

THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

VOL. I.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1812.

[No 21.]

"—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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Twelfth Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Jan. 16.—The following were the yeas and nays on engrossing the "volunteer bill."

YEAS.—Messrs. Abbot, Anderson, Baker, Bard, Bartlett, Basset, Bibb, Blackledge, Bleecker, Blount, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brown, Burwell, Butler, Calhoun, Cheves, Clay, Cochran, Clopton, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dawson, Desha, Dinsmoor, Earle, Emott, Findley, Franklin, Gholson, Gold, Green, Grundy, O. Hall, Harper, Hawes, Huffy, Hyneman, Johnson, Kent, King, Lacock, Little, Livingston, Lowndes, Lyle, Macon, Maxwell, Moore, M'Bride, M'Coy, M'Kee, Metcalf, Morgan, Morrow, Nelson, New, Newbold, Omsby, Paulding, Pickens, Piper, Pond, Porter, Quincy, Reed, Ridgely, Ringgold, Rhea, Roane, Roberts, Rollman, Sage, Sammons, Seaver, Sevier, Shaw, Smilie, G. Smith, Stanford, Steward, Stow, Strong, Sullivan, Tallman, Talliaferro, Tracy, Troup, Turner, Van Cortlandt, Whitehill, Williams, Widgery, Wilson, Wright.—26.

NAYS.—Messrs. Archer, Bacon, Bigelow, Brigham, Champion, Chittenden, Davenport, Ely, Fisk, Fitch, B. Hall, Jackson, Key, Law, Lewis, Mosely, Pearson, Pittkin, Potter, Seybert, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Wheaton, White.—25.

The following message was received from the president of the United States, read, and ordered to be printed.

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.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, December 17, 1811.

SIR—I did not mean to have written to you at this moment on the subject of our late correspondence, but that I have had the mortification to perceive statements circulated from highly respectable sources, which gave a view of the pretensions of Great Britain relative to the United States not warranted by any of the letters which I had the honor to address to you, and which at a time when discussions are continuing so important to the two countries, might, if left uncorrected, produce an effect highly to be lamented by both the American and British governments, inasmuch as

by creating unnecessary irritation, they might throw obstacles in the way of a restoration of a friendly understanding between them.

I find it asserted in the statement referred to, that I have, in the name of my government, demanded that the United States government should pass a law for the introduction of British goods into the American ports, and also that the United States should undertake to force France to receive into her harbors, British manufactures.

I beg permission, sir, to declare that neither of these demands have been made by me, and that my meaning must not have been understood, if such was conceived to have been its import. I could not have demanded the passage of such a law as above stated, because my government does not pretend to interfere with the internal government of a friendly power, nor did I mean to demand that America should force France to receive our manufactures.

All I meant to say was, that the admission of French commerce while that of England has been excluded from the United States ports, was regarded by Great Britain as highly unfriendly in America, and that a continuation of such policy would be retaliated upon by Great Britain with similar restrictions on her part which was so far merely an offering of like for like. But, while the American non importation act excludes British trade from the United States' ports, it must be recollected that it goes still further and excludes also British armed ships from American ports, while it admits those of the enemies of Great Britain. "A neutral nation is responsible for the equality of its rules of conduct towards the belligerent powers" (to use the words of an American secretary of state in the year 1796) and therefore the part of the law which establishes an inequality was justly an object of more serious complaint on the part of Great Britain. You are aware sir of the advantage which his majesty's enemies have derived from this state of inequality which enables them, though possessing no port in this hemisphere, continually to prey on the trade of his majesty's subjects, secure of a refuge for their cruizers and their prizes.

The prohibition of entry to his majesty's ships under these circumstances, might perhaps justify Great Britain in asserting that whatever reason she may have for repealing or modifying her orders in council, so as to lessen or entirely remove the pressure now unavoidably laid on the trade of America as a neutral nation, she might yet refuse to enter into any discussion on that subject with the United States, until either by the revocation of the prohibition above stated, or the placing all the belligerents under the same prohibition, America could cease to violate the duties of a neutral nation.

With respect, however, to the supposed demand that America should force the entry of British manufactures into France, it is most particularly necessary that I should explain myself, as a total

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misconception appears to have taken place upon this point. The question of retaliation on the French decrees is directly one between England and France. In consequence of the extraordinary blockade of England, we have in our defence been obliged to blockade France, and prohibit all trade in French articles in return for the prohibition by France of all trade in English articles. This measure of retaliation, it is wished, should operate on France alone, but from the trade carried on with France by America, it unavoidably operates also on her; it is a measure that destroys the French trade in return for the similar measure of France on which it is retaliatory and its acting on neutrals is an incidental effect of it, consequent upon the submission of neutrals to the original measures of the enemy against Great Britain. It is, indeed, melancholy that the unnatural situation of Europe should produce such a result, but I cannot see how this can be considered a war upon American commerce, when all other American trade but that which is carried on with our enemy's ports in defiance of a blockade authorised by the laws of retaliation, is unaffected by it. We complain that America does not resist the regulations of the Berlin and Milan decrees, and object to permitting the French to trade with her during their continuance against the commerce of England; but this is not exacting, as has been represented, that America should force British manufactures into France; it is pursuing only a just course of retaliation on our enemy. If America wishes to trade with France, if French commerce is of importance to her—we expect she should exact of France to trade with her as she has a right to demand in her quality of neutral; but if she does not choose to exercise this right, all we ask is, that she should abstain from lending her assistance to the trade of France, and not allow her commerce to be a medium of undermining the resources of Great Britain.

I have thought it necessary thus to endeavor to set these two points in their true light: the repeal of the law was asked, as being an unfriendly measure, partial in its operation against Great Britain, and a prospect of retaliation was held out on its commercial operation, if continued. This is no demand on the United States to admit British manufactures; they are at liberty to continue that law, only as it is of an unfriendly nature, some restrictions of a similar kind was to be expected from England; and with respect to the alleged demand for forcing British goods, the property of neutrals, into French ports, if the United States are willing to acquiesce in the regulations of the French decrees unlawfully affecting England through them, they cannot surely be surprised if we consider ourselves as at liberty to refuse permission to the French to profit by that acquiescence.

I will now, sir, take the opportunity of stating to you, that I have received from his majesty's secretary of state the correspondence of which you did me the honor to transmit to me a copy in your letter dated October 17. My government have not been able to see in it satisfactory proof of the repeal of the French decrees, and doubt whether the trade carried on by licences between France and America, will not be regarded, even here, as proof of the continuation of them in their fullest extent, for if they were to any extent repealed, to that extent at least no licence should be necessary, a licence being given to allow what, but for that licence, would be prohibited.

The continued absence hitherto of any instrument by which the repeal has been effected, is a

matter also of surprize, for if there were any fair dealing in the transaction, no reason can be given by France for not producing it; it is very desirable that it should be produced, if such an instrument be in existence, in order that we may know to what extent the decrees have been repealed, if they really have been so in any respect. Mr. Russell, however, does not appear to have been in possession of it at the date of his letter of last July. It is indeed become particularly interesting, that we should see this instrument since the publication of Mr. Russell's correspondence with his own government, by which it appears that really, and in fact, the French government did not release any American ship taken after November 1, until they had become acquainted with the president's proclamation, and that vessels have been taken so late as December 21, in the direct voyage from this country to London; for until a copy of such instrument is produced, it is impossible to know whether any other trade is allowed by France than that between her own dominions and the ports of the United States.

I have the honor to be, with the highest consideration, sir, your most obedient humble servant,
AUG. J. FOSTER.

To the honorable James Monroe, &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

Department of state, January 14, 1813.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your letter of December 17th, and I embrace the first moment that I could command to make the observations which it suggests.

It would have afforded great satisfaction to the president, to have found in the communication, some proof of a disposition in the British government to put an end to the differences subsisting between our countries. I am sorry to be obliged to state, that it presents a new proof only of its determination to adhere to the policy to which they are imputable.

You complain that the import of your former letters has been misunderstood in two important circumstances: that you have been represented to have demanded of the United States, a law for the introduction of British goods into their ports, and that they should also undertake to force France to receive British manufactures into her harbors.

You state that on the first point, it was your intention only to remonstrate against the non-importation act, as partial in its operation, and unfriendly to Great Britain, on which account its repeal was claimed, and to intimate that if it was persevered in, Great Britain would be compelled to retaliate on the commerce of the United States, by similar restrictions on her part. And on the second point, that you intended only to urge, that in consequence of the extraordinary blockade of England, your government had been obliged to blockade France, and to prohibit all trade in French articles in return for the prohibition by France of all trade in English articles.

