manner, when, he gave utterance to the bolder feeling of scorn and indignation, and the manner of Cooper. A more glorious exhibition of the powers of eloquence has not been witnessed this session within the walls of the American capitol."

by his country, should he basely succumb to British supremacy? or should he resist? It was not the question, were the Berlin and Milan decrees revoked? For whether they were or not, the British orders would still be enforced. But shall we submit to carve out a channel for British manufactures and commerce to the continent of Europe? Shall we require, in her behalf, the abolition of all the domestic regulations of France and her allies? This was the question. In such a state of things, he felt humbled that he was unable to give that support, on this floor, to the country, which the occasion afforded. Indeed, he felt humbled at the necessity of argument at all. But they were demanded by the observations of the worthy and distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Sheffey.) Of him he would say, "I respect the man; but I abhor his arguments." Even that gentleman had confessed that against Great Britain we had ample cause of war. He would not go into a repetition of the nauseous details of British aggressions. No man could bear to hear the disgusting recital in this house. For notwithstanding the miserable slang that had been uttered by miserable wretches out of the house against the dominant party, there was not a solitary member who was not convinced of the numerous and aggravating causes of war which existed against that nation.

Great Britain imposes a transit duty on your produce going to Europe. No, I am wrong. The orders have been modified. Indeed! And has that proud unbending government, who is *never* driven from her purpose, say, gentlemen, yielded to a modification of her principles? Sir, she confines you to trade to what ports she pleases; she has intercepted you from the continent. Is this, I ask, in the name of God, sir, better than the imposition of a transit duty on your commerce! Sir, the British ministry found that in laying this duty, they had touched the spirit of the revolution. They saw in the burning of the gin at Baltimore, something like the destruction of the tea at Boston. They had taken too rank hold upon you: they were obliged to change the mode of attack upon your commerce. But the objects of the war—what are they? The objects of the war are involved in its causes. The enfranchisement of your incarcerated seamen, the liberation of the seas from British dominion—these, sir, are simply, and in a word, the objects of the war. Sir, she claims to respect the rights of any nation. She advances in her pretensions upon every people that yield one inch to her. She claims the right of exclusive legislation over the ocean. Her acts of outrage have fixed a gangrene at our heart, which, if you submit, must continue to impoison, and soon issue in corruption and ruin. But, sir, you are told that your constitution is not calculated for war. And is it so, indeed? Then its glories—yes, sir, its brightest glories are gone forever, and my solicitude for its fate has vanished with its virtues. But, sir, I do not believe it. What is your constitution, I pray you, Mr. Speaker? It unites and protects the various and peculiar interests of the different sections of this vast union. He really felt for New-England, whose right to navigate the ocean was involved in the proposed measures, when he heard it advanced that the constitution was incompetent to protect that right by war: a right which was as exquisite to the heart of a New-Englander, as the right of holding slaves was to a southern man.

The soil, it seems has not been touched, and we must not go to war; it would be foreign conquest.

The soil not touched, sir? yes, sir, the soil is touched. Every farmer in the nation feels it; he feels that his plantation has been invaded, his produce destroyed. The export trade between Charleston and Bordeaux is as useful to him, as the trade between Charleston and Boston. Let your bay and your river craft; your Potomac, your Chesapeake, Long Island Sound, sir, be infested by pirates; suppose them British pirates too;—mind, sir, your soil would not then be touched! Further—Let your harbors be blocked up, the castle of Boston levelled with the dust—still, sir, the soil would not be touched! Suppose invasion—you drive the invader into Canada; but you dare not go over; it would be foreign conquest—as much then as now, sir. Really, Mr. speaker, can gentlemen be serious in such arguments?

If the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Stanford) will have a comparison between '98 and now; if pounds, shillings and pence must govern us, let us see how it stands. For spoiliations committed by France at that time upon our merchants, their claims, provided for by the treaty with her, amounted to 3,500,000 dollars. Since the condemnation of the Fox by sir William Scott, ninety others have been condemned, which valued at fifty thousand each, will amount to upwards of four millions of dollars, plundered from us in that short space of time by British cruisers. The captures are daily increasing. In 1798 too, sir, we had a practicable chance of maintaining our neutrality; not so now. The treasures of the golden harvests of neutral trade were borne into our country from every part of the world. Where are they to be found now, sir? We are jealous of an army. He wished not to excite unpleasant feelings; but the nation did then fear, that the army was raised to break down opposition. They thought that a great and powerful state [Virginia] was to be humbled in dust and ashes; that the government was to be subverted. The states were robbed of their rights to appoint officers for the volunteers that were raised. Yes, sir, I say they were robbed of their right. But do all these powerful motives exist at this time for maintaining peace? No, sir.

The honorable gentleman then entered into calculations to prove the fallacy of those made by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Sheffey.) He exhibited a view of the exports and imports of the United States during several years preceding 1805; at one time the balance of trade was 14 or 15 millions in favor of Great Britain. He asked, whence did our merchants derive the means to pay the British this great balance? The answer was easy. They had pushed their trade into all parts of the world, which had enabled them to make good their deficiencies in the British trade. The orders in council had deprived them of that resource; they had reduced their exports to France and Holland to two or three millions; and yet the gentleman from Virginia had made the effects of these orders to justify the orders themselves, and our submission to them. It was the deadly efficacy of these orders which had reduced our exports to the continent to a mere trifle. But, said the gentleman, would you sacrifice your exports to England, worth 32 millions, for your two millions to France? Sir, your custom house books might shew an export of thirty-two millions to Great Britain. But what is the fact? Why, sir, your merchants cannot find sale in that country for more than a fifth of their produce, their tobacco and cotton. The balance which they might send you would be a dead loss. Ask your

cotton planters, and tobacco raisers and merchants, what has become of your crops for 1810 and 1811? They are rotting on their hands. This is the effect of the orders in council. I, sir, know—I feel their effects myself.

But will you go to war for honor—a mere bubble, a phantom? Really, sir, I cannot believe that the gentleman from Virginia was serious in asking this question. Is that proud virtue which must be so dear to the gentleman himself as an individual, is it to be treated with disrespect, to be utterly discarded, when the concerns of the nation come to be considered? Of what is the nation composed? Of brutes, sir, or men—high minded men, honorable men, descendants of honorable ancestors? Is honor to be thus scouted out of this house? Sir, we are on the high road to ruin, when the interests of individuals are made, by calculations, to be at variance with those of the nation, or its government. Such doctrine must destroy you. But, it seems, this honor is nothing, because we pay tribute to the Barbary powers. The gentleman will excuse me, sir, if I say that I did not suppose he could stoop to use such an argument. It is even destitute of originality. The gentleman says we have purchased from France the privilege of going to England: we have purchased of Napoleon the right to go to England? Sir, I had thought that that gentleman knew better. He must be too honorable himself to suspect others of such dastardly conduct. Did we not offer the same terms to England which France accepted? And how, sir, can the gentleman say we have purchased from France a right to go to England? I cannot think that he could be guilty of believing such an insinuation himself. It was not a fact. We had even gone much farther in conceding to England than to France. Our minister there had begged and entreated the repeal of the orders in council, until the nation was supposed by many to have been disgraced by his supplications. I did not think he was wrong.

