Postage of the Register.

Having understood that some doubt existed as to the "legal character" of the "Weekly Register," and that pamphlet price had been exacted, in certain cases, as the postage of it, I felt it a duty to myself and subscribers to appeal at once, to the highest authority, and have the point settled. The following letter from the gentleman who presides over the post-office department with so much honor to himself and usefulness to his country, will silence all doubts on the subject; it is copied word for word from the original.

The following are the rates of postage which may be legally demanded for the Register—for each paper, to be carried not over 100 miles, one cent; if over 100 miles, one cent and a half—but to any part of the state (Maryland) in which it is printed, be the distance what it may, the postage is only one cent.

General Post-Office, January 13th, 1812.

Sir—Yours of the 6th is before me, as well as your former letter on the same subject. The delay of this answer has arisen partly from a multiplicity of business, and partly from a serious doubt of the legal character of your publication. But I am now satisfied and admit your publication to be a newspaper and to be rated as Newpaper Postage.

With esteem,

G. GRANGER.

H. NILES, Baltimore, Editor.

The Legislature of Maryland.

Adjourned on Tuesday evening, the 7th instant, after a long and busy session, in which upwards of 210 acts (124 of which were public) were passed, and many other important matters done.

The resolutions introduced into the Senate by Mr. Lloyd, (see Weekly Register, page 222,) were approved in the house of delegates—yes 34, nays 23. Previous to the final vote on these resolutions, Mr. C. Dorsey offered the following to their stead:

"Whereas the President of the United States, in his message to congress at the opening of the present session of that honorable body, has signified, that unless an accommodation of our differences with Great Britain should speedily take place, a regular force will be requisite for the vindication of our neutral rights and recommended 'a system of more ample provision for maintaining them.'—This general assembly, feeling at all times disposed to cooperate with the government in giving effect to measures calculated to maintain the dignity and support the independence of the union, and believing that "taking care always to keep ourselves in a respectable defensive posture," is the best security for the permanent enjoyment of the blessings of peace—therefore,

Resolved, that national honour and sound policy call imperiously on congress to put the country into an armour and attitude demanded by the crisis and corresponding with the national spirit and expectation.

Resolved, that in the event of the United States being compelled to resort to the exercise of the "terrible right of war," (so severely to be deprecated) the freemen of Maryland will demonstrate to the world, that they are prepared to renew the pledge given by their fathers for the defence of American liberty,—"their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor." A bill for taxing bank stock which passed the house of delegates by a considerable majority, was, after much debate, rejected in the senate by the casting vote of the president.

The legislature has made liberal provision for the Penitentiary—also appropriated $1600 per annum to St. John's College, and $25,000 per annum for the support of county schools. They have also passed a new assessment bill chiefly conformable to the old law.

The following resolution was adopted by both branches of the legislature.—We are informed that the $30,000 thereby invested in the banks was offered to the government of the United States, and declined.

"Resolved, That the treasurer of the Western Shore shall be, and he is hereby authorised and empowered to subscribe, on the part of the state, on account of the stock reserved in the Commercial and Farmer's Bank of Baltimore, 25,000 dollars; in the Hager's town Bank, 5000 dollars; in the Elkton Bank of Maryland 10,000 dollars; in the Merchant's and Farmer's Bank of Baltimore, 15,000 dollars; in the Franklin Bank of Baltimore, 15,000 dollars, and in the Marine Bank of Baltimore 10,000 dollars, and that the amount thereof be paid out of any unappropriated money in the treasury.

"The per cent of the members has been raised to four dollars—a very proper and prudent provision. As opportunity offers, we may further notice the proceedings of the session. It is however pleasing to remark that the legislature with wise liberality has clipped its hand more deeply into the public treasury than, perhaps, on any former occasion—and that an uncommon harmony existed among the members.

A voice in the Wilderness.

Legislature of Ohio.

Resolution of the general assembly of the state of Ohio, relating to the foreign affairs of the United States.

The occasion, which induces this measure, impresses the general assembly of Ohio with a full sense of the possibility consequent on its adoption.

The effects of the two principal belligerents of C C.
Europe to weaken and humiliate each other, have fallen upon this strictly neutral land, like a scourge from heaven. The property, the persons and the lives of our people have been insulted by the reckless hand of unprincipled power. This assembly have watched the unhappily progress of hellenistic outrage and aggression with painful concern. A retrograde type of the sufferings, injuries and insults which have flowed to this country, from a positively characteristic system of maritime depredation, must elevate the mind of every American to the posture of not yielding resistance.

The conduct of the government of France in rescinding the Berlin and Milan decrees, has, as it respects the United States, manifested a disposition to return to the paths of justice; and in its nature a tacit acknowledgment of the violence and wrong committed against the external principles of equity and the laws of nations; and carries with it an implied engagement to make fair and ample restitution for their depredations on our neutral commerce. And we have the utmost confidence in the vigilance and firmness of Congress; and that they will insist on a full and prompt indemnity for the aforesaid spoliations; and that they will meet the late restrictions on our commerce, in the municipal regulations of that nation, by corresponding restrictions, so as to ensure an equality of rights so far as may be to our citizens.

The conduct of Great Britain towards this country, is a gross departure from the known and established law of nations. Our requests, as well those derived through the immergence of nations as those secured by compact, have been outraged without acknowledgment—even without remorse. Solemn stipulations by treaty, and implied engagements in good faith, have been given place to partial, selfish, and depraved policy. Life, liberty and property, have been the sport of measures, unjust, cruel, and without a parallel. The flag of freedom and impartial neutrality has been unnecessarily insulted. Years of the widows, and orphans of murdered Americans have flowed in vain. Our counsels have been torn from the embrace of liberty and plenty. The cords of conjugal, filial, fraternal, and personal affection have been broken. Almost every sea and ocean buoy on its impartial surface, the victims of capture and imprisonment. Vain is every effort and sacrifice for an honorable state of safety and tranquility. Mission has followed mission—remonstrance has followed remonstrance—obstructions has stepped on the heels of forbearance, till the mind revolts at the thought of a prolonged endurance. Will the freemen of a still favored soil unresistingly groan under the pressure of such ignominy and insult?

This assembly looks back on the conduct of the government of the United States, relating to foreign affairs with a consolation unmutilated with the recollection of a single act of injustice, or partiality, towards either of the European belligerents. In a retrospective view of the President's department towards us, we feel a satisfaction, which alone can flow, from an entire, and unimpeachable probity of his conduct. The sentiments expressed in his communication to Congress, at the opening of the present session, have given new and abundant evidence of his fitness for the high station he occupies. The measures he recommends are not only just, but are rendered indispensable, from the critical posture of our national affairs. The attitude he advocates towards Congress to assume, at this momentous period—in the destinies of the American republic, is to the best interests of the United States, and six years residence in the state—inevitable for the succeeding years.
The lieutenant governor, elected in the same manner as governor, and for some term—to be president of the senate; when that body is in committee, to vote and debate in the same manner as the rest of the members. In case of death or disability of governor, he is to act in his stead—and in failure of both, the president elected by the senate to officiate.

The judicial power is confided to a supreme court of errors and appeals, and to such other inferior courts as may be created.

The judiciary for such offences as are not impeachable, may be removed from office, on the joint address of three fourths of each branch of the legislature. The upf (in a file) to office (except in the militia) to be made by the governor and senate.

Militia officers, below the rank of major, to be elected by the persons composing the companies:

Those above, by the officers.