It is sufficient to remark on the first point, that on whatever ground the repeal of the non-importation act is required, the United States are justified in adhering to it, by the refusal of the British government to repeal its orders in council; and if a distinction is thus produced between Great Britain and the other belligerent, it must be referred to the difference of the conduct of the two parties.

On the second point, I have to observe, that the explanation given cannot be satisfactory, because it does not meet the case now existing. France did, it is true, declare a blockade of England,

against the trade of the United States, and prohibit all trade in English articles on the high seas, but this blockade and prohibition no longer exist. It is true also, that a part of those decrees did prohibit a trade in English articles within her territorial jurisdiction; but this prohibition violates no national rights, or neutral commerce, of the United States. Still your blockade and prohibition are continued, in violation of the national and neutral rights of the United States, on a pretext of retaliation, which, if even applicable could only be applied to the former, and not to the latter interdicts; and it is required that France shall change her internal regulations against English trade, before England will change her external regulations against the trade of the United States.

But you still insist that the French decrees are unrevoked, and urge in proof of it, a fact drawn from Mr. Russell's correspondence, that some American vessels have been taken since the first of November in their route to England. It is a satisfactory answer to this remark, that it appears by the same correspondence that every American vessel which had been taken in that trade the seizure of which rested on the Berlin and Milan decrees only, were, as soon as that fact was ascertained, delivered up to their owners. Might there not be other ground also, on which seizures might be made? Great Britain claims a right to seize for other causes, and all nations admit it in the case of contraband of war. If by the law of nations, one belligerent has a right to seize neutral property in any case, the other belligerent has the same right. Nor ought it to overlook that the practice of counterfeiting American papers in England, which is well known to the continent, has, by impairing the faith due to American documents, done to the United States essential injury. Against this practice the minister of the United States at London, as will appear by reference to his letter to the Marquis Wellesley of the 3d of May, 1810, made a formal representation, in pursuance of instructions from his government, with an offer of every information possessed by him, which might contribute to detect and suppress it. It is painful to add that this communication was entirely disregarded. That Great Britain should complain of acts in France to which by her neglect, she was instrumental, and draw from them proof in support of her orders in council, ought certainly not to have been expected.

You remark also, that the practice of the French government to grant licences to certain American vessels engaged in the trade between the United States and France, is an additional proof that the French decrees still operate in their fullest extent. On what principle this inference is drawn from that fact, it is impossible for me to conceive. It was not the object of the Berlin and Milan decrees to prohibit the trade between the United States and France. They were meant to prohibit the trade of the United States with Great Britain, which violated our neutral rights, and to prohibit the trade of Great Britain with the continent, with which the United States have nothing to do. If the object had been to prohibit the trade between the United States and France, Great Britain could never have found in them any pretext for complaint. And if the idea of retaliation, could in any respect have been applicable it would have been by prohibiting our trade with herself. To prohibit it with France, would not have been a retaliation; but a co-operation. If licensing by France the trade in certain instances, prove any thing, it proves nothing more than that the trade with France in other instances, is under

restraint. It seems impossible to extract from it in any respect, that the Berlin and Milan decrees are in force so far as they prohibit the trade between the United States and England. I might here repeat that the French practice of granting licences to trade between the United States and France, may have been intended in part, at least, as a security against the simulated papers; the forging of which was not suppressed in England. It is not to be inferred from these remarks, that a trade by licence, is one with which the United States are satisfied. They have the strongest objections to it, but these are founded on other principles than those suggested in your note.

It is a cause of great surprize to the president, that your government has not seen in the correspondence of Mr. Russell which I had the honor to communicate to you on the 17th of October last, and which has been lately transmitted to you by your government, sufficient proof of the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees independent of the conclusive evidence of the fact which that correspondence afforded, it was not to be presumed from the intimation of the marquis of Welleley, that if it was to be transmitted to you, to be taken into consideration in the depending discussions, that it was of a nature to have no weight in these discussions.

The demand which you now make of a view of the order given by the French government to its cruisers, in consequence of the repeal of the French decrees, is a new proof of its indisposition to repeal the orders in council. The declaration of the French government was, as has been heretofore observed, a solemn and obligatory act, and as such entitled to the notice and respect of other governments. If was incumbent on Great Britain, therefore, in fulfilment of her engagement, to have provided that her orders in council should not have effect, after the time fixed for the cessation of the French decrees. A pretension in Great Britain to keep her orders in force till she received satisfaction of the practical compliance of France is utterly incompatible with her pledge. A doubt, founded on any single act, however unauthorised, committed by a French privateer, might, on that principle, become a motive for delay and refusal. A suspicion that such acts would be committed, might have the same effect; and in like manner her compliance might be withheld as long as the war continued.— But let me here remark, that if there was room for a question whether the French repeal did or did not take effect, at the date announced by France, and required by the United States, it cannot be alleged that the decrees have not ceased to operate since the 2d of February last, as hitherto observed. And as the actual cessation of the decrees to violate our neutral rights, was the only essential fact in the case, and has been long known to your government, the orders in council from the date of that knowledge, ought to have ceased according to its own principles and pledges.

But the question whether and when the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees took effect in relation to the neutral commerce of the United States, is superseded by the novel and extraordinary claim of Great Britain to a trade in British articles, with her enemy; for supposing the repeal to have taken place, in the fullest extent claimed by the United States, it could according to that claim have no effect in removing the orders in council.

On a full view of the conduct of the British government in these transactions, it is impossible to see in it any thing short of a spirit of determined

hostility to the rights and interests of the United States. It issued the orders in council, on a principle of retaliation on France, at a time when it admitted the French decrees to be ineffectual: it has sustained these orders in full force since, notwithstanding the pretext for them has been removed, and latterly it has added a new condition to their repeal to be performed by France, to which the United States in their neutral character, have no claim, and could not demand, without departing from their neutrality, a condition, which in respect to the commerce of their nations with Great Britain, is repugnant to her own policy, and prohibited by her own laws, and which can never be enforced on any nation without a subversion of its sovereignty and independence.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAMES MONROE.

Augustus J. Foster, Esq. &c. &c.

On motion of Mr. D. R. Williams, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Lewis in the chair, on the bill from the senate, with the amendments recommended by the army committee, to whom it had been referred.

The bill with the proposed amendments being gone through.

Mr. Williams said, he would, in a few words as he was able, explain the nature of the amendments which the select committee had recommended. This bill he said, was predicated on the destruction of the office of purveyor of public supplies, who is properly the commissary general of the United States; and contemplates the establishment in its place not only of a quarter-master-general for the United States, but a commissary general in the same person. In investigating this subject, the committee could see no reason for blending these two important offices in one, the duties of both which are important, perfectly distinct, and never were blended in any country in the world: and for this good reason—these officers are a check upon each other; one being the purchaser and the other the distributor of supplies; whereas, if they were united in one person, funds to any amount might be committed without the possibility of detection. Besides, it is necessary the quarter-master-general should be a military man, indeed his presence is at times required in the field, to distribute the supplies; while the purveyor, or commissary general, whose business it is to purchase supplies of every kind for the army, ought to be a man well acquainted with mercantile concerns.

After some objections from Messrs. Alston and Rhea, and some remarks in reply from Messrs. Talmadge and Windley, the amendments which went to keep up the purveyor's office, were agreed to; and the committee rose and reported the bill. The house took it up and concurred with the amendments, and ordered the bill to a third reading to-morrow.

Adjourned.

Friday, January 17.—The bill authorizing the president of the United States to accept and organize certain volunteer corps, was read a third time and passed, 87 to 23. The yeas and nays were the same as upon the question of ordering the bill to be engrossed; except that some of the members who voted on the former question, were absent on this.

The bill for establishing a quarter-master's department, was read the third time, and after some objections, passed its third reading.

The house then went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill concerning the naval establishment; when Mr. Cheves

spoke for about two hours in support of the bill. A message having been received from the president of the United States and the usual hour of adjournment being arrived, Mr. C. said, if it were agreeable to the committee, he would finish his observations to-morrow. The committee accordingly rose and had leave to sit again.

The following message from the president of the United States, was then read and ordered to be printed.

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

I lay before congress a letter from the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Great Britain to the secretary of state, with the answer of the latter.

JAMES MADISON.

Washington, January 17, 1812.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. MONROE.

Washington, December 28, 1811.