But we must not go to war with this England; she was fighting for her existence! If her existence, sir, depends on our destruction, then, I say, down let her go. She is contending for the liberties of the world too, it seems. I would as soon have expected to hear that the devil had espoused the cause of Christianity! (*an universal burst of laughter.*) Sir, we may trace her progress for years through blood! Did she raise the standard of liberty in India? Was it for liberty that she offered up to the sword so many human hecatombs on the plains of Insoulan? Was it to plant the standard of liberty in this country, that she immolated even infant innocence during the war of the revolution? Is it to extend or secure the blessings of freedom to us, that the fireside and the cradle are exposed to savage incursions in the west at this time? He scouted the absurd idea.

When the war should be commenced, he said it would, it must be carried on be the expence what it might. We should probably always find revenue or taxes—and he was for taxes, if they could not be done without—to pay at least the interest on the loans which it would be necessary to obtain. We need but appeal to the patriots, the spirits of the dead, to ascertain whether war could be prosecuted by this nation with success. The effects of the contemplated war, he said, on Great Britain, would be seen in the pressure on her manufactures and on the profitable cultivation of her West India islands, and in the conquest of her provinces. The falls of Niagara could be resisted with as much success as

the American people when they should be called into action.

But armies are to subvert our liberties—The gentleman from Virginia might have spared the insinuation which he had uttered against the revolutionary army. That army was true to the core. The letters of Newburgh had proved it. Those letters also proved that there were traitors every where.—He felt the profoundest adoration, if adoration of men are justifiable, to that patriotic body of men, who had achieved the revolution; and Washington himself, justly as he had been described “the sanctuary of a nation’s best love,” could, at no time during the war, have become a successful usurper. No, sir, impossible. But we must submit to every indignity, it seemed, every daring invasion of our rights? we must not make war because, if we do, armies must be raised; the government would be subverted; the veil of the temple of the constitution might be rent in twain.

The Chronicle.

BALTIMORE, January 11, 1812.

JAMES BARBOUR, Esq. of Orange county, (speaker of the house delegates) has been elected governor of Virginia, in the place of the lamented GEORGE W. SMITH.

The Bank of Virginia has declared a half-yearly dividend of six per centum.

John Wood, of Richmond, well known to the public for his talents, has been appointed professor of mathematics in the college of William and Mary.

At a meeting of the *American Philosophical Society*, held at their hall in Philadelphia the 3d instant, the following officers were duly elected.

President—Thomas Jefferson.

Vice Presidents—Caspar Wistar, Benjamin S. Barton, Robert Patterson.

Secretaries—Thomas C. James, Thomas T. Hewson, Nathaniel Chapman, Joseph Cloud.

Counsellors for three years—Rev. Nicholas Collin, Benjamin Rush, Wm. Tighman, Andrew Ellicott.

Curators—John R. Smith, Zaccheus Collins, Robert Hare.

Treasurer—John Vaughan.

The officers of the navy and marine corps, are ordered by the head of that department to wear crape on the left arm and sword hilt for one month as a tribute of respect to the memory of commodore Nicholson, senior officer in the navy of the United States, lately deceased at Boston.

The legislature of Georgia have appropriated 10,000 dollars towards erecting a penitentiary.

English bank notes—“We are informed (says the Belfast News Letter) that Robert Bateson, esq. of Orange-field, has most generously allowed the tenantry of his extensive estates in the county of Down, to pay their rents in BANK NOTES, without charging any discount. We also understand, that he has taken bank-notes for some time past at a low discount.”

General Moreau’s splendid mansion at Morrisville, with the green house, &c. was destroyed by fire, on the morning of the 25th ult. The fire was accidental and originated in the green house. A part of his furniture was saved, but many valuable papers lost.

On the 21st ult. the house of Mr. Fetterman, Mifflintown (Penn.) was consumed by fire—his daughter and a hired girl perished in the flames! The mother nearly lost her life in endeavoring to save them.

Despatches from Mr. Barlow, our minister at France, have reached Washington. It is stated that the aspect of our concerns in that country are flattering, though nothing positive had been done, owing, perhaps, to the absence of the emperor.

The presidents of several of the banks in this city have offered \$1000 reward for the apprehension of a person who passes by the name of *Seneca Page* or *Parker*, who formerly kept a livery stable in Boston—"He is a tall, slender young man, of light or fair complexion, and stutters or stammers in his speech." He is supposed to be one of the gang of counterfeiters lately infesting this and the neighboring states, and doing business on a grand scale.

We have no European intelligence since our last REGISTER OF THE DEAD.—We published in our last a list of 72 victims who have perished in the late calamitous conflagration. To these should have been added the name of James Edmondson, a free mulatto boy, who expired afterwards.

We have now to subjoin the name of Mr. John Shaub, who died yesterday morning, at the house of Charles Beck and co. of this city.

His funeral was conducted under the eye of the committee of arrangements, to the "devoted spot," *Richmond Enquirer*.

Among the acts passed at the late session of the legislature of South Carolina, we notice the following:

An act to establish *Free Schools* throughout the state.

An act to authorise the commissioners of the orphan House of Charleston, to select the number of youths therein mentioned, from those educated and maintained on the bounty of that institution, who shall be allowed to complete their education at the South Carolina college.

An act to prevent any citizen of this state, from being sent to jail until he be heard by himself or counsel.

An act to make appropriations for the support of a professor of chemistry in the South Carolina college.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, January 9.—A motion was made by Mr. Porter, that the house recede from their amendments to the bill of the senate raising 25,000 additional troops. Mr. Wright, Mr. Little, Mr. Grundy and others supported the motion.—Mr. Smilie, Mr. Johnson and others opposed it.

Mr. Randolph made a motion superceding that of Mr. Porter, namely, for an indefinite postponement of the bill. Mr. Randolph spoke about two hours against the bill and against war. Among other things, he declared the bill to be in opposition to the wishes of the administration.

The yeas and nays were taken on indefinite postponement, and were—yeas 29—nays 38.

The question on receding from the first amendment; the proviso to the first section, then recurred, and was taken by yeas and noes, and decided in the affirmative. Yeas 67, noes 60.

Question on receding from the second amendment, the three additional sections, 25, 26 and 27, added by the house to the bill. The question was divided and taken on the different sections separately. On the 25th section—yeas 63, noes 61. 26th section—yeas 49, noes 76. 27th section—yeas 61, noes 40. So that the house have receded from all their amendments, except the 26th section.

Adjourned half-past 4 o'clock.

The Editor's Department.

WAR or PEACE.