Congressional Reports,

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of the legislative council and house of representatives of the Mississippi Territory, and the petitions of sundry citizens therefor, praying to be admitted into the Union of the United States, on an equal footing with the original states; and also, the petitions of the inhabitants of West Florida, setting forth their desire to be annexed to said territory, for reasons therein contained, have had these subjects under consideration, and made a lengthy report in favor thereof—to which is annexed the following resolution, embracing the views of both petitions:

Resolved, That it is expedient to admit all that tract of country bounded north by a line drawn due east from the river Yazoo, where it unites with the Mississippi, to the river Chatahoochee, and down said river to the thirty-first degree of latitude, thence along said degree of latitude to a point opposite the river Perdido; thence to the confluence of said last mentioned river with the gulf of Mexico, and thence in a direct line through the middle of the lakes Maurepas and Ponchartrain, to the junction on the Iberville with the river Mississippi, and up said river to the above mentioned river Yazoo, into the Union of the United States, on an equal footing with the original states.

The committee to whom was referred the message of the president of the United States transmitting two letters from Governor Harrison, of the Indiana territory, reporting the particulars and the issue of the expedition under his command against the hostile Indians on the Wabash, and to whom also was referred the memorial of the general assembly of the Indiana territory, and the memorial of the officers and soldiers of the militia of Knox county, in the Indiana territory who served in the late campaign under the command of governor Harrison, have made a very honorable report on behalf of the said officers and soldiers, which concludes with the following resolutions:

1st. Resolved, That one month's pay ought to be allowed, in addition to the common allowance, to the officers, (according to the rank which they hold) the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regulars, volunteers, and militia, and to the legal representatives of those who were killed, or have since died of their wounds, composing the army under the command of governor Harrison, in the late campaign on the Wabash.

2d. Resolved, That five years half pay ought to be allowed to the legal representatives of the officers, according to the rank which they hold the non-commissioned officers and privates of the volunteers and militia, who were killed in the battle of 7th November, 1811, or who have since died of their wounds.

3d. Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law to place on the pension list, the officers, (according to the rank which they hold) the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the volunteers and militia, who served in the late campaign on the Wabash, under the command of governor Harrison, and who have been wounded or disabled in the said campaign.

4th. Resolved, That the further time of years ought to be allowed to the officers and soldiers who were wounded, and to the legal representatives of those who were killed in the said battle, to complete the payments due which may fall due to the United States on any purchase of the public lands made by them before the said battle.

Mint.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

1st. I have now the honor of laying before you a report of the operations of the mint during the last year.

With the exception of a few weeks, after the expiration of the charter of the bank of the United States, the supply of bullion, now furnished chiefly by the other banks in this city, has never been more abundant.

From the treasurer's statement of the last year's coinage, which is herewith transmitted, it will appear that during that period there have been struck and issued—in gold coins, 59,981 pieces, amounting to 497,905 dollars; in silver coins, 1,922,386 pieces, amounting to 608,340 dollars; in copper coins, 281,165 pieces, amounting to 2,495 dollars 65 cents; making in the whole, 1,599,570 pieces of coin, amounting to 1,100,780 dollars 95 cents.

I have, sir, the honor to be, with sentiments of the greatest respect and esteem, your most obedient servant,

R. Patterson.

James Madison,
President of the United States.

Estimates for the year 1812.

(Founded on a peace establishment.)

Treasury Department, Dec. 31, 1811.

Sir,—I have the honor to transmit, herewith, the estimates of the appropriations proposed for the service of the year 1812; also a statement of the receipts and expenditures at the treasury, for the year ending on the 30th day of September, 1811.

The appropriations, as detailed in the estimates, amount, in the whole to six millions seven hundred and eighty-five thousand eight hundred and sixty-five dollars seventy-six cents: viz:

For the civil list, 638,690 $4
For miscellaneous expenses including the additional estimate at four for Indian trading houses 329,227 $2
For intercourse with foreign nations, 142,000 00
For the military establishment in-
cluding, 164,560 dollars for the In-
dian department, 3,161,277 80
For the naval establishment includ-
ing the marine corps, 2,504,699 60
Total amount, $6,783,865 60

The estimate of the secretary of the war depart-
ment is calculated on the whole number of troops
authorized by law; but it does not include the per-
manent annuities to certain Indian tribes, nor the
annual appropriation of 200,000 dollars for furnishing
arms for the militia, those objects being provid-
ed for by permanent laws. The sums which may
be actually expended in the year 1812, for those ob-
jects, are not therefore included in the aggregate
above stated.

The funds out of which appropriations may be
made, for the purposes aforesaid, are,
1. The sum of six hundred thousand dollars of
the proceeds of duties on imports and tonnage,
which will accrue in the year 1812; which sum is
by law annually reserved for the support of govern-
ment.
2. So much of the balances of appropriations un-
expended on the 31st of December, 1811, as is not
wanted to defray the expenses of that year.
3. The surplus of the revenue and income of the
United States which may accrue to the end of the
year 1812, after satisfying the objects for which ap-
propriations have heretofore been made.
4. The proceeds of such loan or loans as may be
authorized by congress.
I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,
your most obedient servant.

ALBERT GALLATIN.

The honorable the speaker,
of the house of representatives.

District Tonnage of the U. S.

Letter from the secretary of the treasury transmitting
an annual statement of the district tonnage of the
United States, on the 31st of December, 1810.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 12th, 1811.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit the annual
statement of the district tonnage of the United
States, on the 31st of December, 1810, together with an
explanatory letter of the Register of the treasury.
I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir,
your obedient servant.

ALBERT GALLATIN.

The ton, the speaker,
of the house of representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Dec. 12th, 1811.

Sir—I have the honor to transmit the annual
statement to 31st December, 1810, of the district
tonnage of the United States.

The registered tonnage is stated in said
abstract, at 294,269 03
The enrolled and licensed, at 405,316 69
The fishing vessels, at 35,167 48
Amounting to 1,424,782 27

The tonnage, on which duties were
collected during the same year, amounted as follows:
Registered tonnage paying duty on each voyage 876,391 89

Enrolled and licensed tonnage employ-
ed in the coasting trade, paying an
annual duty, 314,657 83
Fishing vessels the same, 30,708 90
Total amount of tonnage on which
duties were collected, 1,231,389 25

The amount of the registered tonnage
as examined and settled at the treas-
ury, from the accounts of the col-
lectors for the several districts, is
stated at 294,269 5 95 tons. This
aggregate is something more than
the true amount; to correct which,
lists of the outstanding registers are
prepared at the treasury, from the
marine records. Upon each col-
lector being furnished with a
list of outstanding registers (com-
prehending the number, name and
 tonnage of each vessel) applicable
to his district, he will be enabled
to correct the same by striking off
those vessels which no longer be-
long there. From these results,
a corrected statement will be exhi-
bited for the ensuing year. I beg
leave to observe, that on a former
occasion you referred to this mode;
and on which your communication
was made to the house of represen-
tatives of the United States, on
the 27th February, 1802,

984,269 50

The enrolled and licensed tonnage is
stated at the amount upon which
the annual duty was collected in
1810, on that description of tonnage,
as being the most correct, and
may be considered nearly the true
amount.

314,657 83

The fishing vessels the same, 30,708 90

The district tonnage of the U. States,
on 31st Dec. 1810, is estimated at
1,232,165 43

Of the registered tonnage, amounting
to before stated, to 984,269 5 95, it
has been ascertained that there
were engaged in the whole fishery
Enrolled and licensed, also in the
whole fishery,

3,249 72

Amounting to 3,598 01

It appears by the collectors’ abstracts that
127,675 86 95 tons new vessels were built in the
year 1810, whereas 102,479 72 05 tons were regis-
tered, and 25,096 14 05 tons were enrolled.
I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect,
sir, your most obedient humble servant,

JOSEPH NOURSE. Register.