SIR—I have been informed by Mr. Morrier, that so long ago as the third of last January, in consequence of a written communication from sir James Craig, his majesty's governor general and commander in chief in Canada, dated the 25th of November, 1810, acquainting him with his suspicions of its being the intention of some of the Indian tribes, from the great fermentation among them, to make an attack upon the United States, and authorising him to impart his suspicions to the American secretary of state; he had actually done so verbally to Mr. Smith, your predecessor in office, and on searching among the archives of this mission, I have found the letter alluded to of sir James Craig, by which he did authorise Mr. Morrier to make the communication in question, as well as a memorandum of its having so been made, as also an express declaration of sir James Craig, that although he doubted there would not be warring persons who would be ready to attribute the movements of the Indians to the influence of the British government, yet that his department were actually making every exertion in their power to assist in preventing their attempts.

This evidence, sir, of a friendly disposition to put the United States government on their guard against the machinations of the savages, and even to aid in preventing the calamity which has taken place, is so honorable to the governor general of Canada, and so clearly in contradiction to the late unfounded reports which have been spread of a contrary nature, that I cannot resist the impulse I have to draw your attention towards it, not that I conceive, however, that it was necessary to produce this proof to the United States government of the falsity of such reports, which the character of the British nation, and the manifest inutilty of urging the Indians to their destruction should have rendered improbable, but in order that you may be enabled, in case it shall seem fitting to you, by giving publicity to this letter, to correct the mistaken notions on the subject, which have unfortunately found their way even among persons of the highest respectability, only, as I am convinced, from their having been misinformed.

I have the honor to be, &c.

AUG. J. FOSTER.

The honorable James Monroe, &c. &c.

MR. MONROE TO MR. FOSTER.

SIR—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 28th ult. disavowing any agency of your go-

vernment in the hostile measures of the Indian tribes towards the United States. If the Indians desired any encouragement from any persons in those measures of hostility, it is very satisfactory to the president to receive from you an assurance that no authority or countenance was given to them by the British government.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JAS. MONROE.

His Excellency Augustus J. Foster, &c.

Friday, January 17.—The house was occupied this day on the bill for establishing a *quarter-master's department*.—The chief question discussed was, whether, if this department were established, the office of purveyor of supplies should be abolished? It was contended by several of the members who had been in the army, that the duties of these two officers were, and of right ought to be, separate and distinct; from each other—that one should be a *soldier*, and the other a *merchant*; the first to distribute the supplies obtained by the second. The bill, founded on this principle, finally passed its third reading by a large majority.

Saturday, January 18.—After some minor business, the most interesting part of which was the presentation of a petition of the officers and soldiers engaged in the expedition on the Wabash, praying for compensation, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole. Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the *navy bill*—when Mr. Chase spoke at length in favor of the bill, and Messrs. Seybert and M'Kee, in opposition to it.

Monday, January 20.—A few private petitions being disposed of—

Mr. Bacon observed, that the committee of ways and means had received a letter from the secretary of the treasury, in answer to an enquiry addressed to him by the committee, which they deemed of public importance; and, therefore, contrary to their usual practice, the committee had directed him to communicate it to the house, in order that it might be printed for the use of the members, as it might be some time before the committee would be able to make their report, and by having the letter of the secretary of the treasury before them, and their attention drawn to the subject, the house will be better able to meet the consideration of it, when it shall be brought before them by the committee. Mr. B. then laid the letter of the chairman of the committee to the secretary of the treasury, with his answer, (containing his budget of the proposed taxes for meeting the expenses of war) before the house; which were read, and are as follows:

COMMITTEE ROOM, December 9th, 1811.

SIR—In your annual report, prepared in obedience to the act, supplementary to the act, entitled "an act to establish the treasury department," and transmitted to the house of representatives on the 22d ultimo, it is stated, 1st. That to place the financial system of the U. States on a solid foundation, it requires the aid of a revenue, sufficient, at least, to defray the ordinary expenses of government and to pay the interest on the public debt, including that on new loans which may be authorised:

That the expenses of the year 1812, calculated on the existing state of affairs, and including the interest on the public debt, will amount to \$9,400,000
That the whole amount of actual receipts into the treasury during the year 1812, may be estimated at 8,200,000

Leaving a deficiency [which it is proposed to supply by authorising a loan] of

1,200,000

And that an authority to borrow a sum equal to that which will be reimbursed of the principal of the public debt, during that year, will be necessary, and amounting to not less than

2,135,318 41

Making the whole sum, which it is proposed should be provided for by the loan, for that year,

3,335,318 41

Under this view of the subject, the committee of ways and means have instructed me to enquire of you, whether, according to the principle, first above stated, it does not become necessary to provide "a fixed revenue," to be received during the year 1812, equal as well to the estimated expenses of that year and amounting as above stated to 9,400,000 dollars, as also to the interest which will arise on the proposed loan of 1,200,000; or otherwise, whether it is proposed to provide for the payment of such interest, out of the money in the treasury, at the commencement of that year, or from any other source?

2d. It is stated in your report "that a fixed revenue of about nine millions of dollars is necessary under the existing circumstances of the U. States; and that the same amount would be necessary, and with the aid of loans, will, in your opinion, be sufficient in case of war."

In reference to this state of things, the committee wish you to state, whether, as in the event of war, increased loans will undoubtedly be required, it will not be necessary to provide an additional and gradually increasing revenue, to pay the interest of such loans?

3d. It is stated in your report "that the permanent revenue, or annual receipts, after the year 1812, (calculated on the existing state of affairs) together with an addition of 50 per centum on the present amount of duties, may be estimated at nine millions of dollars; and that should any deficiency arise in the event of war, it may be supplied without difficulty by a further increase of duties, by a restoration of that on salt, and by a proper selection of moderate internal taxes."

The committee request that you would favor them with the best opinion which you are able to form (calculated on the event of war) of the probable amount of the receipts from duties: a specification of the increase of duties, which you would think practicable and advisable; an estimate of the amount of that on salt, and such a selection of moderate internal taxes as you would recommend, with the probable expense of collection; and the amount of nett revenue estimated to arise therefrom.

4th. The committee request that you would furnish them, in connexion with your replies to the preceding inquiries, with an estimate of ways and means (calculated on the event of a war) which will provide a revenue sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of government, and provide for the legal reimbursement and interest of the public debt, including the interest on new loans, to the amount at least of ten millions of dollars per annum; accompanied with such a scheme for the reimbursement of the principal of the new loans as you should deem expedient, together with such opinions as you may have formed respecting the terms on which such loans may probably be obtained; also such further views or information connected with, or

touching the foregoing objects of enquiry, as you may deem necessary and expedient.

With great respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
E. BACON.
Hon. Albert Gallatin, secretary of the treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, JAN. 10, 1812.

SIR—In answer to the first enquiry of the committee of ways and means, relative to the interest arising on the proposed loan of 1,200,000 dollars, necessary to supply the deficiency in the receipts of the year 1812, I beg leave to observe that that item was not included amongst the expenses of that year, because the estimate being made with reference to the expenses alone which had previously been authorised by law, and a considerable proportion of those on account of the public debt, falling on the first day of the year, it would not have been necessary in that view of the subject, to borrow that sum previous to that day, and the interest would not therefore have become a charge till the year 1813.

With respect to the second enquiry of the committee, it was certainly contemplated, in conformity with the recommendation of the president, whose expressions were adopted in the report, to raise a revenue "sufficient at least to defray the ordinary expenses of government, and to pay the interest on the public debt, including that on new loans which may be authorised." The sum of about nine millions of dollars, was assumed as answering that description for the present, and the expression of "fixed revenue," which had been used in reference to existing circumstances, was inadvertently applied to the case of war. It will undoubtedly be proper, as remarked by the committee, to provide annually an additional and gradually increasing revenue, sufficient to pay the interest on loans required in the event of war. It, therefore, the loan for the present year will, according to the suggestion of the committee, amount to ten millions of dollars, the receipts into the treasury to be provided for the year 1813, should, on those data, amount to about 9,600,000 dollars.

The committee ask, in the next place, the best opinion which I am able to form of the probable amount of receipts from duties on tonnage and merchandise in the event of war.

As that amount will depend on the extent of the commerce between the United States and nations at peace with them, and on the number of the captures respectively made by our privateers, and by the enemy, it is a matter of conjecture, and not a subject of calculation; for which reason it was stated in the report, that the amount could not at present be determined. Considering the rigorous restrictions laid by France on the commerce of the United States, with her own dominions, and other countries under her influence, the dangers to which our commerce with the Baltic and with China will be exposed; the relations of England with Portugal and with Spain; and also that no inconsiderable part of the captures made by our privateers, will be sent into foreign ports, a great defalcation in the receipts on duties on imported merchandise, must be expected. The amount, under existing laws and circumstances, has, from correct data, been stated in the annual report, at six millions of dollars. It would, in my opinion, be unsafe, in an estimate of ways and means intended to be relied on with certainty, to calculate in the event of a war, on more than 2,500,000 dollars at the present rate of duties.