War with Great Britain or a adjustment of differences with her will shortly ensue, and the people ought to make their calculations upon it. In the vote to raise an additional army of 25,000 men, we consider the *Rubicon* as passed, and that congress, without 'idle debate,' will proceed to do all that in them lies to prepare the country for the crisis. It is supposed, that on the return of the *Hornet*, which may be expected early in March, that war will be formally declared, if the propositions she carried out are not immediately agreed to, without further intrigue, equivocation or delay—and, in the mean time, that all the details necessary to offensive or defensive war will be forwarded with as much expedition as possible.

It is the opinion of some that the British will recede, while many believe that her pride will make her persist in injustice, and cause her to hazard the contest. Be this as it may, one fact is evident; if the United States shall "unbury the tomahawk, which has been so long hid," that it will truly be a war of the people of America against the government of England—the fragment of population seated in some of our seaports and opposed to a reclamation of our rights, is too contemptible to be considered as affecting this general proposition. From all quarters of the country—from the mountain tops of the interior, we have a common expression of the public will.

This almost universal disposition for war in such a peace-loving people as the Americans, augurs a favorable result. The man who deliberately enters upon a measure, assured of the necessity of accomplishing it, is not easily repulsed.

The frigate *Congress*, says the National Intelligencer, having undergone a thorough repair, last summer, has arrived at Norfolk, completely fitted for service. ¶ Many people begin to think that the Congress convened at Washington has also been somewhat repaired since the last session—seeing almost one half of its members (or members) have been removed.

¶ With an unceasing desire to cheapen the REGISTER by rendering it more and more valuable, and a due regard for the liberality of the public, a supplement accompanies this number, which would have issued without particular notice, except it were necessary to say—that, as for about four weeks we shall be fully engaged in re-printing certain numbers of the REGISTER, now nearly exhausted, it will not be in our power to give another extra for that time—unless something important should occur. There are yet to be inserted a great deal of official matter, which, with the current affairs of the times, will fully occupy the paper and generally exclude articles in manuscript prepared or preparing for the work. We expect shortly to receive our small type, and have room to embrace every subject originally proposed.

The proceedings of Congress, with the speeches of Messrs. Sheffey and Williams, having made (to use a printer's term) a great deal more than was at first supposed, have shoved out several things in type which ought to have been inserted in this number. Some of our friends fear we may inundate them with congressional speeches and political matter. As to the first, there are not many more that we expect to publish at length: and we shall dismiss the accumulated mass of the latter as briefly as we can, so as to preserve those things which must, and should be preserved, for reference.

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

Vol. I.]

SUPPLEMENTARY TO No. 19.

"——— 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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Mr. Wright's Speech,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE
 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN RE-
 LATIONS.

Mr. Wright.—Mr. Speaker, I must beg the indulgence of the house, while I deliver my opinion on the subject now under consideration, the most important that has been submitted to the congress of the United States. I, sir, shall take the liberty of varying the question from the honorable member from Virginia, (Mr. Randolph) who yesterday considered it a question of peace or war—I shall consider it a question of war or submission, dire alternatives, of which, however, I trust, no honest American can hesitate in choosing, when the question is correctly stated and distinctly understood. The gentleman from Virginia contends that it is a dispute about the carrying trade, brought on us by the cupidity of the American merchants, in which the farmer and planter have little interest; that he will not consent to tax his constituents to carry on a war for it; that the enemy is invulnerable on the "mountain wave," the element of our wrongs, but should they violate the "*natale solum*," he would point all the energies of the nation and avenge the wrong. Was that gentleman stricken on the nose, by a man so tall that he could not reach his nose, I strongly incline to think his manly pride would not permit him to decline the conflict. Sir, the honorable member is incorrect in his premises, and of course in his conclusions. I will endeavor to convince him of this, and shall be gratified could I enlist his talents on the side of a bleeding country.—Sir, the violations of the commercial rights of which we complain, do not only embrace the carrying trade, properly so called, but also the carrying the products of our own soil, the fruits of our own industry: these, although injurious only to our property, are just causes of war. But, sir, the impressment of our native seamen, is a stroke at the vitals of liberty itself, and although it does not touch the "*natale solum*," yet it enslaves the "*nativos filios*," the native sons of America, and in the ratio that liberty is preferable to property, ought to enlist the patriotic feelings of that honorable member, and make his bosom burn with that holy fire that inspired the patriots of the revolution.

Sir, the carrying trade, by which I mean the carrying articles the growth, produce or manufacture of a foreign clime (except articles contraband of war) is as much the right of the American people as the carrying the products of their own soil, and is not only secured by the law of nations, but by the positive provisions of the British treaty.—To us, sir, it is an all important right. We import from the West Indies, annually, property to the amount of forty millions of dollars, for which we

pay in the products of our own soil; of this, ten millions only are consumed in the United States, and the surplus thirty millions are exported to foreign countries, on which the American merchant pays three per centum on the duties to the United States, obtains the profits on the freight of thirty millions of dollars, and furnishes a market for American productions to the same amount. The honorable gentleman from Virginia said, that that little spot in Maryland, Baltimore, which was well fortified and secure from an attack, had unbounded influence, "that the lords of Baltimore" governed the representatives of Maryland in their votes on this subject. No, sir, every district of Maryland solemnly protests against submission to any foreign power, and I have no doubt, will approve the votes of their members on this floor, "to prepare for war," or for war itself, rather than submission.—Baltimore, by the industry and commercial enterprise of her citizens, has grown out of the sea into a great commercial city, has diffused the benefits of commerce into every section of the state, by making a great demand for the products of our soil and industry, and a consequent increase of price, whereby every foot of land in Maryland is made more valuable, and whereby the interest of every part of the state is identified with theirs; for this she is justly entitled to our respect. But, sir, she has no occasion to infuse her patriotic fire (so pre-eminent in the case of the Chesapeake) into the representatives of Maryland. They know the wishes of their constituents, and will most certainly obey them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope if the gentleman from Virginia will not defend the carrying of foreign articles, he will defend the carrying the products of our own soil, a right most disgracefully violated.—When our own citizens have been carrying provisions, the produce of their own soil, in their own ships, to feed the armies of England and her allies, on the continent of Europe, they have been captured on their homeward bound passage, on their own coast, and condemned in a British court of admiralty. If it does not inspire him, yet I am not without hopes that when he reflects on the impressments of our native American seamen carrying the products of our own industry to market, thousands of whom at this moment are languishing under the ignominious scourge, on board the infernal floating castles of Great Britain, he will feel like an American, devoted to avenge their wrongs. He has said that if Great Britain had an agency in exciting the Indians to the massacre of the troops under governor Harrison, he would avenge it. Sir, can he then feel less bound to avenge the slavery and death of American impressed seamen, committed directly by Britons themselves, than the death of citizens by the savages through the British agency? I should like to hear him exercise his logical talent in the discrimination of these cases, which, how-

B 2.

ever profound, would I presume be ineffectual to that purpose. Sir, the impressment of American seamen is of ancient date; the outrage was remonstrated against by our Washington, and by every administration since, and every diplomatic energy, in every administration, exerted to put a stop to this infamous practice, in vain.