Hon. Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>Permanently stationed</th>
<th>In temporary service</th>
<th>Localized &amp; under</th>
<th>Aggregated number of vessels</th>
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<td>Chippens</td>
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*First quarter 1860, being the last return.† Fourth quarter 1860, being the last return.*
THE WEEKLY REGISTER—TREASURY STATEMENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>Registered Tonnage</th>
<th>Licensed Tonnage</th>
<th>Licensed under 20 T.</th>
<th>Aggregation of each district</th>
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<td>South Quay, N. Carolina</td>
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<td>Ocracoke, N. Carolina</td>
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<td>4,287 56</td>
<td>1,014 71</td>
<td>455 31</td>
<td>52 71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newbern</td>
<td>4,468 28</td>
<td>1,185 91</td>
<td>1,550 09</td>
<td>152 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>3,297 95</td>
<td>1,451 14</td>
<td>1,799 48</td>
<td>625 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edenton</td>
<td>3,328 44</td>
<td>1,443 53</td>
<td>3,025 48</td>
<td>51 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>2,361 74</td>
<td>1,740 55</td>
<td>1,965 56</td>
<td>867 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td>396 84</td>
<td></td>
<td>304 65</td>
<td>518 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown, S. C.</td>
<td>36,120 86</td>
<td>7,231 71</td>
<td>8,512 42</td>
<td>807 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beaufort</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savannah, Georgia</td>
<td>4,134 40</td>
<td>6,029 21</td>
<td>1,494 81</td>
<td>917 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbury</td>
<td>197 55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick</td>
<td>36 41</td>
<td></td>
<td>361 53</td>
<td>187 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary's</td>
<td>456 87</td>
<td>1,506 57</td>
<td>176 02</td>
<td>5 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harlow</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marrica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth, N. Carolina</td>
<td>453 12</td>
<td>155 37</td>
<td>313 13</td>
<td>54 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>9,601 33</td>
<td>2,853 12</td>
<td>1,326 09</td>
<td>528 86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  |                  |                  |                      |                             |
| Total:           | 310,031 67       | 133,852 32       | 15,891 94            | 34,232 57                   |
|                  | 1,424,783 27     | 1,424,783 27     | 1,424,783 27         |                             |

RECAPITULATION.

The aggregate amount of tonnage of the several districts in the United States, on the 31st December, 1810, is stated at

Whereof: Permanent registered tonnage,
Temporary do do... 143,837 33

Total registered tonnage, Permanent enrolled and licensed tonnage,
Temporary do do 381,812 33

Total enrolled and licensed tonnage,
Licensed vessels under 20 tons, viz: Employed in the coasting trade,
Do in the cod fishery... 34,232 57

Total licensed under 20 tons,
As above, (a) Of the enrolled and licensed there were employed in the coasting trade,
Do do in the whale fishery,
Do do in the cod fishery... 397,701 32

It appears, by the collectors' abstracts, that 197,575 86 95ths tons new vessels were built in the year 1810, whereas 102,479 72 95ths were registered, and 25,096 14 95ths were enrolled.

JOSEPH NOURSE, Register.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

A statement exhibiting the amount of duties which accrued on merchandise, tonnage, ports and clearances, of delinquencies issued, on the exportation of foreign merchandise, of payments for bounties and allowances, and for expenses of collection, during the years 1809 and 1810:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Duties on Merchandise</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Ports &amp; Clearances</th>
<th>Delinquencies issued</th>
<th>Bounties &amp; Allowances</th>
<th>Gross Revenue</th>
<th>Expenses on Collection</th>
<th>Net Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>11,003,071</td>
<td>27,151,933</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22,660</td>
<td>4,706,608</td>
<td>48,940 18</td>
<td>7,022,156 92</td>
<td>494,928 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>16,601,711</td>
<td>77,169,161</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>23,328</td>
<td>3,899,146</td>
<td>2,298 05</td>
<td>12,952,922 96</td>
<td>489,382 87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Gross revenue for the year 1810... 12,925,179 95
Deduct interest and storage, 30,701 95

Gross revenue per statement (B)... 12,925,179 95

(A.)
A statement of the amount of American and foreign tonnage employed in foreign trade, for the year 1810, as taken from the records of the treasury.

American tonnage in foreign trade

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tons</td>
<td>906,434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>80,316</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total amount of tonnage employed in the foreign trade of the United States, 986,750

Proportion of foreign tonnage to the whole amount of tonnage employed in the foreign trade of the United States, 8.1 to 100

**Treasury Department, Register's office, Nov. 9, 1811.**

**Joseph Nourse, Register.**

**A statement exhibiting the value and quantities respectively of merchandise on which duties actually accrued during the year 1810, (consisting of the difference between articles paying duty imported, and those entitled to drawback re-exported,) and also the net revenue which accrued during that year, from duties on merchandise, tonnage, passports and clearances.**

**Goods paying duties ad valorem.**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dollars at 12 1/2 per cent</td>
<td>4,964,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,703,290</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>562,161</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional duty on 47,505,962 dollars at 2 1/2 per cent</td>
<td>1,195,174 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

47,969,561

b. Spirits, 4,457,588 gallons, at 28.3 cents (average) 1,572,063 44
c. Sagars, 29,312,307 pounds, 2.5 do. 743,556 08
d. Wines, 1,164,562 gallons, 34.8 do. 445,024 41
e. Teas, 6,017,726 pounds, 19.8 do. 1,014,691 17
f. Coffee, 5,852,082 do. 5 do. 292,604 10
f. Molasses, 7,631,698 gallons, 5 do. 332,584 10
f. All other articles, 660,276 89

From which deduct:

Bounties and allowances paid in 1810, 2,268 05
Duties refunded, after deducting therefrom duties collected on merchandise, the particular of which could not be ascertained, and difference in calculation, 31,082 20

3 1/2 per cent. retained on drawback, 12,402,312 69
Extra duty of 10 per cent. on merchandise imported in foreign vessels, 139,489 35
Extra duty of 10 per cent. on merchandise imported in foreign vessels, 87,779 69

Net amount of duties on merchandise, 12,689,381 71
Duties on tonnage, 127,697 40
Light money, 41,463 84
Duties on passports and clearances, 169,161 24
Sundry accounts not yet received, estimated at, 23,428
Gross revenue as per statement (A) 12,221,176 95
Deduct expenses of collection, 439,382 87

Net revenue, 12,452,788 08

**Treasury Department, Register's office, November 9, 1811.**

**Joseph Nourse, Register.**

**Explanatory statements and notes.**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dollars at 12 1/2 per cent.</td>
<td>3,832 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 1/2 per cent. retained on drawback, 2,268 05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra duty of 10 per cent. on merchandise imported in foreign vessels, 2,427 56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dollars, 1,201,434 43

b. Spirits, Grain,

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st proof 19,299 gallons at 28 cents, 19,299 76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d 9,21 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d 8,50 38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Giles’s Speech,

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
December 17, 1811.

The bill for raising an additional military force being under consideration; on motion of the hon. Mr. Anderson to strike out the word "en," for the purpose of inserting a smaller number of regiments, Mr. Giles rose, and submitted, in substance, the following observations.