To the next enquiry of the committee, respecting

the increase of those duties which is thought practicable and advisable, it is answered, without hesitation, that the rate of duties may, in the event of war, be doubled without danger or inconvenience. There will, in such an event, be less danger of smuggling at that rate, than there is now with the existing duties. With that increase, the duties will still be much less on an average, than those paid on importations in England, France and most other countries. And they will be collected with more ease to government and less inconvenience to the people, than could be devised to the same amount in any other manner.

A duty on imported salt might now be calculated on at least 3,500,000 bushels; but in the time of war, cannot be estimated at more than two millions of bushels, producing at the rate of twenty cents per bushel, \$400,000.

The duties on tonnage and imported merchandise, including the former duty on salt, and doubling the rate of all others, would according to that estimate amount to \$5,400,000.

To which adding the proceeds of the sales of public lands estimated, as by annual report, at

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| | 600,000 |
| Makes an aggregate of | 6,000,000 |
| And leaves a deficiency of | 3,600,000 |

in order to complete the net revenue of 9,600,000 is wanted for the service of 1813,

On the basis of annual loans of 10,000,000 of dollars during the continuance of the war (which is the sum assumed by the committee, and which, considering the expenses already voted by congress, is not more than will be wanted) and estimating, at the lowest rate, the interest on the loan of 1813, the deficiency for 1814, to be provided for by other resources, will amount to 4,200,000 dollars. The expenses of assessment and collection, and incidental losses on the internal taxes, from the proceeds of which this deficiency must be supplied, may be estimated at 15 per cent. In order to produce a net revenue of \$4,200,000, the gross amount of taxes must therefore be near five millions of dollars. As the taxes which may be organized during the present session of congress, will not become due till the ensuing year, and as it is sufficiently ascertained, from universal experience, that taxes will not produce their full nominal amount in the first year they are in operation, it may be relied on that a gross amount of five millions, intended to produce a net revenue of 4,200,000 dollars will not yield that sum until the year 1814, nor produce in 1813, more than 3,600,000 dollars. Five millions of dollars will therefore be assumed as the gross amount of taxes (including the expenses of assessment and collection and the incidental losses) necessary to be raised at this time. That sum is calculated to cover the interest on the loans of ten millions a year, wanted for the service of the years 1812 and 1813; leaving the selection of the additional taxes, which may thereafter be necessary to provide for the interest of subsequent loans, to be made according to the experience which will be afforded by those two years.

Before I proceed to answer the enquiry of the committee respecting a selection of the internal taxes, now necessary, permit me to observe, that it was stated in the annual report of Dec. 10, 1808, that "no internal taxes, either direct or indirect, were contemplated, even in the case of hostilities carried against the two great belligerent powers." An as-

section which renders it necessary to show that the prospect then held out was not deceptive, and why it has not been realized.

The balance in the treasury amounted at that time to near fourteen millions of dollars. But aware that that surplus would in a short time be expended, and having stated that the revenue was daily decreasing, it was in the same report proposed "that all the existing duties should be doubled on importations subsequent to the first day of January, 1809." As the net revenue accrued from customs during the three years, 1809, 1810 and 1811, has without any increase of duties exceeded \$26,000,000, it follows that if the measure then submitted had been adopted, we should after making a large deduction for any supposed diminution of consumption arising from the proposed increase, have at this time about twenty millions of dollars on hand, a sum greater than the net amount of the proposed internal taxes for four years.

In proportion as the ability to borrow is diminished, the necessity of resorting to taxation is increased. It is therefore also proper to observe that at that time, the subject of the renewal of the charter of the bank of the United States had been referred by the senate to the secretary of the treasury, nor had any symptom appeared from which its absolute dissolution without any substitute could have been anticipated. The renewal in some shape, and on a more extensive scale was confidently relied on: and accordingly, in the report made during the same session to the senate, the propriety of increasing the capital of the bank to \$30,000,000 was submitted with the condition that that institution should, if required, be obliged to lend one-half of its capital to the United States. The amount thus loaned might, without any inconvenience, have been increased to twenty millions. And with \$20,000,000 in hand, and loans being secured for 20,000,000 more, with out any increase of the stock of the public debt at market, internal taxation would have been unnecessary for at least four years of war, nor any other resource been wanted than an additional annual loan of five millions: a sum sufficiently moderate to be obtained from individuals, and on favorable terms.

These observations are made only in reference to the finances and resources of the general government. Considerations of a different nature have on both these subjects produced a different result, which makes a resort to internal taxes now necessary, and will render loans more difficult to obtain, and their terms less favorable. But the resources of the country remain the same; and if promptly and earnestly brought into action, will be found amply sufficient to meet the present emergency. With respect to internal taxes, the whole amount to be raised is so moderate, when compared either with the population and wealth of the United States, or with the burthens laid on European nations by their governments, that no doubt exists of the ability or will of the people to pay without any real inconvenience, and with cheerfulness, the proposed WAR TAXES. For it is still hoped, that the ordinary peace revenue of the United States will be sufficient to reimburse, within a reasonable period, the loans obtained during the war, and that neither a perpetual and increasing public debt, nor a permanent system of ever progressing taxation, shall be entailed on the nation.—These evils cannot, however, be otherwise avoided than by the speedy organization of a certain revenue. Delays in that respect, and a reliance on indefinite loans to defray the war expenditure, the ordinary expenses of government, and the interest on the loans themselves, would be equally unsafe and ruinous; would

in a short time injure public credit, impair the national resources, and ultimately render much heavier and perpetual taxes absolutely necessary.

Of the gross amount of \$5,000,000, to be now provided according to the preceding estimates, by internal taxation, it is respectfully proposed, that 3,000,000 should be raised by a direct tax, and 2,000,000 by indirect taxes.

The sum of 3,000,000 will not, considering the increase of population, be a much greater direct tax, than that of 2,000,000 voted in the year 1798. To this permit me to add another view of the subject:

The direct taxes laid by the several states, during the last years of the revolutionary war, were generally more heavy than could be paid with convenience. But during the years 1785 to 1789 an annual direct tax of more than \$200,000 [\$205,189] was raised in Pennsylvania, which was not oppressive, and was paid with great punctuality. The increase of population of that state, between the years 1787 and 1812, is in the ratio of about 4 to 9. A tax of \$450,000 payable in the year 1812 is not higher in proportion to population alone, and without regard even to the still greater increase of wealth and of circulating medium, than a tax of \$200,000 was in the year 1787. But the quota of Pennsylvania, on a tax of \$3,000,000, will (counting Orleans as a state) hardly exceed \$365,000. The proposed tax will therefore, so far as relates to Pennsylvania, be near 20 per cent. lighter, in proportion to the respective population, than that paid during the years 1785 to 1789.

The rule of apportionment, prescribed by the constitution, operates with perhaps as much equality as is practicable, in relation to states not materially differing in wealth and situation. It may, therefore, be inferred, that a direct tax which is not greater than Pennsylvania can pay with facility, will not press heavily upon any of the other Atlantic states, it is only in reference to the western states that the constitutional rule of apportionment, according to the respective number of inhabitants in each state, may be supposed to be unequal. Being at a greater distance from a market, and having, on account of the recent date of their settlements, less accumulated capital, it is certainly true, that they cannot, in proportion to their population, pay as much, or with the same facility, as the Atlantic states. Two considerations will, however, much diminish the weight, if they do not altogether obviate that objection:

1. Of the articles actually consumed in the western states, there are two of general consumption, on which duties are laid, or proposed to be laid, and on which, being articles produced in those states, they will pay nothing, or less than the Atlantic states. On salt, they will pay nothing, as the whole quantity consumed there is of domestic origin; and this observation affords an argument in favor of the restoration of the duty on that article, since it will tend to equalize the operation of the direct tax. A considerable part of the sugar those states consume, nearly 7,000,000 of pounds, is also the produce of the maple, and pays no duty. And in time of war, it is probable, that the residue of their consumption will, in a great degree, consist of New-Orleans sugar, also duty free.

2. A considerable portion of the direct taxes in those states, is laid on lands owned by persons residing in other states, and will not fall on the inhabitants. It appears by a late official statement, that more than two thirds of the land tax of the state of Ohio, are raised on lands owned by non residents. The portion of the quota of that state, on

the United States' direct tax, which will be payable by its inhabitants, will, for that reason alone be reduced to one third part of the nominal amount of such quota. And although the proportion may not be the same in the other western states, it is well known, that a similar result, though not perhaps to the same extent, will take place in all.