Mr. Speaker, I ask honorable gentlemen if we are not bound by the most solemn ties to protect our seamen by all the lawful means we possess? I have ever considered, that protection and allegiance were reciprocal obligations, the counterparts of each other; that the protection of the citizen in his liberty was secured to him by the constitution, and every member of the government bound by oath to support that constitution securing to him that right. I ask should an impressed American seaman (who has been for seven years under the lash, and whom we had during that time neglected) be indicted for high treason, when found with our enemies in arms against us, should he plead specially that fact, would it avail him; and if it would not, how can we neglect to protect him in his liberty secured by the social compact, which we are bound by oath to execute. Mr. Speaker, it is well known that my sympathies have always been enlisted for this hardy and valuable class of our fellow citizens, who though poor, yet as "honest tars" proverbially, in a peculiar manner, are entitled to our protection.

Sir, we all recollect the capture of the Philadelphia by the Turks, and we can never forget how the news of so many of our fellow citizens being subjected to Turkish bondage in a moment electrized the sympathies of the American people; that a squadron was without delay dispatched to the Mediterranean, and a large sum of money voted for their ransom. But, sir, we have so long submitted to the British impressments of our seamen, that it has become an old story, and we seem to have set down easy under it instead of making them pay for it with interest. But, sir, the murder of Pierce in our own waters; the killing of our citizens in the Chesapeake; the hanging of Wilson in cold blood, taken out of that ship by violence; and the very recent case of the American citizen imprisoned into the Little Belt, and compelled to fight against his own countrymen who was killed in that action, are fresh in our recollection, and if these outrages which cry aloud for vengeance, do not animate you, I fear the sacred fire that inspired your fathers in the revolution is nearly extinguished, and the liberty of their degenerate sons in jeopardy.—Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia, has declared that if he could believe that the late massacre of the troops in the attack on governor Harrison by the Indians under the prophet, was the effect of British agency, he would unite with us heart and hand, and personally assist to avenge the bloody deed. I feel a confidence that if the gentleman will attend to the circumstances of this case, and take a retrospective view of the conduct of the British government he will feel no doubt of the fact. I will take the liberty of pointing the gentleman's attention to some of the prominent features of that government, which will go far in establishing the fact.—When Dunmore, governor of Virginia, in 1775, found it necessary to quit the seat of government, and go on board the fleet, for safety, from the revolutionary vengeance of the patriots of Virginia, at a period, too, when the Americans were suing for justice by their humble petitions to the king and parliament; and when that Chatham, the gentle-

man from Virginia has so highly extolled, was the advocate of our violated rights, Dunmore issued a proclamation inviting the negroes to his standard, to cut the throats of their masters, and promised them a pardon. This fact I know from having prevented that proclamation to a court at Northampton, in Virginia, to induce them to commute the punishment of death, (passed on some of the victims of his perfidy) to working in the mines: which they did. I will next remind the gentleman of the speech of lord Dorchester to the Indians, after the peace, in which he advises them to use the tomahawk and scalping knife, whereby, numbers of the inhabitants on the frontiers, of all ages, sexes and conditions were sacrificed. This was the cause of the Indian war that shortly after took place. This fact was tested by the news-papers of the day, which had universal credit.

These cases go to prove that the principles that ought to govern civilized nations, have at all times been totally disregarded by the officers and agents of that government. After these cases we shall feel little hesitation in believing there was a British agency in the case of the massacre by the Prophet's troops on governor Harrison's detachment, when the circumstances relied on are duly considered. At the late great council with governor Harrison, the chiefs of many tribes were convened, all of whom except Tecumseh, the Prophet's brother, in their speeches avowed their friendly dispositions, and devotion to peace with the United States—Tecumseh who, with a number of his tribe, came from Fort Malden, in Canada, declared his hostile intentions against the United States, left the council with that avowed intention and returned again to Fort Malden. Shortly after which, the Shawanese assembled a large body in arms in the Indiana territory, under the Prophet, and committed the assault on the troops of governor Harrison, though they have paid for their temerity. This, I trust, connected it is with the immorality and extravagant pretensions of that government at this crisis, will satisfy, not only the gentleman from Virginia, but this house, of a British agency in the case.

But to divert our attention from the wrongs of which we complain, the gentleman from Virginia tells us that our own restrictive system has undone us; that our cotton is reduced to seven cents, and our tobacco to nothing. Sir, there are now no restrictions to the exportation of these articles, and if that had been the cause, on its removal the effect would have ceased with it. No sir, we are to look for the cause of the reduction of the prices of our cotton and tobacco in the political and commercial history of Europe.—The price of our cotton depends on the demand for the manufactures of that article; the English made cottons depended on the continental markets, from which the British manufactures are excluded. The price of tobacco never was materially varied by the consumption in England, but depended on the foreign demand from Great Britain, which, by their exclusion from the continent, is almost entirely arrested. Sir, I examine with candor the cause of the reduction of the prices of these articles, we shall find that the retaliatory system of the two great belligerents produced it: The "British proclamation blockading system" of 1806, induced the continental blockade of 1807, and ultimately the interdiction of all supplies the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain to the continent.

America, ever faithful to herself, determined to preserve a state of neutrality, and not to commit

her destinies with either of the great belligerents who were deciding the rise and fall of empires, by the sword, and recording their destinies in blood. Our policy was peace, and in this we persevered with a degree of equanimity unexampled in the annals of the world: nor, sir, was the non-intercourse act, now so violently complained of by Great Britain, marked with the slightest shade of partiality. By that act, at the same time, and, as it were, *quo statu*, we offered to both nations the same terms, and agreed not to import any articles the growth, produce or manufacture of the other, her colonies or dependencies, on either revoking their edicts violating our neutral commerce, unless they should within three months thereafter revoke their edicts. The emperor of the French did revoke his decrees, but the British did not revoke their orders in council within the three months; but congress, in her peaceful policy, by a law, invited her, and authorised her to do it at any time, so that in fact she may be considered as fixing the restrictions of which she complains, on herself, as she has it in her power to remove them at her will and pleasure.

Sir, the monstrous pretensions insisted on by her minister near the United States, were not less exceptionable in their manner, than in their matter. However, the American minister, in a stile and manner that did honor to his head and his heart, detected and exposed their fallacies, and placed the United States on that high ground her just claims entitled her to hold, and gave a celebrity to that state paper, that it will be quoted with pride by the American statesman, as the mirror of British insolence.