Mr. Giles said he found himself, in a very unprepared state, called upon to oppose a very unexpected motion. The object of the mover had been very precisely expressed; but he had mentioned the number of twelve thousand infantry as preferable to twenty thousand, about the number provided for by the bill. Mr. Giles said it was also understood, that a force of ten thousand men of every description would more correspond with the executive views, and fully answer the executive requisition. This, he believed, was the fact, and should so consider it in the course of the observations he proposed to make. Notwithstanding this circum- stance, however, considering the late occurrences on our western frontiers, and the feelings of the western people so justly excited thereby, &c., he acknowledged that the motion had come from the most unexpected quarter of the union, and from a gentleman the most unexpected to him of all those who represent the western portion of the United States; because from the long course of military services honorable rendered by that gentleman during the revolutionary war, he must have become well acquainted with the absolute necessity of a due degree of momentum in military affairs. Mr. Giles said he did not propose to go into a full exposition of our foreign relations at this time; yet the motion furnished a most extensive scope for observation, because if it should unfortunately succeed, it would essentially derange, as he conceived the whole views of the committee that had reported the bill. He would therefore present to the senate, the most prominent and important considerations, which he presumed had operated on the committee, and had certainly on himself, to induce the recommendation of twenty five thousand men, as the smallest possible quantum of force demanded by the crisis; to demonstrate the advantage of a force at least to that extent over that which seems to be contemplated by the honorable mover, and still moreover that which is said to consist with the executive project.

In the consideration of this subject, it is important to turn our attention to the objects for which a military force is demanded, to enable us the better to apprise the means to the objects intended to be effected. For this purpose he begged the most serious attention of the senate to the president’s message at the commencement of the session.

1. I must now add, observes the president, that the period is arrived, which claims from the legislative guardians of the national rights a system of more ample provisions for maintaining them. Notwithstanding the scrupulous justice, the protracted moderation, and the multiplied efforts on the part of the United States to substitute for the accumulating dangers to the peace of the two countries, all the mutual advantages of re-established friendship and confidence; we have seen that the British cabinet perseveres, not only in withholding a remedy for other wrongs so long and so loudly calling for it; but in the execution, brought home to the threshold of our territory of measures which, under existing circumstances, have the character, as well as the effect, of war on our lawful commerce.

2. With this evidence of hostile inflexibility in trampling on rights which no independent nation can relinquish, congress will feel the duty of putting the United States into an armour, and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations.

I recommend accordingly, that adequate pro-
be made for filling the ranks and prolonging the service of the regular troops; for an auxiliary force to be engaged for a limited term, for the purpose of filling a volunteer corps whose services, at the present, may court a participation in urgent services; for detachments, as they may be needed of other portions of the militia, and for such a preparation of the great body of our citizens as will proportion its usefulness to the exigencies of the situation."

Here we find, in the first place, the most solemn and imperative call upon congress in the character of the legislative guardians of the national rights, for a system of more ample provisions for maintaining them. The president then very properly and emphatically proceeds to tell us why he makes this solemn call upon the legislative guardians of the nation at this time. He tells us in substance, that notwithstanding the scrupulous justice, the protracted moderation, and the multiplied efforts on the part of the United States to induce Great Britain to recede from her hostile aggressions upon our essential sovereign rights, far from yielding to these polite and pathetic invitations, she had increased her aggressions, and had adopted measures, which, under existing circumstances, have the character, as well as the effect of war upon our lawful commerce, and that these measures and their execution brought home to the threshold of our territory.

Could the president have chosen language more emphatic to shew the impious character of the call upon congress to furnish him with adequate physical means to retrieve the honor and rights of the nation? Least there might be some possible mistake, on the part of congress, he tells us distinctly that the aggressions of Great Britain have the character as well as the effect of war upon our lawful commerce, and that the war is brought home to the threshold of our territory.

But, sir, the president does not stop here. He tells us, that notwithstanding our protracted moderation, & c. Great Britain with hostile inflexibility perverts in trampling upon essential sovereign rights; rights, at least, "which no independent nation can relinquish." Here then, it is evident, the president conceives that our independence as a nation is brought into question, and put at hazard. Can any subject put a more awful and imperative call upon congress to exert and apply the whole energies of the nation, than a question of true interest? The plain English of all this communication, he understood to be, that all the inefficient measures which have been adopted in relation to the belligerents for three years past, had not only swerved the expectations of their projector; but instead of the expected recession, had produced on the part of Great Britain, at least, inflexible hostility. This was a very natural result, and one which he had always anticipated, as was well known to this honorable body. But the administration having learnt wisdom by these feeble experiments, had now turned their eyes to the course, and the purpose of rendering this hostility more flexible, had at length resolved, instead of commercial restrictions, to try the effect of physical force. An adequate force is therefore demanded by the executive, and the adequacy of that force is very properly submitted to congress, where the responsibility is placed by the constitution; where it ought to rest—and for one, he was willing to take his full share of it. But, sir, the president goes on further. After designating the objects, he points out the standard for ascertaining the adequacy of the force demanded for their effectuation. In his official responsible message, he tells us, that "congress will feel the duty of putting the United States into an armed and an attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations." The standard here pointed out for calculating the quantum of force to be supplied is "the crisis" itself, and that which had been previously described in the most solemn and imposing terms, and as "the national spirit and expectations." Whether the committee had reported too great a force for subserving the crisis, he was willing to submit to the verdict of the national spirit and expectations.

But it is now said or intimated in substance, that this official responsible standard is only ostensible, and that the true standard for estimating the quantity of force demanded, must be derived from the decrepit state of the treasury and the financial funds of the gentleman at the head of that department. This subject will require a distinct consideration; but in the mean time it is sufficient to say, that the committee unanimously refused to be influenced by any considerations, but those resulting from the official responsible communication, and their own reflections upon the state of the nation, as disclosed thereby. They unanimously rejected informal official communications.

It will be observed too, in the message, the president in his more specific recommendations, after designating the kinds of force suited to the occasion, leaves the quantum of each to be judged of, and decided by congress, where the responsibility did, and ought to rest, and he was unwilling, by receding from his constitutional duty, to vouch this responsibility upon the executive.

It thus appearing, said Mr. Giles, that the force demanded, was for the purpose of war, if, unfortunately we should be driven by Great Britain to that last resort, and that although the war would be undertaken upon principles strictly defensive; yet, in its operation, it must necessarily become offensive on our part; and that congress was to determine exclusively upon the adequacy of the means; for conducting it; he would now proceed to inquire more particularly—1st. whether the committee had recommended a force more than adequate to the purposes of the war; and 2d. whether it was within the capacity of the United States to supply the force thus recommended.

Mr. G. said, that in estimating the quantum of force demanded by the existing crisis, it appeared to him gentlemen had not given sufficient consideration to the attitude assumed by the United States in relation to the Floridas, to the extension of our southern and western frontiers, to the late hostile acts and threats and in that quarter; nor to the importance of New Orleans; its exposed position and defenseless situation. These circumstances, however, entered deeply into the consideration of the committee, and induced it to conclude that the whole military establishment now authorized by law, if completed, would not be sufficient for the occasion—perhaps insufficient, to answer the necessary objects of the government in the scene just described: it was therefore intended that the whole of that force should be left free to act therein according to circumstances, and that the additional force now recommended, should act exclusively in the northern and eastern portion of the union. This force no gentleman will pretend can be too great for our objects in that quarter, in the event of war, enabled by the existing establishment. Hence it was matter of great surprise to him that the western genres
men should wish to diminish the number of men,
now proposed to be raised? because he believed that
every man deducted from the proposed force, would
take one from the force intended by the committee
to protect our coasts, and would also diminish the local
militia of the western frontiers; these gentlemen, he supposed, must be better
judges than himself, how many of these men they
can generously spare from their own protection; but for his part he thought there was not one to spare from these objects, and the committee were willing to give the whole of them that destination.