From every view which has been taken of the subject, it satisfactorily appears, that the proposed amount of 3,000,000 is moderate, and cannot be productive of any real inconvenience, provided that the objects on which the tax shall be assessed be properly selected.

A direct tax may be assessed either on the whole amount of the property or income of the people, or on certain specific objects selected for that purpose. The first mode may on abstract principles, be considered as most correct; and a tax laid, in case of selection on the same articles in all the states, as was done in the direct tax of 1798, is recommended by its uniformity, and supported by respectable authority. It is nevertheless believed, that the systems of taxation respectively adopted by the several states matured, modified and improved, as they have been by long experience, will generally be found to be best adapted to the local situation and circumstances of each state; and they are certainly most congenial with the feelings and habits of the people. It is therefore, proposed, that the direct tax should be laid and assessed in each state, upon the same objects of taxation on which the direct taxes levied under the authority of the state are laid and assessed.

The attempt made under the former direct tax of the United States to equalize the tax, by authorising a board of commissioners, in each state, to correct the valuations made by the local assessors, was attended with considerable expense, and productive of great delay. In order to obviate this inconvenience, it is proposed, that the quota assigned to each state, according to the rule prescribed by the constitution, should be apportioned by law amongst the several counties, towns or other subdivisions of each state, adopting in each state, where a state tax is now levied the apportionment of the state tax, whether that be an absolute quota fixed by a previous state law on the county or town, or whether it be only the amount which shall appear to have been last laid on such county by the operation of the general state laws imposing a direct tax, making the apportionment in the states where no state tax is now levied, according to the best information and materials which can be obtained: and authorising the states respectively to alter the apportionment thus made by law, at any time previous to the day fixed by law for assessing the United States' tax on individuals. The whole process of assessment will thereby be reduced to that of assessing the quota of each county, town, or other subdivision, on the lands and inhabitants of such subdivision. It will be as simple, and may be effected as promptly, and with as little expense, as the assessment of a county tax: and, the objects of taxation being the same, it may be still more facilitated by authorising an adoption of the state assessment on individuals, whenever it can be obtained from the proper authority.

With respect to indirect taxes, it does not appear necessary to resort to any other than those which had been formerly levied by the United States. As they were in operation during several years, their defects, and the modifications and improvements of which they are susceptible, are better understood, than new taxes could be. With some alterations, they may produce the amount now wanted; and it does not appear, that any other equally pro-

ductive could be substituted with any real advantage. The gross amount of those taxes in the year 1801, was near one million of dollars. They would, according to the increase of population, and without any augmentation in their rate, yield now near 1,300,000 dollars. An average increase of about 50 per cent. in the rate, would produce the intended gross amount of two millions. But it is believed, that that increase ought not to be the same in all those taxes, and that some are susceptible of greater augmentation or extension than others.

1. *Duties on domestic spirits distilled.*—There is not any more eligible object of taxation than ardent spirits; but the mode of taxation is liable to strong objections, particularly with respect to persons who are not professional manufacturers, and who only occasionally distil the produce of their farms. It is therefore proposed, that the duties on the quantity of spirits distilled, should be levied only on spirits distilled from foreign materials, at the rate of ten cents per gallon distilled; and on other distilleries employing stills, the aggregate of which shall contain more than four hundred gallons, at the rate of three cents per gallon distilled; and that instead of a duty on the spirits, or of licences in proportion to the time employed, all other distillers should only pay an annual tax of five dollars, for each still solely employed in the distillation of fruit, and of fifteen dollars for each still otherwise employed.—This tax may also, still, without reference to time, be made to vary according to the size of the stills. At those rates, this class of duties is estimated to produce at most 400,000 dollars; and it is intended in that case that another duty should be levied on the same article, in the shape of licences to retailers. By the adoption of that mode, the expenses of collection will be considerably diminished, penalties for not entering stills will be unnecessary, and they will be confined with respect to country stills, to the case of clandestine distilling without paying the tax.

2. *Duties on refined sugar.*—A duty of double that heretofore laid, viz. at the rate of four cents per pound, is estimated to produce 200,000 dollars. The drawback both of that duty, and of that on the importation of the raw material, to be allowed.

3. *Licences to retailers.*—These are believed to be susceptible of considerable and very proper augmentation and extension. The following rates are estimated to produce 700,000 dollars:

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| For a licence to retail wines, | \$ 20 |
| do. do. spirits generally, | 20 |
| do. do. domestic spirits only, | 15 |
| do. do. any other species of foreign merchandize, | 10 |

Tavern keepers licenced under the authority of any state, and not living in any city, town, village or within five miles thereof, to be excepted. Every other person who sells wines, foreign spirits or foreign merchandize, otherwise than in the vessel or package of importation, or in the case of dry goods, otherwise than by the piece, and every person who sells domestic spirits in less quantity than thirty gallons, to be considered as a retailer.

4. *Duties on sales at auction.*—These confined to the sales of articles of foreign produce or manufacture, and at the same rate as heretofore, may produce about 50,000 dollars.

5. *Duties upon carriages for the conveyance of persons.*—Those duties, adding at the rate of fifty per cent. on the duties formerly raised, are estimated to produce 150,000 dollars.

6. *Stamp duties.*—An association of ideas which connects those duties with the attempt of Great

Britain to tax America, and which might with equal propriety attach odium to the duty on the importation of tea, has rendered their name in some degree unpopular. The great extension of post roads and the facility of distribution, have however, removed the most substantial objection to which they were liable. They do not appear to be more inconvenient than any other internal tax, and the expenses of collection are less than on any other, being only a commission on the sale and the cost of paper and stamping. At the same rate as heretofore, with the exception of bank notes, on which an increase appears proper (with an option to the banks to pay 1-20 part of their dividends in lieu thereof,) they are estimated to produce 500,000 dollars.

RECAPITULATION.

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| Direct tax, gross amount, | \$ 3,000,000 |
| Duties on spirits, and licences to distilleries, gross amount, | \$ 400,000 |
| Refined sugar, gross amount, | 200,000 |
| Retailers' licences, do. | 700,000 |
| Sales at auction, do. | 50,000 |
| Duties on carriages, do. | 150,000 |
| Stamp duties, do. | 500,000 |
| | <hr/> 2,000,000 |
| Total gross amount | \$ 5,000,000 |
| Deduct expenses of assessment and collection and losses, estimated at 15 per centum. | 750,000 |
| | <hr/> \$ 4,250,000 |
| Net amount estimated for 1814, But are not estimated to yield in 1813, more than | 3,600,000 |

Most of the internal taxes have been estimated at their maximum; but it is hoped that any defalcation from the estimated amount, will be compensated by a diminution in the expenses of collection, which have also been computed at the highest rate.

For the superintendence of those taxes, both direct and indirect, it appears indispensable that the office of commissioner of the revenue should be re-established. For their collection, the former offices of supervisor and inspector, are believed to have been unnecessary and injurious links in the system, and that the expense will be diminished, and the collection and accountability better secured, by the division of the states into convenient collection districts, and by the appointment of a collector to each district, who will pay into the treasury, and be immediately accountable to that department in the same manner as the collectors of customs.—This arrangement, the greater amount to be collected, and the simplification in the objects and mode of taxation will, it is hoped, reduce in a short time, the expenses of collection of the indirect taxes to 7-12 instead of 13 per centum, which they formerly cost, when brought to their highest degree of improvement. In estimating the charges on the direct tax at 15 per cent. 5 per cent. have been allowed for the assessment 5 per cent. for the collection, and 5 per cent. for losses. This last item is principally on account of losses on *unvested* lands, and on some remote districts of country, and is not susceptible of much reduction. That for assessment may be lessened in those states where the objects of taxation do not require an annual valuation, or where the state or county assessments may be used. The expense of collection proper may be also in some degree lessened in cities and populous

districts, and by uniting it with that of the internal taxes. It is, however, necessary that the compensation of the collectors be sufficient to command the service of men properly qualified, and in every respect worthy of the trust.

In performing the ungracious task of pointing out new objects of taxation, those have been submitted which appeared sufficiently productive, and least oppressive. The objections to which each, including the increase of duties on importations, is liable, have not been stated, not because I was insensible of them, but because no substitute of any importance was perceived, which was not still more objectionable. Every tax being in some degree an evil, is therefore liable to some objection; and every one taken singly, may for that reason be easily combated. But if the necessity of an additional revenue be admitted, the objections afford no argument why the tax proposed, should be rejected, unless another less inconvenient be substituted.—The necessity of such an addition to the revenue, has in the course of this letter been strongly urged, because it was strongly felt; but with respect to the taxes proposed, the selection is submitted with diffidence, and it will be highly gratifying that some more eligible may be devised.