Mr. Speaker—I regret that the gentleman from Virginia, should ascribe to gentlemen of the west, a disposition for war, with a view to raise the price of their hemp, or to the gentlemen of the north, with a view to raise the price of their beef and flour.—These, sir, are selfish motives, and such as I can not for a moment believe will be taken into consideration on deciding this important question; they will with every other section of the union unite in deciding on its merits; they will count the wrongs we have sustained; they will reflect that the honor, the interest and the very independence of the United States is directly attacked—they will, as guardians of the nation's rights, agreeably to the advice of the administration "put the United States into an armor and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and correspondent with the national spirit and expectations," they will prepare to chastise the wrongs of the British cabinet, which the president tells us, "have the character as well as the effect of war, on our lawful commercial rights, which no independent nation can relinquish." They will decide with the president, the executive organ of the nation's will, "that these wrongs are no longer to be endured." They will decide with the committee of foreign relations—"that forbearance longer to retaliate these wrongs has ceased to be a virtue," and, I hope they will decide with me, that submission is a crime; and, sir, if they will examine a document on that table, I mean the returns of the twelfth congress, and compare them with the eleventh—they will find nearly one half of the eleventh congress removed—this, sir, may correctly be considered as the sentence of the nation against the doctrine of submission.—It is certainly an expression of the nation's will, in a language not to be misunderstood, and too serious in its application not to be respected. We have also, sir, the expression of Maryland through her senate who unanimously approved the spirited resolutions, introduced by the late governor, who did not suffer his exposed situation, so

alarming in the opinion of the gentleman from Virginia, to deter him from doing his duty. We have also, sir, the resolutions of the legislature of Pennsylvania, an honest test of their non-submission principles. Mr. Speaker, I cannot forbear the remark, that while the gentleman from Virginia ascribes to the west and north interested motives, he confesses, that the situation of the blacks in the state he represents, impressed as they are with the new French principles of liberty, and their desire for the fraternal hug, are seriously to be feared; that these new principles have been taught them by the pearls from the East, who while they sell their trinkets inculcate these doctrines, he suffers his fears, for the state he represents in the event of a war on account of the blacks to interest him; and had he not told us that if the "*salute salam*" was touched, or that if there was a British agency in the late attack on governor Harrison, he would go to war—I should have been ready to conclude, that state of the blacks would be a permanent objection, no course could occur that would induce him to go to war.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia says, he expects to be charged with being under British influence; however, he disregarded it, I assure him I shall not be one of his accusers: I believe him governed by himself and influenced by pure American motives; and that if he saw the subject as I do, his bosom would burn with the same sacred fire to avenge our wrongs; and was I to hear him charged in his absence with British influence, I should reject it, notwithstanding he has told us in a prideful manner, that he has descended from British ancestors; that from a Shakespeare he had formed his taste, from a Locke his mind, from a Chatham his politics, from a Sidney his patriotism, and from a Tillotson his religion. Mr. Speaker had I been that honorable member, I should have boasted a nobler line of ancestry, I should have claimed my descent from the beardless Powhatan and the immortal Pocahontas, and I should have taken as models from my own state, a Henry for my eloquence, a Jefferson for my politics, a Washington for my patriotism, and a Madison, or rather the oracles of revelation, for my religion. But, sir, I am myself so much a Roman, that I can truly say in their language,

Ant genus aut proavos, aut qua non fecimus ipse,
vix ea nostra voco.

*Honor and shame from no condition rise,
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.*

Sir, the charge of foreign influence, and the re-primand of one political party by the other, are unpleasant things. I should rejoice to see the curtain of oblivion drawn over them, and all uniting under the nobler distinction of American. I, sir, feel it due to the federalists of Maryland to declare, that when the outrage was committed on the Chesapeake, they expressed an equal zeal to avenge the wrong and to volunteer their services, under the standard of their common country. Nor, sir, can I, from the pleasing aspect this house presented when acting on the first resolution, feel a doubt that they will, on all proper occasions, zealously co-operate in protecting the solid interests of this country, to which their destinies are committed.

Sir, I sincerely regret that the gentleman from Virginia should treat with so much freedom, that class of society, which in case of a war must make the standing army. It was illy calculated to aid the recruiting service, to call them "the scourgings of the seaports, to be collected by the scavengers of the army," "engines of despotism," ever dangerous to liberty. This could have no good effect.

That there is a mixed society in the seaports I admit, adventurers from all nations, but the great mass of our people is truly respectable, and I trust the honesty of their principles is not to be measured by any standard of wealth. The usual bounty and pay with the 160 acres of land, and the love of their country, will induce respectable young men to enlist, they will never suffer those rigors, *their inheritance*, purchased by the blood of their fathers of the revolution, to be lost by a degeneracy of their sons. I wish gentlemen, when they speak of the soldiery, would recollect how they came into this house, and by whose blood the independence of the United States was purchased. Sir, if they will examine their own history they will find that the tax in blood was paid by the poor in the ratio of sixty-four to four, the number of privates when compared with the officers, and indeed they will find that many of the best officers were poor. Sir, we know many of the privates of that army who are now among the most respectable of our citizens.

Sir, we have forgot the disinterested patriotism of Paulding, a Williams and a Vanwert, who conducted Andre to the gibbet? They were poor, but honest—gold could not corrupt them.

Mr. Speaker, the same patriotism that inspired their fathers yet inspires their sons—We have with national pride seen a Summers, a Wadsworth and an Israel, to liberate their brothers in arms from Turkish slavery, perform a prodigy of valor unexampled in the pages of history: It has been honorably recorded in the archives of congress, and their monuments in the navy yard will ever be dear to American seamen, and an evidence of the magnanimity of the naval officers, who at their own expense, erected them, and who, in a war for their impressed brother tars, I have no doubt would distinguish themselves whenever an occasion presented it self.

But, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Virginia, could he be reconciled to a war and a regular army, would have, as he tells us, insuperable difficulties on account of a commander in chief; he says we have no Washington, and that our present chieftain is an "acquitted felon." Sir, our Washington was little known at the commencement of the revolution, nor after he was known could his distinguished character secure him against intrigues to remove him from the command of the army; however, they fortunately failed. I am truly sorry, sir, that the delicacy of the situation of the gentleman from Virginia, and the more delicate situation of general Wilkinson, now under trial by a court-martial, had not restrained his invectives. In such a case the press is muzzled, nor ought such freedom of speech to be indulged in this house.

I hope I shall be excused from presenting the resolution of that congress who were distinguished in history as a "constellation of worthies," testing the early, the active and distinguished services of general Wilkinson, a native of Maryland, with whom I have long been acquainted:

Nov. 6, 1777, in Congress, Resolved, that col. James Wilkinson, adjutant general of the northern army, in consideration of his services in that department; and being strongly recommended by general Gates, as a gallant officer and promising military genius, and having brought the dispatches to congress giving an account of the surrender of lieutenant general Burgoyne and his army on the 17th of October last, be continued in his present employment, with a brevet of brigadier-general of the army of the United States.