With respect to the protection of Orleans, he knew it was the expectation of the late administration, that in the event of war, Great Britain would possess herself of the city; and it was not their intention to incur the expense of having constantly prepared to repel the first incursions of the enemy; he did not know the intention of the present administration in that respect, but presumed it was acting on the same policy. In case the British should take possession of Orleans, every possible precaution must necessarily be taken to drive them out, and he doubted very much whether it would either be a very acceptable occupation or a very easy task. He had always disapproved of this policy, and in the event of it being resorted to, the first object to be prepared for was the defence of Orleans, and for the first blow. He believed in the end it would be found not only the worse, but the most economical policy both in blood and treasure.

Having presented to the senate the objects to which the existing military establishment ought to be assigned, according to the views of the committee, he would proceed to enquire, whether the additional force recommended would be more than competent to the objects to which it must necessarily be assigned, and which ought unquestionably to be effected by it. In case of war, an event he deprecated as much as any gentleman present, the new army would have to man your fortifications on the sea board from Norfolk to the extremities of our territory, north and east, and to occupy Canada. These are the contemplated and indispensable objects of this army, in the estimation of the executive and the honourable mover, as well as of the committee.

The question will therefore turn upon the accuracy and correctness of their respective calculations as to the quantum of force necessary to effect those objects.

Mr. Giles said he had a conversation with the secretary of the department of war, in his character of chairman of the committee of foreign relations, in which the secretary did endeavor to demonstrate to him that a smaller number of men than 25,000 would answer these objects; but so far from producing this conviction he satisfied him that the number was too small. He thought that every inference drawn by the honorable secretary ought to have been inverted. For instance, he was asked how many men were indispensably necessary to man the fortifications at New York? The honorable secretary replied, 2,000; but he intended to make 1,500 answer, and would rely for the rest of the complement on the local militia. Now, said Mr. Giles, if 2,000 men were necessary for that most exposed and important post, that 1,500 would not answer with the precocious and active spirit of the local militia; that 2,000 ought to be calculated on for that service, and if with the aid of the local militia they could protect New York against the force Great Britain might detach against that city, they would perform their full share of the toils and perils of the war.

Two thousand men completely furnished with all the means of annoyance, possessed of all the skill that military science could afford, and impelled by all the ardour of management and that military discipline could impart to them, and the local militia also, would deserve well of their country, if they should preserve New York from the grasp of Great Britain; in case she should think proper to effect the force she might have at command against that city. Then why send 1,500 on service, when we know that 2,000 are necessary, and perhaps inconsiderate? Is it because the United States have not the capacity to send 2,000? That question shall be examined presently. The same observation will apply to the protection of Rhode Island, where 2,000 more will be necessary; and 1,500 will be as far as can possibly be detached for the other fortifications. Admitting then 5,600 men to be necessary to man the various fortifications on the sea board, and supposing every man to be raised, as proposed in the bill, there will be a disposable force of only 20,000 men for the occupation of Canada. But upon the executive project there would be left for that service only 5,000 men; unless, indeed, the western and southern frontiers should be left unprotected, the western particularly; and it might be only half manned, and of course left to the sport of the enemy.

Mr. G. said he apprehended in the first onset of the war, Great Britain would direct her force to the occupation of New York and Orleans; and if she should possess herself of those two points, he would venture to predict that the administration which commenced the war would not finish it; especially under a system of policy which would only furnish one half of the means deemed necessary for their protection—yes, sir, known to be inadequate at the time of applying it. What apody sects could be made to an injured nation under such circumstances? We knew 2,000 men to be necessary for the defence of New York; but we sagely determined to apply one thousand only to that object, for fear of incurring the expense of the requisite number. This would be self-condemnation. The people would lose all confidence in such calculations and would certainly make the experiment of a change. Under such circumstances, Mr. G. said, he would be the first to cry out for a change in administration; for it would not be possible to lose by it. Defend New York with all the judgment and skill you can command; fill the fortifications with the full complement of troops amply provided; call in the local militia, &c., and he should not be surprised if the British should get possession of that city. But then there would be no blame on the administration; all its duties will have been performed; and the result would rest upon the fortune of war; but a single act of neglect or misconduct would certainly deprive the administration of the public confidence.

If, sir, Great Britain should get possession of New York and Orleans, and you should get possession of Canada, you would be very glad to make the exchange upon the termination of the war. Therefore, take care of these two points.

Mr. Giles said, he also requested the honorable secretary to consult with the president, and inform him, as the president’s secretary, whether the president wished to have the number of men reduced; or whether he had a preference for the other? The reply, after the consultation, very properly was, that the president had no opinion to offer on that point. He considered it a subject of legislative discretion, &c. Of course any informal executive
views ought not to be substituted for our own discretion and responsibility. Mr. Giles said, he knew it had been suggested, and perhaps from very high authority, that nothing was necessary to induce Great Britain to recede from her aggression, but to convince her, that instead of opposing to them inefficient commercial restrictions, they would be resisted with physical force; and that raising ten thousand men would produce this conviction, without incurring further expense. This suggestion furnished one of his strongest objections to limiting the force to be raised to ten thousand men. So far from producing that conviction on the British cabinet, he was convinced it would produce precisely the opposite effect. The British cabinet would look at the means provided for effecting the object, as the best evidence of the object itself. And as these means would be viewed as utterly inadequate to the conduct of war, the cabinet would necessarily conclude, that we were not in earnest; that we were joking even upon the most serious subject; that war was not intended, and would not be resorted to under any circumstances. This impression, the necessary result of our measures, has become so general, both at home and abroad, that we have much to do to retrieve our lost reputation: we do not stand upon original ground. Our measures must be of a very different character from what they have been, to produce the desired conviction, either at home or abroad. Having changed our principle of action from commercial restrictions, to physical force, limiting that force to ten thousand men would be, in his judgment, as much trifling with the energies of the nation, as inefficient commercial restrictions had before been trifling with the character and interests of the nation, and he feared was dictated by the same unfortunate imbécile spirit and policy. Mr. Giles said that whilst upon this part of the subject, he beg to be excused for reading a few paragraphs from a newspaper, which he accidentally picked up last evening, containing the announcement of the President’s message at Quebec; the very point to which the proposed force might probably be directed. It fully demonstrates the impressions existing there, and which have been produced by our former measures.

QUEBEC, Nov. 18.

President’s message. Happily the expectation of Mr. Madison’s speech, which, as in opportunity, is something of an antidote to the effusions of the Euro- pean eartheart. From that speech shall we learn that the terrible being, John Bull, does not suffer his thousand armed vessels, manned and equipped at an enormous expense, to lie wholly idle; but that they are guilty of the audacious tyranny of being, in a degree, a check on the violent inclinations of Dame Columbia to extend her arms to cherish, and assist her admired hero, Napoleon, in effecting John’s annihilation. Much will the speech proclaim that the sovereignty of the ocean is not powerful to no purpose, and does not descend and put himself on a level with the immensity of the United States, with their dozen ships. Unpardonable is the grievance that the Leviathan is not as powerless as the God; that the Jackal, whom nature termed for the Lion’s provider, is not permitted to divert it to the support of the Tyger, with a view to the destruction of the Lion. 

“The speech may not say these things in direct terms; but such will unquestionably be its meaning:

“With sylllogisms ’twill make a cluster,
With abstract rights, three deckers batter;
An empty purse at millions shake,
And no trade ’gainst a free-trade stake;
Of rotten produce count the gain,
A seacoast coast shall split from the main;
And on each mast to fix the bough,
Merchants for lack of foreign wares,
To entail apples, plums and pears.”

Limit all the aforesaid efforts to 10,000 men, and it will afford a better subject for another pasquinade than the president’s message had done for the one just read. He should not have ventured to read these paragraphs to the senate, however, if these impressions were merely local. But he believed similar impressions pervaded Europe and America, and had unfortunately found their way into the French and British cabinets. Not should he have thought these sarcasms worth regard, were it not for the continuance with which they were pointed.