The last inquiry of the committee relates principally to the terms on which loans amounting to at least ten millions of dollars per annum, may be obtained, and to the plan proper to be adopted for the reimbursement of such loans.

The terms on which annual loans to that amount may be obtained, can be ascertained only by experiment. Government has never since its organization, obtained considerable loans within the United States, at the rate of six per cent. per year, except from the bank of the United States; and these on a capital of ten millions, never amounted to seven millions in the whole. In proportion to the amount wanted for the service of the year, and to the increase of stock of the public debt at market, the terms must naturally become less favorable. It must also be recollected, that in addition to the sum wanted to defray the extraordinary expenses of the war, an annual loan equal to the annual reimbursement of the six per cent. and deferred stocks prescribed by law, will also be required. This, together with the reimbursement of the residue of the converted stock, amounting to 565,000 dollars, will for this year amount, as has been stated in the annual report, to 2,135,000 dollars. As the interest on the existing debt is included in the "current expenses," the loan necessary for the reimbursement of the six per cent. and deferred stocks will, for each subsequent year, amount only to 1,570,000 dollars. The loans for those sums, will indeed create no addition to the amount of the debt, but will nevertheless increase the total sum to be annually borrowed. It must also be observed, that if the price of stocks should sink below par, the commissioners of the sinking fund are bound, by the existing laws, to apply the residue of the annual appropriation of eight millions a year to the purchase of stock; and that residue will this year amount to 3,640,000 dollars, which in that case must also be borrowed. It is a view of those several considerations, which has created an apprehension that loans to such large amount might not perhaps be obtained on as favorable terms as under other circumstances, and with the powerful assistance of a national bank, had been formerly anticipated. The same view of the subject has most forcibly impressed a conviction of the necessity of on additional revenue. For if further loans be also

resorted to for defraying the ordinary expenses and the interest, they must, if at all practicable, be obtained on the most ruinous terms. Excluding that idea, and embracing only the loans which are absolutely necessary, it appears to me more prudent not to limit the rate of interest by law. A discretionary power in that respect is, so far as relates to the executive, altogether ineligible; but it is preferable to the risk of leaving the public service unprovided for. It is also for the same reason, requisite that the loans may be made irredeemable for a term not less than ten years.

In a former communication to the committee of ways and means, it was suggested that "treasury notes," bearing interest, might, to a certain extent, be issued, and to that extent diminish the amount to be directly borrowed. The advantage they would have would result from their becoming a part of the circulating medium, and taking, to a certain degree, the place of bank notes. It is evident, however, that for the same reason the issue must be moderate and never exceed the amount which may circulate without depreciation.

The loans necessary for the present year, are, 1st. A sum equal to that which may, during the year, be reimbursed on account of the principal of the debt. 2dly. The amount of expenses which have been or may be authorised by congress and are not included in the annual estimates.

The first sum will certainly amount to 2,135,000 dollars, and may be greater if the stock should sink below par.

The second sum cannot yet be stated, since the extent of the expenses which may be authorised is not yet ascertained, and as the estimates for the additional army already authorised, have not yet been received by the treasury department.

The deficit of 1,200,000 dollars (on the peace establishment) is not included as absolutely necessary, although its payment will, as stated in the annual report, leave in the treasury, a smaller balance than under existing circumstances, is eligible.

It may be proper to repeat that so long as the public credit is preserved, and a sufficient revenue is provided, no doubts are entertained of the possibility of procuring, on loan, the sums wanted to defray the extraordinary expenses of a war; and that the apprehensions expressed relate solely to the terms of the loans, to the rate of interest at which they can be obtained.

The reimbursement of the new debt which may be created, must ultimately depend on the respective revenue and expenditure of the United States after the restoration of peace. No artificial provisions, no appropriations or investments of particular funds in certain persons, no nominal sinking fund however constructed, will ever reduce a public debt, unless the net annual revenue shall exceed the aggregate of the annual expenses, including the interest on the debt. Those who create the debt can only estimate what the peace revenue and expenditure will be, and presume that the supposed surplus will be faithfully and perseveringly applied to the payment of the principal.

The current or peace expenses have been estimated at nine millions of dollars. Supposing the debt contracted during the war not to exceed fifty millions, and its annual interest to amount to three millions, the aggregate of the peace expenditure would be no more than twelve millions. And as the peace revenue of the United States may at the existing rate of duties be fairly estimated at fifteen millions, there would remain from the first outset

a surplus of three millions of dollars applicable to the redemption of the debt. So far therefore as can now be foreseen, there is the strongest reason to believe that the debt thus contracted will be discharged with facility and as speedily as the loans will permit. Nor does any other plan in that respect appear necessary to extend the application of the annual appropriation of eight millions, and which is amply sufficient for that purpose, to the payment of interest and reimbursement of the principal of the new debt. No doubt can be entertained of that mode being sufficiently efficacious, since by that plan alone forty-six millions of the public debt have been reimbursed during the last eleven years. If the national revenue exceeds the national expense, a simple appropriation for the payment of the principal of the debt and co-extensive with the object, is sufficient, and will infallibly extinguish the debt. If the expense exceeds the revenue, the appropriation of any specific sum, and the investment of the interest extinguished, or of any other fund, will prove altogether nugatory; and the national debt will notwithstanding that appropriation, be annually increased by any amount equal to the deficit in the revenue.

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| The annual interest on the existing debt amounts to | \$ 2,220,000 |
| And estimating the interest on the new debt at | 3,000,000 |
| The sum which, on the annual appropriation of eight millions, would at the restoration of peace, be applicable to the payment of principal, is | 2,780,000 |
| | 8,000,000 |

A sum somewhat less than the presumed surplus of three millions, as above stated, and which will be nearly sufficient to reimburse before the year 1823 the whole existing debt of the United States, with the exception of the three per cent. stock. The loans contracted during the war being made irredeemable for at least ten years the first reimbursement would fall on that year; and the whole of the appropriations of eight millions after deducting \$85,000 dollars for the interest of the three per cent. stock, would thenceforth be applicable to the payment of the interest and principal of the new debt. The precise period of final extinguishment, and the precise amount of annual payments will depend upon the terms of the loans, and upon the number of years for which it may be necessary to make each loan irredeemable. But this sketch is sufficient to show, 1st. That no inconvenience will arise in making the loans irredeemable for ten years, since there is not much probability that they could be sooner discharged. 2dly. That the appropriation of eight millions will be sufficient for their final reimbursement. 3dly. That the reimbursement, and that of the whole debt of the United States (the three per cent. stock excepted) will probably be effected within fifteen years after the restoration of peace. It must always be remembered that those estimates are predicated on the supposition that an additional revenue to the amount already stated will be provided, and that the increase of debt during the war, will not exceed fifty millions.

In answering the inquiries of the committee on subjects so intimately connected with the most important questions of national concern, it became an imperative duty to represent every circumstance precisely as it was or appeared to be, and without exaggerating or disguising any of the difficulties

which must be encountered. To understand these to their full extent will afford the best means of overcoming them; and there is none which appears insurmountable or even discouraging. What appears to be of vital importance is, that the crisis should at once be met by the adoption of efficient measures, which will with certainty provide means commensurate with the expense, and by preserving unimpaired, instead of abusing, that public credit on which the public resources so eminently depend, will enable the United States to persevere in the contest until an honorable peace shall have been obtained.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, sir, your obedient servant,

ALBERT GALLATIN.

*The honorable Ezekiel Bacon,
Chairman of the committee of ways and means.*

Mr. Mosely proposed that 5000 copies of the communication should be printed. This motion was seconded by Mr. Milnor, who, on account of its importance, contended for the necessity of making it as public as possible. It was opposed by Mr. Bacon, as improper, and incurring an unnecessary expense. Improper, because it would be giving an unduesanction to a letter to one of the committees of the house, which had not been acted upon (and which it was unusual to publish at all) incurring an unnecessary expence, because the letter of the secretary would undoubtedly be printed in every newspaper in the United States, and by this means be made more generally public, than it would be in any other way.—Motion negatived 75 to 42.

Mr. Maxwell then moved that 1000 copies be printed. This motion, after some observations from Messrs. Wright, Fisk and Findley, in which they urged the impropriety of giving any countenance to a letter, containing propositions which would not probably be agreed to by congress, and which would serve only unnecessarily to alarm the people, was negatived 60 to 52.