Nov. 6, 1778, Congress proceeded to the election of a secretary of the board of war and ordnance, the ballots being taken, James Wilkinson, esq. was elected. Again, on the 6th of March, 1778, we find this record of his patriotism and magnanimity, "a letter of the 3d, from James Wilkinson was read, setting forth 'that he is informed the marked distinction conferred on him, has occasioned a dissatisfaction in the army,' that 'to obviate any embarrassment that may result from the disposition by the consequent resignation of officers of merit, he begs leave to relinquish his brevet of brigadier, wishing to hold no commission, unless he can wear it to the honor and advantage of his country, and that his conduct however repugnant to fashionable ambition he finds consistent with those principles for which he early drew his sword in the present contest.'"—Resolved, that his resignation be accepted.

Here is a record of his having distinguished himself in his early youth, in the opinion of congress, who presented him with a sword which he wore with distinction to the end of the war.

Mr. Speaker, we find him afterwards in the confidence of the great Washington, when president of the United States, whose penetration and knowledge of him taught him to appreciate his worth, whose confidence he retained to his death. We find him in the confidence of every administration, the favorite of his country, until he nipped Burr's treasons in the bud, and had brought the traitor nearly to the gibbet, and had sent on a number of choice spirits, connected with him in the works of treason, to be dealt with according to their crimes; an offence of too deep a dye ever to be forgiven by them and their powerful friends. Hence although he received the approbation of his government and the plaudits of a grateful country, he drew down upon himself a train of persecutors and slanderers, of whose history you are all informed; of whom, I have no hesitation in saying, that if they were prosecuted for their forgeries and perjuries with half the zeal that he has been persecuted, I really believe would not be called "*acquitted felons*." Sir, was the gentleman from Virginia correctly informed on the subject, such are my impressions of his magnanimity and justice, that he would be enrolled with the friends of the general, and that he would consign his prosecutors and accusers to the obloquy they so justly merit.

But, sir, from a militia of nearly eight hundred thousand, we can never be at a loss to create a regular army of thirty or forty thousand; nor, sir, can our liberties ever be endangered by that army, while we have an armed militia of seven hundred thousand, composed at least of as good materials—Nor, sir, can we be at a loss for a commander of that army, even should general Wilkinson be slandered out of the confidence of the nation—We certainly have patriots and soldiers of talents and enterprise, who would have the confidence of the nation, and who would lead her army to honor and glory, and crown their arms with success.

French Marine.

HAMBURG, Sept. 27.—In the name of his majesty the emperor of the French, &c. &c. the commission of the government established by the decrees of the 18th December, 1810, considering the decree of his majesty, dated 26th December, 1810, ordering that a maritime administration and navigation police should be established in the Hanseatic departments, conformably to the law and regulations in force in

France upon the report of the counsellor of state, intendant of the interior and finance, decrees as follows :

Art. 1. There shall be taken throughout the Hanseatic department, a particular account of French citizens who are destined to navigation.

2. The offices for maritime inscription are provisionally established at Hamburg and Lunenburg; at Travemünde for the arrondissement of Lubeck; at Stadte, for the arrondissement of Stadte; at Bremerich, for the departments of the mouths of the Weser; and at Varel, for the department of the Upper Ems.

3. These are comprehended in the maritime inscription,—

1. Sailors of every description, whether navigating armed or merchant ships.

2. Those who navigate, or fishermen.

3. Those who sail in barges or boats upon the coasts or in the roads, rivers or canals, comprehended in the maritime districts.

4. There shall be included in the maritime conscription, every citizen aged 18, who has fulfilled one of the following conditions—

1. The having performed two long voyages, or to the grand fishery.

2. Having been at sea 18 months.

3. Having been employed in the coasting fishery two years.

4. Having served two years apprenticeship to the sea.

5. All foreign sailors residing in the territory of the empire, who have married French women, and sailed in French merchant ships, are subject to the maritime inscription.

6. The already mentioned sailors are bound to present themselves at the office of maritime inscription in the district where they reside, and have their names inscribed.

7. Carpenters, sailmakers, &c. &c. exercising their profession in maritime ports and places, shall be called to the military ports in the event of war, preparations for war, or of extraordinary or considerable works. There shall be kept an exact registry in the offices of inscription, and they shall be exempt from all other requisitions than those relative to the maritime service.

8. Every French citizen comprehended in the maritime inscription, are exempted from all other services than those of the navy, marine arsenals, and the national guard, in the arrondissement of their districts.

9. Every sailor who has sustained the full age of fifty years, is, by right, exempt from the requisitions for the ships or arsenals of the empire, without, however, losing the power of continuing the employment of fishing, or even of serving in the ships of the state.

10. There shall be granted to enrolled sailors, pensions according to their rank, age, wounds or infirmities. These pensions will be paid according to their services on board the ships and arsenals of the empire, and the merchant vessels.

11. The length of service of the three departments either in the merchants' service or on board of ships of war, shall be computed agreeable to the article 205 of the imperial decree of the 4th of July 1811, as if it had taken place on board of French ships, and give the same right to half-pay and pensions upon the invalid marine chest.

12. The widows and children of sailors shall have the same claims to assistance and succours, as those of military men who died in the service.

13. The patents delivered to captains, &c. according to articles one and two of the first of March, are abolished.

14. All captains, &c. navigating the river, or on the coasts of the 32d military division, will from hence to the first of November next, provide themselves with a role d'équipage, at the maritime office of inscription.

15. Every captain, &c. who, after the first of November, sails upon the rivers, coasts, &c. of the 32d military division, and has not conformed to the dispositions of the present decree, shall be punished with eight days imprisonment, without prejudice to still greater penalties, should there be occasion to inflict them.

Given at the palace at Hamburg, September 27.

(Signed) *The marshal prince of Eckmühl.*

Miscellaneous.

DENMARK.—Much has been done in Denmark of late years, for the education of the poor.—

Schools for the peasants and the poor have long been established throughout the country; but partly they were too few; partly the masters were not sufficiently paid; and therefore mostly compelled to seek a livelihood by other employments. The law passed in October 1806, directs that the country shall be divided into school districts, in each of which there is to be a school, and no district must be larger than the children may, as to the distance, attend without inconvenience. A decent income, with a free house, is appointed for the masters; and all parents are compelled to send their children regularly to school after the age of seven years. The children are divided according to their age and proficiency, into different classes, which are to attend the school at different times of the day and week, so that no child is taken away from its parents more than a part of the day. Instruction is to be given in reading, writing, arithmetic and religion, and to those who have capacity and inclination for it, in the history and geography of their country. None are to be dismissed from school before they can read both print and plain writing, and give a rational account of the principles of christianity. Those regulations are, for the first, limited to the islands of Zealand, Funen, Coland, and Galster; but after they have been tried, they will, no doubt, perhaps with some alterations and improvements, be extended to all the rest of Denmark.