When the duke of Gadsden, upon his review of our proceedings, told us officially that he would have expected more from a Jamaica assembly, he thought it both impertinent and insolent; but the point of the offence was a consciousness that it was too much like a truth. It is the symptom of every sarcasm. We find the Emperor Napoleon, too, acting under these same impressions, when hesitates and confinates your property, without even a plausible pretext. The only ground upon which a conviction that you would not resent it, and he therefore might plunder with impunity. The same impressions direct the British cabinet in its “inflexible hostility” and its war upon our commerce, “both in character and effect, brought home to the threshold of our territory.” If our protected moderation, wonderful moderation, &c. by which he presumed were meant our feeble contrivances for the last three years, and on which, he feared, the requisition of 10,000 men, was a branch both in spirit and policy, should still be continued, he believed it would degenerate into something of a very different character, and would receive a very different denomination from the public.

Mr. Giles begged the senate to turn its attention to the means of resistance now actually in Canada, which would probably be opposed to the contemplated force. From the best information he could obtain, the British had at this time in Canada from 7 to 10,000 regular troops, and from 12 to 15,000 well appointed, well furnished militia, drawn from a population of nearly 300,000 souls. If therefore your troops could be ready to act in the spring, before the breaking up of the ice, and before the British could throw further succours into that country, it appeared to him there would be very good employment for 20,000 men in subduing this force and population; and if undertaken with fewer men, with the sure of the enterprise we would probably be the consequence. Besides, sir, we should recollect, that Great Britain is the same Great Britain we encountered in 1775, 1776, &c. and although some gentlemen seemed to suppose, that she was fully occupied with her European war, and was impoverished, fighting for her existence, &c. &c. and of course had at command very little disposable force, he viewed the subject very differently.

It is true, Great Britain is engaged with a formidable enemy; but hitherto she has greatly the advantage in the war. Where has she lost one inch of territory? What acquisition of territory and popu-
loration has she not made, both in the East and West Indies? What obstacle is she now opposing to the occupation of the southern peninsula by her enemy? So far from her population being diminished in numbers, it appears to be greatly increased by the last census; notwithstanding all the distresses and starvation, we have heard of, &c. Count the number of French and English prisoners, and you will find that Great Britain has the advantage of partisanship to one. Her fleet is irrevocably and of course left more free than at any time during the revolutionary war. He therefore concluded that we should have to contend now with the same Great Britain, we did then, with renewed powers and resources. Yet to this power, it is proposed to oppose only 10,000 additional troops. Mr. G. said it was uncertain how long Great Britain might keep her army upon the peninsula; but whenever it shall be withdrawn, either by choice or necessity, she will have a very formidable disposable force, in numbers, skill and bravery; and whether she with draws that army or not, you will find that she will command a respectable force for the protection of Canada, if you wait for the breaking up of the ice which now envelops all the avenues of that country. Time therefore is all important, and not a moment for preparations ought to be lost.

France, it is true, has astonishingly augmented herself during the existing war in Europe: but it has been done at the expense of other nations, not of Great Britain. Great Britain has had her share of the spoils also.

Let us then not undervalue our enemy. Sir, this project of limiting our efforts to 10,000 men, seems to me too much upon the plan of a scarecrow, and it appeared to be regarded in that light by some gentlemen. He said Great Britain was the last nation on earth, that he would undertake to frighten with scarecrows; besides, even upon the scarecrow plan, he should suppose that 25,000 men would be better than 10,000. Mr. G. said, he disliked this project entirely, from another consideration, which it forcibly impressed upon his mind. It must evidently have been recommended by the same spirit and policy which had heretofore relied upon the chapter of accidents for success, and not upon the energies of the country. Mr. G. said, he had heard the execution of which force is indispensably and properly applicable; and if the laws can have a legitimate influence beyond the limits of the United States, the power of Congress over the militia must be co-extensive with the laws which are thus required to be executed. He would only observe further, that when this subject was more particularly brought into discussion upon a former occasion, it was said, that even in Great Britain, the militia could not be ordered out of Great Britain; no, not even to Ireland. But it should now be recollected, that since that time, the British parliament, without even a question as to the right, has ordered British militia to Ireland, and Irish militia to Great Britain. Twenty-six regiments are said to be transposed at this time.

Mr. G. said that in considering the peculiar geographical situation of the United States; it becomes at each end of them, belonging to powerful distant nations, with which we may often bring into collision, it would be unfortunate for the United States, if the militia bordering on the lines of separation, could not be called forth for any purpose of chastisement, or any object the government might have in view, in relation to the colonies of their respective mother countries. If such be the unfortunate organization or interpretation of the constitution, an amendment for remedying so important a defect ought to be instantly proposed and adopted. Its inconvenience is now sensibly felt in precluding all reliance upon an important auxiliary force. Gentlemen, however, propose to remedy
Twelfth Congress.

IN SENATE.

Monday, January 18.—Mr. Giles from the committee to whom was referred the bill authorizing the purchase of ordnance and ordnance stores, camp equipage and other quarter master's stores and small arms, reported it without amendment.

The senate resumed, as its committee of the whole, the bill in addition to the act supplementary to the act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes; the further consideration of which, together with an amendment to it proposed by Mr. Smith (of Md.) was postponed till Wednesday next.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill to prohibit the importation of rum, taffia or other spirituous liquor distilled from sugar cane, sugar or molasses, during the continuance of the act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes;

On motion of Mr. Lloyd, the resolution of the secretary of the treasury be directed to lay before the senate a statement of the quantity of rum imported into the United States during the year ending September 1811, where imported and from whence.

On motion of Mr. Giles, the bill authorizing the purchase of ordnance and ordnance stores, camp equipage and other quarter master's stores and small arms, was read the third time, and passed by unanimous consent; twenty two gentlemen being present. Adjourned.

Tuesday, January 19.—The bill to alter the time of holding the district courts of the United States for North Carolina was read the second time, and referred to a select committee composed of Messrs. Franklin, Horsey and Lloyd.

Wednesday, January 13.—The senate resumed, as in committee of the whole, the bill to prohibit the importation of rum, taffia and other spirituous liquors distilled from sugar cane, sugar or molasses, during the continuance of the act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France, and their dependencies, and for other purposes. Postponed till Monday next.

The senate also resumed, as in committee of the whole, the bill to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, together with the amendment proposed to it. Postponed till Tuesday next.

The bill to alter the time of holding the district court of the United States for North Carolina, was reported by Mr. Franklin without amendment, and passed to a third reading.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday, January 16.—Mr. Lewis from the committee on the subject, reported a bill to incorporate the trustees of Washington College; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Blackidge, from the committee to whom was referred the resolution respecting the district courts of North Carolina, reported a bill to alter the time of holding the district courts of North Carolina (which provides that these courts shall be held at Edenton, on the third Mondays in April and October; and Newbera, on the first Tuesday after the third Monday in those months, and at Wilmington on the third Monday after.) This bill was twice read and ordered for engrossment for a third reading.

Mr. Randolph rose and said, that having been engaged in raising a large military force, he, for one, if the United States were to incur this expense, was disposed against any employment, not probably than the identical employment of which the house had heard so much. It was the boast of the Roman legion and its commanders, that the Roman soldier was as well versed in the use of the pike as the space as the firelock; and so essential it seemed by that wise and military people that the soldier should not only be able to perform their military duty, but be useful as labourers, that their military levies were always made from the country, from men engaged in the employment of husbandry, in preference to the dissolute and profligate loungers of the town. He for one, had been, for a long time, surprised that the government should be paying immense sums in all parts of the United States for labor, whilst the soldier, which annual industries were drawn millions from the treasury, are in a state of perfect idleness, leading to depravity and dissoluteness of manners. He believed that regular and wholesome labor would not only have a good effect in preserving the health of our soldiers, but would render the load of life which they are at present compelled to bear, less burdensome, and prevent them from having recourse to intemperance. If they were to be employed in digging the President's house or the war office from under ground, it would not only give them an appetite for their regular meals, but some appetite for their existence.