Mr. Davenport moved to have 500 copies printed, which motion was also negatived, and the usual number ordered to be printed.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair, on the bill concerning the naval establishment, when Messrs. Bassett and Michill each spoke at considerable length in favor of the bill. After which, the committee rose, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

Tuesday, Jan. 21. After several private petitions had been presented and referred—

The speaker laid before the house, statements from the secretaries of state and war, containing lists of the clerks, with their compensations, employed in each department.

Also, a report from the secretary of state, in pursuance of a resolution of the house of the 20th ult. calling for a list of the names of persons who have obtained patents for new arts or inventions.

The several communications were ordered to be printed.

The house then resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the navy. Mr. Nelson in the chair; when Messrs. Johnson and Roberts spoke against the bill and Messrs. Lowndes and Law in favor of it; after which, the committee rose, and had leave to sit again. Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 22.—Mr. Richardson, a member from the state of Massachusetts, appeared and took his seat.

Several petitions of a private nature were presented and referred.

A message was received from the president of the United States, inclosing a communication from the governor of New Jersey, with certain resolutions of the legislature of that state approbatory of the measures of the general government.—Ordered to lie on the table.

The house again went into a committee of the whole on the bill concerning the navy, Mr. Nelson in the chair. The question on filing up the blank in the section which provides for repairing the vessels on hand, with four hundred and eighty thousand dollars, was carried by a large majority.

The next section provides for the building of—additional frigates.

Mr. Cheves proposed to fill the blank with the word *ten*.

Mr. Rhea moved to strike out this section from the bill. After some debate, in which Messrs. Rhea, Smilie, Blackledge and Boyd spoke in favor of the motion, and Messrs Cheves, Newton, Clay, (the speaker) and Mitchill against it, the motion was negatived 52 to 47. The committee then rose and obtained leave to sit again. Adjourned.

[For Thursday's proceedings see page 392.]

Additional Army.

The force to be immediately raised by the bill which has passed Congress is to consist of

Ten regiments of infantry,
Two regiments of artillery,
One regiment of light dragoons.

The regiments of artillery are to consist of two battalions of ten companies each. The efficient force of a regiment of artillery to be as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|----|------------------------|---|------|
| Colonel, | - | 1 | Surgeon's Mates, | - | 2 |
| Lieutenant Colonels, | - | 2 | Sergeant Majors, | - | 2 |
| Majors, | - | 2 | Quarter master serjts. | - | 2 |
| Captains, | - | 20 | Senior Musicians, | - | 2 |
| First Lieutenants, | - | 20 | Sergeants, | - | 80 |
| Second Lieutenants, | - | 20 | Corporals, | - | 80 |
| Cadets, | - | 40 | Artificers, | - | 160 |
| Adjutants, | - | 2 | Musicians, | - | 40 |
| Quarter-master, | - | 1 | Privates, | - | 1440 |
| Pay-master, | - | 1 | | | |
| Surgeon, | - | 1 | Total, | | 1918 |

A regiment of infantry is to consist of the same field and staff officers as above, with 18 captains, 18 first and 18 second lieutenants, 18 ensigns, 72 sergeants, 72 corporals, 36 musicians, and 1800 privates; to form two battalions, each of nine companies. Total 2670. The total of the regiments of dragoons 1182. They are to be raised for five years.

The new general staff is to consist of two major generals, to be allowed two aids each; five brigadier-generals, each to be allowed a brigade major, and aid; an adjutant general and an inspector general.

The pay of the general staff as follows:—Major generals, two hundred dollars, and twenty dollars for forage, per month, and fifteen rations per day. Brigadier generals, one hundred and four dollars, and sixteen dollars for forage, per month, and twelve rations per day. Aids de camp to major generals, twenty-four dollars and ten dollars for forage, per month, and four rations per day, in addition to their pay in the line. [Continued.]

Population of the Territories of the United States.

District of Columbia.

| COUNTIES, &c. | In 1800. | | | In 1810. | | |
|---|---------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------|-------|
| | Free white | Slaves | Total | Free white | Slaves | Total |
| Washington City | | | | 5,901 | 1,837 | 8,248 |
| Georgetown, | | | | 3,235 | 1,162 | 4,948 |
| Washington county, exclusive of the city and Georgetown, | 5,672 | 2,072 | 8,144 | | | |
| Alexandria, | 3,727 | 875 | 4,971 | 1,206 | 955 | 2,313 |
| Alexandria county exclusive of the town, | 667 | 297 | 978 | 4,903 | 1,488 | 7,227 |
| TOTALS, | 10,066 | 3,144 | 14,093 | 831 | 353 | 1,325 |

Mississippi.*

| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Washington, | 738 | 498 | 1,256 | 2,010 | 900 | 2,920 |
| Pickering, | 2,198 | 733 | 2,940 | | | |
| Adams, | 2,348 | 2,257 | 4,605 | 4,355 | 5,671 | 10,002 |
| Baldwin, | | | | 667 | 717 | 1,427 |
| AMITE, | | | | 3,312 | 1,422 | 4,750 |
| CLAIBORNE, | | | | 1,552 | 1,538 | 3,102 |
| FRANKLIN, | | | | 1,268 | 735 | 2,016 |
| MADISON, | | | | 3,745 | 948 | 4,699 |
| JEFFERSON, | | | | 2,180 | 1,792 | 4,001 |
| WARREN, | | | | 622 | 473 | 1,114 |
| WAYNE, | | | | 972 | 262 | 1,253 |
| WILKINSON, | | | | 2,432 | 2,630 | 5,068 |
| TOTALS, | 5,179 | 3,489 | 8,850 | 23,024 | 17,088 | 40,352 |

Indiana.†

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| Adams, | 2,402 | 28 | 2,517 | 4,551 | 135 | 7,945 |
| Randolph, | 962 | 107 | 1,103 | | | |
| St. Clair, | 1,213 | none. | 1,255 | | | |
| DEARBORN, | | | | 7,218 | none. | 7,310 |
| CLARK, | | | | 5,549 | 81 | 5,670 |
| HARRISON, | | | | 3,562 | 21 | 3,583 |
| TOTALS, | 4,577 | 135 | 4,875 | 23,890 | 237 | 24,520 |

Orleans.

| Parishes of New Orleans. | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|-------|-------|
| County of ORLEANS—City and suburbs of N. Orleans, | | | | 6,331 | 5,961 |
| Precincts of do. | | | | 1,670 | 4,863 |
| Plaquemine, | | | | 557 | 753 |
| St. Bernard, | | | | 628 | 382 |
| GERMAN COAST | | | | 820 | 2,321 |
| St. Charles, | | | | | |
| St. Jn. Baptiste, | | | | 1,402 | 1,518 |
| ACADIA | | | | 1,962 | 1,952 |
| St. James, | | | | | |
| Assumption, | | | | 1,141 | 1,031 |
| LA FOUCHE | | | | | |
| Interior of La Fouché, | | | | 1,915 | 547 |
| Iberville, | | | | 1,701 | 289 |
| Baton Rouge, | | | | 1,429 | 1,205 |
| IBERVILLE | | | | | |
| Point Coupee, | | | | 700 | 675 |
| CONCORDIA | | | | | |
| Concordia, | | | | 1,248 | 3,187 |
| AUACHITTA | | | | | |
| Auachitta, | | | | 1,279 | 1,581 |
| RAPIDES | | | | | |
| Rapides, | | | | 784 | 284 |
| Catabula, | | | | 996 | 1,081 |
| Avoyelles, | | | | 808 | 348 |
| NATCHITOCHES | | | | | |
| Natchitoches, | | | | 783 | 404 |
| OPELOUSAS | | | | | |
| Opelousas, | | | | 1,213 | 1,476 |
| ATTAKAPAS | | | | | |
| Attakapas, | | | | 1,989 | 1,670 |
| TOTALS, | | | | 3,959 | 3,132 |

* In 1800, called "Territory of the United States south of the Ohio."

† Randolph and St. Clair now form a part of the Illinois territory—see next page.

Michigan.

| COUNTIES. | In 1800. | | | In 1810. | | |
|------------------|----------------|---------|--------|----------------|---------|--------|
| | Free white. | Slaves. | Total. | Free white. | Slaves. | Total. |
| DETROIT, | | | | 2,114 | 17 | 2,227 |
| ERIE, | | | | 1,327 | 4 | 1,340 |
| HURON, | | | | 578 | 2 | 580 |
| MICHILIMACKINAC, | | | | 599 | 1 | 615 |
| TOTALS, | | | | 4,618 | 24 | 4,762 |

Louisiana.