From a statement laid before the king, by the supreme court of justice at Copenhagen, of all criminals in the Danish dominions—including Iceland and the India colonies—on whom sentence was passed in the year 1806, it appears that 205 criminals, of whom 18 were executed, were in that year sentenced to corporal punishment: 5 for murder, 8 for other capital crimes, 7 for forgery—the rest for inferior offences—and that the number of criminals bears a proportion to the whole population as one to 10,000.

Andrew Olsen Dun, an inhabitant of Overhalden, has attempted to make cloth with the hair of cattle. He has been completely successful by mixing the hair with wool before it is wrought.

A Remark.—General WAYNE is remembered by the Indians under the name of *Big Wind* or *Tornado*. Was ever an appellation more appropriate?

Birth.—The princess of Bavaria has been delivered of a son, which has been baptized *Charles Anthony Maximilian Joachim Zephyrus Frederick Meinrad*.

State of Kentucky.

COUNTIES.	In 1790.			In 1800.			In 1810.		
	Free white.	Slaves	Total.	Free white.	Slaves	Total.	Free white.	Slaves	Total.
Adair	14,626	3,750	18,376	9,710	4,220	14,020	13,490	7,000	21,310
Nelson	10,032	1,218	11,315	7,918	1,902	9,860	10,940	3,116	14,076
Woodford	6,963	2,220	9,210	4,502	2,107	6,624	6,153	3,414	9,659
Bourbon	6,929	905	7,837	10,627	2,136	12,825	13,650	4,169	18,009
Mercer	5,745	1,339	7,091	7,297	2,316	9,644	9,290	3,284	12,630
Lincoln	5,440	1,094	6,548	6,821	1,776	8,624	6,307	2,341	8,676
Jefferson	3,863	897	4,765	6,325	2,406	8,751	8,930	4,347	13,399
Madison	5,035	737	5,772	8,761	1,726	10,490	12,481	3,037	15,540
Mason	2,500	229	2,729	10,347	1,747	12,184	10,092	2,422	12,459
Jessamine				3,879	1,561	5,461	5,558	2,483	8,377
Scott				6,086	1,910	8,007	8,599	3,732	12,419
Bracken				2,219	243	2,476	3,317	358	3,706
Harrison				3,925	40	4,350	6,638	1,105	7,752
Pendleton				1,362	240	1,604	2,674	386	3,061
Clarke				6,083	1,561	7,663	8,562	2,934	11,519
Montgomery				6,344	767	7,082	11,171	1,767	12,975
Fleming				4,732	251	5,016	8,381	549	8,947
Floyd				447	31	478	3,370	115	3,485
Franklin				3,687	1,369	5,078	5,756	2,201	8,013
Gallatin				960	329	1,291	2,607	638	3,307
Boone				1,194	325	1,531	2,914	656	3,608
Campbell				1,622	279	1,913	2,991	472	3,473
Henry				2,848	406	3,258	5,629	1,137	6,777
Nicholas				2,597	322	2,923	4,368	509	4,898
Garrard				5,021	1,269	6,286	7,088	2,083	9,186
Bullet				2,564	969	3,542	3,321	976	4,311
Green				5,257	836	6,096	5,265	1,401	6,735
Lumberland				3,012	236	3,284	5,266	922	6,191
Shelby				6,681	1,487	8,191	11,721	3,114	14,877
Harden				3,317	325	3,653	6,563	940	7,531
Wicksenridge				765	41	809	2,919	505	3,430
Dick				1,009	151	1,223	3,245	533	3,792
Palmer				2,928	232	3,161	6,439	468	6,897
Knox				1,044	62	1,119	5,528	307	5,875
Henderson				1,076	390	1,468	3,169	1,514	4,703
Winnington				2,396	456	2,856	2,932	718	3,674
Christian				2,021	297	2,318	9,235	1,766	11,020
Logan				4,939	775	5,807	9,468	2,486	12,123
Warren				4,251	431	4,686	10,422	1,498	11,937
Hicklenburg				1,313	125	1,443	3,696	480	4,181
Warren				4,279	505	4,784	9,552	1,724	11,286
Washington				7,611	1,422	9,050	10,981	2,245	13,248
Adair							5,050	956	6,011
Butler							1,899	274	2,181
Casey							3,039	242	3,283
Clay							2,257	141	2,398
Caldwell							3,685	579	4,268
Estle							1,948	133	2,082
Greenup							1,874	484	2,369
Grayson							2,198	103	2,301
Hopkins							2,551	412	2,964
Lewis							2,072	284	2,357
Rockcastle							1,568	163	1,731
Wayne							5,200	230	5,430
TOTALS.	61,133	12,430	73,677	179,871	40,343	220,950	324,237	80,561	406,511

Tennessee.

Davison	6,861	3,087	9,965	9,173	6,305	15,608
Smith	3,332	1,284	4,616	9,961	3,734	13,792
Smith	3,693	597	4,294	9,424	2,201	11,649
W. son	2,523	729	3,261	9,471	2,297	11,952
W. hamson	2,174	693	2,868	2,156	3,985	13,153
Robertson	3,414	863	4,280	5,623	1,608	7,270
Montgomery	1,998	821	4,819	5,386	2,629	8,021
Knox	11,128	1,298	12,445	8,876	1,271	10,171
Blount	5,240	313	5,557	11,058	1,011	12,098

Tennessee—continued.

COUNTIES.	In 1800.			In 1810.		
	Free whites.	Slaves.	Total.	Free whites.	Slaves.	Total.
Sevier	3,255	162	3,419	4,296	291	4,587
Granger	6,871	496	7,367	5,678	537	6,397
Jefferson and Cooke (for 1800—Jefferson alone for 1810)	8,295	695	9,017	6,442	783	7,305
Hawkins	5,667	811	6,563	6,697	930	7,647
Carter	4,569	208	4,813	3,828	262	4,190
Sullivan	9,710	491	10,218	6,071	773	6,847
Washington	5,821	533	6,379	6,851	850	7,744
Green	7,137	471	7,610	9,046	655	9,719
Cooke				4,702	436	5,154
CLAIRBORNE				4,436	327	4,799
CAMPBELL				2,507	103	2,668
ANDERSON				2,691	260	3,959
ROANE				4,896	670	5,581
REEA				2,290	214	2,504
BEDFORD				7,057	1,181	8,242
DICKSON				3,530	981	4,516
FRANKLIN				5,020	708	5,734
GILES				3,813	735	4,548
HICKMAN				2,332	245	2,587
HUMPHRIES				1,366	132	1,511
JACKSON				4,912	481	5,401
LINCOLN				5,382	720	6,104
OVERTON				5,282	365	5,645
RUTHERFORD				7,527	2,701	10,365
STEWART				3,465	779	4,261
WHITE				3,745	283	4,028
WARREN				5,241	476	5,725
MAURY				9,722	2,621	10,355
TOTALS	91,709	13,584	105,602	125,875	44,535	166,722

Ohio.

[For next page.]