At this moment it is contemplated by the government to perform some works of great utility. We have already decided that if these men shall be raised, and if the public service does not require them to be employed, the president shall not have the power or of disbanning them; but before the bill can be carried into operation, a considerable time must elapse; and if there be no war our large peace establishment will be entirely out of employment, so that they may shudder their muskets on the south side of some range of buildings.

Believing therefore, that the employment of these men, would not only be useful in forwarding works of public utility, but tend to their own com-
fort and happiness—if there can be such a thing as a happy mercenary slave—and in some measure, supply that loss of labor which is taken out of the market by their enlistment; he wished some measure to be taken which would give the officers something if the officers had something like employment, by overlooking their men, and seeing that they performed their work properly, they would be thereby materially benefited; for he could conceive of nothing so injurious to the comfort of a man as finding the life of a drone without business. The greatest geniuses of the age spending their time in this way, would become drones and dead weights on society. He, therefore, moved the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the president of the United States be authorized to employ the regular army of the United States when not engaged in actual service, and when in his judgment, the public interest shall not be thereby injured, in the construction of roads, canals, or other works of public utility.

Mr. R. wished this resolution to lie on the table; but this was objected to, and a debate arose. In the course of which the resolution was amended, by adding the word "fortifications" before the words, "roads and canals" and instead of taking a majority on the resolution on the lying on the table, it was taken on its passage and negatived 102 to 15. The affirmative were Messrs. Bleecker, Brigham, Eliot, Emott, Fitch, Jackson, Law, Lewis, Nelson, Pickin, Potter, Randolph, Stanford, Wheaton and White.

The House went into a committee on the bill authorizing the president to accept of the service of a volunteer corps; but rose without taking any question, and had leave to sit again.

The Senate informed the house by message, that they had receded from their disagreement to the amendment which this house had insisted upon, to the bill for raising a military force. So that this bill now wants only the signature of the president to become a law. Adjourned.

Saturday, January 11.—The Speaker yesterday laid upon the table a report from the secretary of the navy in relation to the navy pension fund, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Minor introduced the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire and report whether any and what alterations are made in the act, respecting the mode in which public acts, records and judicial proceedings of any state shall be authenticated so as to be acknowledged in every other state.——Agreed to.

Mr. Little presented the following resolution:

Resolved, that the president be requested to cause to be laid before this house, as far as may be practicable, a list of the whole number of vessels captured upon the ocean under the authority of the British government, their value and cargoes, since the ratification of the treaty of amity, navigation and commerce of 1795, and also the amount of indemnification, if any has been made, during the same period to the citizens of the United States, on account of the aforesaid captures, condemnations and detentions. —Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Pritchard called upon consideration two resolutions, the first on the 22d inst., calling upon the secretary of the treasury for state ments of the district tonnage of the United States within each state and territory for every year since the 4th of March 1789; and the gross amount of customs within each state and territory for the same period, which was agreed to.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill authorising the president of the United States to accept and organise certain volunteer military corps, Mr. Baselt in the chair; when Mr. Porter moved to strike out the first sections of the bill last reported by the committee on foreign relations, which provide for the appointment of the officers in the manner prescribed by law in the several states and territories, and insert, in lieu thereof, the four first sections of the bill first reported by the same committee which gave authority to the president to appoint the officers. Considerable debate took place on this subject, which shall be given hereafter. All seem willing that these volunteers should be raised; but there is a great difference of opinion as to the best mode of organizing them. If they are to be considered in the light of militia and officered by the several states, doubts are entertained whether they can be employed without the limits of the United States; and if they are officered by the president, under an engagement for a limited time they will be nothing different from the regular force, except that they engage for a shorter period. No question was taken, the committee rose and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

Monday, January 13.—The speaker laid before the house the protest of two members of the legislature of the Indiana territory against the admission of that territory into the Union. Referred to the select committee to whom the memorial on this subject had been referred.

Also, a report from the secretary of the treasury on the subject of deposits made of public money in the several state banks since the expiration of the charter of the bank of the United States, together with the correspondence which he had held with the banks in relation thereto.

Mr. Seybert proposed the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the secretary of state be directed to lay before this house, a list of the names of persons who have invented any new or useful art, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any improvement thereon, and to whom the patents have issued for the same from that office, subsequent to the 26th of December, 1810, with the dates and several objects of such patents, and also to report that the secretary of state be directed to lay an annual report before this house, embracing the above objects.

Mr. Williams, from the committee on the subject, reported the bill from the senate establishing a quarter master's department, with amendments, which was committed.

Mr. Little called up his resolution respecting captures made by Great Britain, of American vessels and property: but an amendment being moved to add "and any other government," some debate ensued, which was interrupted by

Mr. Porter, who said, though the information which this resolution called for was desirable, he thought a discussion upon it ought not to prevent a progress with more important public business. He hoped, therefore, the resolution would be referred to lie upon the table for the present, and that the house would take up the bill authorising the president to accept of a volunteer corps.

The resolution was laid on the table and the house accordingly resolved itself into a committee of the whole on said bill, Mr. Baselt in the chair; when after considerable debate, the committee rose and reported the amendatory bill with amendments. So that the corps, as the bill now stands, will be a volunteer military corps, the officers being appointed by the several states.
The usual hour of adjournment having arrived, the house did not take up the amendments, but adjourned.

Tuesday, January 14.—The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the secretary of the treasury containing a statement of the sums paid to the clerks in that department.

Mr. Rhea moved that the select committee, to whom was referred the presentment against judge Toulmin, be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, as every member who had heard the representation read to the house this morning, must be convinced that the charges made against that gentleman were entirely without foundation; and that he had acted the part of an upright man.

Mr. Polk stated that the charges brought against the judge were not unfounded, but that they proceeded from corruption; but he hoped the committee would not be discharged, as he had received a letter from the judge, in which he says he shall be able to transmit such evidence as will convince every man that the charges have no foundation. He hoped therefore, the papers would remain referred, that a report might be made upon the subject which would set the matter in a proper light to the world.

The motion to discharge the committee was negatived.

The house then took up the order of the day on the bill authorising the president to accept of a volunteer corps; when, after a long debate, a question was taken on striking out the words fifty thousand, and inserting twenty-five thousand, and negatived, 86 votes to 11. This motion was made by Mr. Bacon, with a view, if it was carried, of afterwards bringing in another bill providing for 25,000 other volunteers to be commissioned by the president, for a short period—that the one force might be kept within the United States, and the other sent without the United States.

The question was then taken on concurring with the committee of the whole on the amendments reported, which was carried by a large majority. It being late, the house adjourned without taking a question on the bill's being engrossed for a third reading.

Wednesday, January 15.—The speaker laid before the house a letter from the post-master general, with a report containing an account of the contracts made by that department, and a list of the clerks and their salaries.

Mr. Condit understood a gentleman as saying in the course of the debate which had lately taken place, when speaking of the impression of our seamen by the British vessels of war, that had not our government asked too much, they might have obtained redress. He therefore moved the following resolution, in order to get some information on the subject:

"Resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to send the house with copies of the instructions heretofore given to our minister at London, on the subject of the impression of American seamen into the naval service of Great Britain, excepting so much of it as may be improper to disclose, on account of any impending negotiations."

Mr. Newton saw no necessity for this resolution, as he believed all the information which the executive possessed on this subject had been laid before congress and printed. He could mention one circumstance to shew, that the pretence which Great Britain makes for the impression of our seamen is without foundation. Our right to naturalize foreigners is established by our constitution; and if a late publication of that country, "Abbot on shipping," be referred to, it will appear that any person shall foreigner who is not a citizen of Great Britain, three or marry a wife in England, shall become a subject of that country; so that while they make subjects of our citizens, they deny us the right of making citizens of their subjects.

Ordered to lie on the table.

The house then took up the order of the day, viz. the bill authorising the president of the United States to accept of a volunteer corps. The whole day was occupied in debate. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to amend the bill. The house adjourned without taking the question on the bill's going to a third reading.

[For Thursday's proceedings see next page—376.]

The Chronicle.

Baltimore, January 18, 1812.

Bank Notes.—For many years past the people of the Eastern states have been much vexed and injured by a gang of counterfeits chiefly rendering in Canada, and detection was rendered more difficult on account of the moral impossibility of acquiring a critical knowledge of the numerous and different notes in circulation. But latterly counterfeits to a prodigious amount have been discovered on the banks of the middle states, some of which are admirably executed. If able to obtain a list and description of them, it shall have a place in the Register. It is stated that three persons were taken up at Washington city a few days since, one of whom had in his possession counterfeit notes to the amount of $2,000.

In their new emissions of paper many of the banks have taken what appears to be the most efficient barrier to counterfeiters. The unrivalled beauty of their engraving, the joint labor of a constellation of artists at Philadelphia, and the superiority of their paper, throw, we hope, insuperable difficulties in the way; and, besides, the skill of the work is so remarkable that every man may easily become acquainted with the genuine bill.

General Wilkinson.—The National Intelligencer says:—"It is generally understood that the judgement of the court [marital that lately sat at Frederick town] is decidedly in favor of the accused." From the great mass of testimony accompanying the report, we are given to understand the decision of the president may not be known for some time.

Additional Military force.—The bill which passed both houses of congress for raising an additional military force of 25,000 men, was signed by the president on the 11th inst. and is therefore a law.

Virginia.—The following gentlemen have been elected by the legislature to fill the vacancies in the council occasioned by the constitutional removal of two members, the death of one, and the resignation of the two others:—gen. James Wood, N. M. Claiborne, Robert Quarles, Peter A. Daniel and John Campbell.

John Brockenborough, late cashier of the Bank of Virginia, has been appointed president in the room of A. B. Venable, deceased.

Massachusetts.—The legislature of this state met at Boston on the 5th instant. Governor Gerry opened the business of the session with an admirable speech.
On the 19th instant, a proposition was submitted to the Senate of Pennsylvania by Isaac Weaver, Esq., in the following terms, viz.,

The Senate was reassembled and a method whereby the sense of the citizens of that state might be had on calling a convention to alter some parts of the constitution. It is proposed that the people give a vote at the general election in October next, in the same manner as other votes are given, and on the tickets to be expressed whether they will have "a convention" or "no convention."

The amendments proposed to be made are specified, and to the following purposes:

1. Senators to be elected for only one year.
2. The general assembly to meet on the second Monday in January, or on a day appointed by law—unless otherwise convened by the governor.
3. To deprive the governor of the power to negative a bill—but a bill not to become a law without his consent unless re-passed by the legislature.
4. Judges to hold their offices for seven years, if so long they behave well.
5. Justices of the peace to be elected by the people, in convenient districts, for five years, if so long they behave well. The number of districts and justices to be fixed by law.
6. The third legislature to be elected subsequently to the adoption of the foregoing amendments, and every tenth legislature to be elected thereafter forever, shall have power to make amendments to this constitution, which, when adopted by the next succeeding legislature, shall become a part of the constitution of this commonwealth.

 Commodore Rodgers made a harbor at Martha's Vineyard about the middle of December, in the President. The day of his arrival a vessel from Sligo, Ireland, had been cast on shore, and the passengers, 80 in number, were in a destitute condition. Commodore R. administered to their immediate wants by giving two dollars to each of them, and offered every other aid in his power to assist them in getting to New York, the place of their destination.

The British Minister, (it is said, in the New York Evening Post) has had a long conference with the President; and I understand the object of the interview is preparatory going forward, &c. If such is the fact, he, doubtless, received a proper reply.

Delaware.—The general assembly of Delaware convened at Dover on the 7th instant. James Sykes was elected Speaker of the Senate, and Cornelius P. Comersey speaker of the house of representatives. Governor Hadley's message is worthy of the principles for which his father died at Princeton.

New-Jersey legislature has re-assembled agreeably to adjournment. The read from Fort Hawkins to Fort Stoddard, through the Indian territory is completed, and the troops are returning to their respective stations.

The yellow fever rages violently in several places in Spain—particularly at Carthagena and in Martinique—i.e. the latter 6000 persons are said to have died of it. A dreadful mortality also prevails in the Canary Islands.

Fears are entertained that the Nootka of 19 guns, lieutenant Sinclair, and crew, are lost at sea.

Chicaco, January 1.

The Shawnee Prophet a prisoner.—A gentleman of intelligence and respectability, from Cincinnati, who passed through New Market (Highland county) on Friday evening, last, informs us that he saw a gentleman dressed from the Indians territory, who informed him that he had been conversed with some members of the legislature of that territory, who communicated the important facts—that the Prophet was surrendered a prisoner to governor Harrison, by some Indian chiefs; that Tecumseh his brother, was to be surrendered also, in the same manner—and that the Indian chiefs stated that in the late engagement on the Wabash, the Indians had lost 214 killed, besides a number wounded.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, January 16.—A communication was received from the president containing a statement of the expenses attendant on taking possession of the country east of Perdido. The expense $230; also a list of persons impressed by the British. Ordered to be printed.

The volunteer bill was called up. An amendment was before the house yesterday which was still under consideration, which binds the volunteers to do duty 'within or out of the United States,'—Considerable discussion took place, and at length the motion so to amend was withdrawn by the mover, Mr. Chisolm.

After various motions, the question recurs: shall the bill be engrossed and read a third time? On the question, ayes and noes were called—yea 96—nays 25.

It was ordered to be read a third time to-morrow. The following message from the president of the United States was received and read.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I communicate to congress a letter from the Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain to the secretary of state, with the answer of the latter.

The continued evidence afforded in this correspondence of the hostile policy of the British government against our national rights, strengthens the considerations recommending and urging the preparation of adequate means for maintaining them.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington Jan. 16, 1812.

The house went into committee of the whole, Mr. Lewis being chair, on the bill from the senate with the amendments reported by the select committee, establishing a quarter master's department.

The committee went through the bill and adopted the amendments reported by the select committee, and reported them to the house—The house took up the report.

The letters referred to in the above message are lengthy. Mr. Foster's is dated December 17, 1811 and Mr. Monroe's reply January 14, 1812. Mr. F. denies that he had demanded that the United States should insist on the introduction of British goods into France; but renewedly manifest the determination of his government to adhere to the practices we complain of. Mr. Monroe says "on a full view of the conduct of the British government, it is impossible to see any thing short of a spirit of determined hostility to the rights and interests of the United States," &c. These letters are not very important, farther than they convey the sentiments above stated; yet we regret they must lay over until next week; as, from the number of reports to be printed, and the time required to fold and pack them for our many subscribers, it is in dispensably necessary that one side of our sheet should be on the press on Friday at 12 o'clock. But this necessity we hope to avoid for the future by some arrangements about to be made. The message will probably put an end to talking in congress, and it is high time for it.