Jefferson	8,751	8,763	17,136	17,261
Washington	5,409	5,427	5,943	5,991
Adams	3,417	3,432	9,413	9,134
Hamilton	14,692	14,692	15,100	15,258
Wayne	3,067	3,206		
Ros	8,415	8,510	15,144	15,514
Trumbull	1,298	1,363	8,616	8,671
ATHENS			2,787	2,791
BELMONT			11,004	11,097
BUTLER			11,071	11,150
CATAHOGA			1,445	1,449
CHAMPAIGN			6,238	6,301
CLERMONT			9,928	9,565
CLINTON			2,665	2,674
COLUMBIANA			10,779	10,878
DELAWARE			1,950	2,004
FAIRFIELD			11,320	11,361
FAYETTE			1,850	1,851
FRANKLIN			3,443	3,480
GALLIA			4,166	4,181
GEauga			2,914	2,917
GUERNEY			3,044	3,051
GREEN			5,834	5,870
HIGHLAND			5,640	5,760
KNOX			2,137	2,144
LICKING			3,844	3,852
MADISON			1,591	1,603
MIAMI			3,921	3,491
MONTGOMERY			7,668	7,722
MUSKINGUM			9,961	10,004
PICKAWAY			7,155	7,121
PORTAGA			2,984	2,991
PREBLE			3,279	3,281
SCIOTO			3,371	3,392
STARK			2,727	2,734
TUSCARAWA			3,031	3,046
WARREN			9,836	9,925
TOTALS	45,028	45,365	219,861	220,761

NOTE FOR THE PRECEDING PAGE.

Ohio became a state in 1802—the census of which follows (for 1800), contains the then population of the counties named, forming a district of country at that time called the “Territory of the United States N. W. of the Ohio.”

American Antiquities.

FROM THE MERCURY.

Chillicothe, Nov. 6, 1811.

Mr. GILLELAND.—In a former letter I promised to send you a description of the ruins of an Indian city which has been discovered in this state.

I was upon an electioneering excursion some weeks ago, when I came in company with Mr. De Voss, a gentleman who lives about eleven miles from this place (Chillicothe) and he politely invited me to his house. On our way thither we passed an Indian mound, which I made some remarks upon, and then enquired of him whether there were not in his part of the country some antiquities that one might conveniently visit. He replied that there were some on his farm (for they are all farmers there) which would highly gratify the curiosity, and that if I had any curiosity, he would go with me to examine them.

On the next morning we rose early and proceeded to examine a fortification which is on the *level summit of a high hill*. It contains about one hundred acres, and is enclosed by a *stone wall*, which (if we may judge from the quantity of stones, for it is in ruins) must have been twelve or fifteen feet high and four or five thick. Within the area there are about thirty furnaces, from some of which I took cinders that resemble in every way those formed in blacksmith's forges. From some of them I got pieces of burnt unwrought clay that look somewhat like pumice stone, but are of a pale blue color. Those lying on the surface of the earth are covered with coats of *rusty mail*, which probably had lain there since the days of Lycurgus.

The fort is nearly circular, and has, if I recollect rightly, ten passes or gates, which are placed at regular distances from each other.

At one of these passes, and on the outside, there is the appearance of a well or spring enclosed, with a stone wall. This well was intended, I suppose, to supply water to those who might have occupied the fort, as there is nothing like a spring or watering place within the limits of it.

There are trees now growing in this fortification which are four or five feet in diameter, and they appear to have been preceded by a race still more gigantic, if we may judge from the long traces left by those that have roited into their native dust. Some of the largest grew out of the foundation of the wall in places where the stone had tumbled down on the side of the hill.

These things shew the antiquity of the work, but there are things that shew it to have been also a work of great labour; for there are no stones that could be used for building, within a mile of the ruins, except in Paint Creek, which runs by the edge of a hill; but the creek stones are of a very different kind from those used in the wall.

At the bottom of the hill on the south west side are the ruins of the *town*, or rather *city*. The cellars and the stone foundations of the houses still remain. The streets are in regular squares. Near it there is a large mound perfectly level to the top.—It was from all appearances the residence of a warlike race; but a description of it will form the subject of a future communication.

The wildest speculations have often proved to be the most correct, and conjecture or accident are the leaders to the discoveries of experience.

But on this subject the first impressions will probably with most people be the last; and the general opinion will be still generally admitted as the true.

The notion of bishop Madison of Virginia that those ancient works, whose remains appear in our country, were never intended as fortresses, is the most *outré* that I have known to be advanced. I think he has not had the opportunity of viewing any one built of *stone*. Very few, I presume, who have examined for themselves, will believe that these works contain the fixed habitations of the people who erected them. The situation of these fortifications (for I will venture to call them so) must have rendered them every way inconvenient for the settled residence even of a warlike people, and present only the advantage of security.

Placed on the summits of hills they screened those within them from all missile weapons and from all weapons I suppose, their antediluvian inhabitants were acquainted with. The face of the hill formed the *glacis* and superceded the necessity of a *fosse*.

Of that long destroyed race of people we know nothing except what we learn from their works; even their traditions have sunk with them into a common grave. But we have enough left in these vestiges of their labors and their wars to convince us that they were much more civilized than the present Indian inhabitants of any portion of our continent.

Concerning the origin of the Indians there have been numerous, learned, profound and original conjectures. To me the one that seems most reasonable, is, that they are degenerated branches of the nations which erected these works; and those nations were originally from Asia, and if so, probably they are Scythians. Among the little of the national traits of character, that these branches bear to the other representatives of their original stock.

I am, my dear sir, with the sentiments of friendship and esteem, yours, &c.

JAMES FOSTER.

Militia of Maryland.

OFFICIAL RETURN—1811.

Major-generals 3. Brigadier-generals 12. Adjutant-general 1. Aids-de-camp 6. Brigade-majors and inspectors 12. Quarter-master-generals, &c. Lieut. Colonels 40. Majors 82. Adjutants 42. Quarter masters 33. Surgeons and surgeons mates 73. Captains 447. Lieutenants and ensigns 871. Sergeants 1633. Musicians 448. Rank and file 28,193.

Arms belonging to the state.—Rifles 530. Muskets 3889, chiefly with bayonets and cartridge boxes, complete, and some small stores, or appendages.

There are 40 regiments or battalions of infantry—12 brigades, and including the officers, 39,539 men. *Cavalry.*—Major 1. Captains 32. Lieutenants and cornets 94. Sergeants 106. Rank and file 1135—in all including the officers 1385 men.

Artillery.—Captains 12. Lieutenants 29—men 423. Field pieces 22.

Of the *Regimen* no particular return is given.—Total militia 41,410.

The return contains a minute detail of all the arms and ammunition belonging to the state lying in deposit. Among them we notice 2400 new muskets, a quantity of old ditto fit for service; 5,800 new cartridge boxes and 250 pair (new) horseman's pistols.