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--------|-------|--------|
| District of ST. CHARLES, | | | | 3,221 | 271 | 3,505 |
| Do. ST. LOUIS, | | | | 4,807 | 740 | 5,667 |
| Do. ST. GENEVIEVE, | | | | 3,173 | 988 | 4,620 |
| Do. CAPE GIRARDEAU, | | | | 3,291 | 589 | 3,888 |
| Do. NEW MADRID, | | | | 1,811 | 287 | 2,103 |
| Settlement of HOPEFIELD & ST. FRANCIS, | | | | 159 | 29 | 188 |
| Do. on the ARKENSAS, | | | | 765 | 107 | 874 |
| TOTALS, | | | | 17,227 | 3,011 | 20,845 |

Illinois.

| | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-----|--------|
| ST. CLAIR, | 1,213 | none. | 1,255 | 4,900 | 40 | 5,007 |
| RANDOLPH, | 962 | 107 | 1,102 | 6,647 | 128 | 7,275 |
| TOTALS, | | | | 11,555 | 168 | 12,282 |

French Troops in Spain, &c.

From a late paper of Cadiz (says the Essex Register) we have an estimate of the troops said to have entered Spain, from France, in the time included between the 19th October, 1807, and the 31st of July, 1811, and they are supposed to exceed 600,000 men. As the tables appear to have been drawn up with great attention, and not in general numbers, they may serve at least to guide us to a general opinion of the proportion in the respective years, and of the relative number of the infantry, horse and artillery. The highest number of infantry is given in 1808, and exceeding 200,000. About a quarter part of that force had been sent in the preceding year, and in the year following, and about a twentieth part had been added in the succeeding period, giving in all 415,651 infantry. In 1808, it is said above 36,000 horse were sent on the same route, Guipiscoa and Navarre, about a fifth of that number in the preceding year, and about a sixth in the year following, but more than half that number in the next period, giving a whole number not exceeding 68,000. Nearly 8000 artillery is said to have entered in 1808, and the total of the French who entered Spain in the above term, by Guipiscoa and Navarre, is given at 566,998. To this table is added another in the same form, of those who are supposed to enter by Iron in the same time. We say supposed, though nothing is said to imply any doubts. The infantry which entered in this route in the respective years, are made to amount to 69,127, the horse to 9,922, with about 300 artillery, amounting in all, with all the attendants of the army, to 118,231. The troops supposed to have been existing in Spain at the last of the dates, are given at 140,000, and this is said to be without great error, and it is calculated that the war in Spain, reckoning from June 1808, cost the French annually 110,000 men, 9000 months, and 300 every day. No estimate is given of the

Spanish losses in the same time, and it could not be so easy to know what losses had been sustained among the troops of the country, as among the foreign troops who had entered for foreign service. From the statement it appears that it has not been an easy purchase, but no vigor seems wanting in the French to maintain the country they have conquered.

United States' Militia Bill.

SUBSTANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY MILITIA BILL.

Sec. 1. Organizes a minor class of militia, to consist of all persons liable to do militia duty over 18 and under 21 years of age, liable to be ordered out whenever the president may have power to call out detachments of militia, to continue 3 months in the actual service only, in the state where they reside.

Sec. 2. Constitutes a junior class, to consist of all men over 21 and under 30, to serve 12 months at a time, in any part of the United States.

Sec. 3. Provides for a senior class over 30 and under 45, to serve 6 months at a time, in their own or an adjoining state.

Sec. 4. Every captain must enroll the militia of his company on the first Monday of April annually.

Sec. 5. A part of each class only to serve at one time, to be designated by lot; and no individual to do actual duty more than once; until the whole class shall have served.

Sec. 6. Every militia man may furnish a substitute out of the class to which he belongs.

Sec. 7. Every officer failing to do his duty, shall be cashiered, and fined not exceeding 50 dollars by a court martial.

Sec. 8. Every inhabitant enrolled among the militia on the first Monday in April 1813, shall, six months thereafter, be entitled to one stand of arms, the right to which shall inalienably be vested in

him, and which cannot be levied or distrained upon, to satisfy any demand whatever; provided, that every such inhabitant shall make oath that he has not before received a stand of arms; liable to be fined and punished for making false oath.

Sec. 9. Any militia man selling his stand of arms, or disposing of it in any manner, shall be fined 40 dollars and imprisoned 90 days.

Sec. 10. Any person exporting, or causing to be exported, any such stand of arms shall be fined 50 dollars.

Sec. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, contain provisions to regulate the manner in which the arms shall be preserved, or forfeited in particular events, and to carry into execution the preceding provisions of the bill.

Arts and Manufactures.

At Lynn, in Massachusetts, during the year 1811, nearly one million pairs of women's shoes were manufactured. The upper leathers are formed of the domestic sheep or foreign goat skins dressed in morocco fashion. Sheep skins, which a few years ago were worth only a few cents, when finished for making shoes and slippers as above, are valued at two dollars and a quarter. Domestic manufactures of morocco commenced in 1793 or 1797—at present, the whole union is supplied with it, and there is no occasion whatever for the imported material.

The following advertisement is copied from a Philadelphia paper as announcing the liberal establishment of a most important and interesting manufacture.

AMERICAN MANUFACTORY OF PLANE IRONS, &c.

The public are respectfully informed, that the subscriber has (of Mr. Daniel Pettibone's Manufactory of cast or other steel) for sale, plane irons, by the gross, dozen, or single, warranted; also, bookbinder's knives.

And at short notice can furnish, clothier's shear blades, paper mill knives, hay knives, straw knives, chisels, gouges, hoes, spades, shovels, trowels, drawing knives, scythes, siths, cooper's and block-maker's tools, furrier's knives, tanner's fleshing knives, knives for dressing skins for gloves or parchment, knives for cutting tobacco;—and almost all other plated edge tools.

EBENEZER BETTS,

North Seventh street, Philadelphia.

P. S. The above articles are manufactured according to Mr. D. Pettibone's patented improvement.

NEWBURGH, (N. Y.) Dec. 24.

Messrs. Reeve and Dubois, of this village, have received from the woollen manufactory of Mr. George Booth of Poughkeepsie, an assortment of common and superfine broad cloths, which they are now selling at a lower rate than European cloth of the same fineness, and which is more durable and of equal beauty.

A citizen of this state, has lately deposited in the patent office, drawings, specification, &c. of a machine that will perform the labour of 6 or 8 hands per day. It will cut with the greatest accuracy. Any description of files, from the coarsest to the finest, may be cut by changing one wheel or pinion.

[*Fig.*

The manufacturing establishment of Messrs. Dupont, Baudry and Co. on the Brandywine, near Wilmington, Delaware—an establishment second to none in this country, and for execution is likely to be inferior to few in the world, has commenced its

operations. Of the first piece finished by those gentlemen the president of the United States wore a suit on the 1st inst.—it was finished only on the 24th of December. It is stated by good judges to be equal, in every respect, to the best quality imported.

Mr. Dupont was the first, or among the first, of those who introduced the *merino* into the United States; and his flock is, perhaps, the largest and best in America.

EMERY.—The art of making emery, [corundum] which is an article of the first consequence in the cotton and woollen manufactories, and in white smithery, has been discovered by Pliny Earle and Brothers, card-makers, in Leicester, (Mass.) It is presumed that after a few small manufactories of this article are established, the expense of which will not be great, a supply can be furnished of a superior quality to that which has been imported. The manufacture of this article will make a considerable annual saving to the United States; and at a time when it is becoming scarce, it must be a pleasing circumstance, that one more article of prime necessity is reduced, for certainty, to domestic origin and manufacture. How far the raw material pervades this country, is not known;—as yet, it has been found in but few places; it is, however expected that New-England will furnish an ample supply for ages; and it is supposed that it may be found in various parts of the Union.

[*Nat. Agri.*

American Manufactures increasing.—Gilbert I. Hunt is about establishing a manufactory of *emery*, which we are told is of a superior quality, and will supersede the necessity of application to the European market for that article. [N. Y. Col.

From the Boston Chronicle.

Very interesting discovery.—Two very ingenious mechanics, living at Montpelier, within the pale of the Green Mountains in Vermont, having a laudable zeal to improve the mechanic arts with advantage to themselves, and their country, and farther stimulated by the generous premium offered by the French government, for the best method to spin flax, &c. engaged in the invention of machinery for that purpose; and it is with pleasure that the writer of this article can say, with the fullest assurance, that they have accomplished this grand design. This machinery has stood the test of experience; the principle is entirely new, and as simple as perfect. The machinery is now in actual operation, and has run (more or less) for six months past.

The principle, if rightly applied, with suitable materials and corresponding machinery, will produce every kind of cordage manufactured from flax or hemp, which is necessary for the convenience of mankind, from the coarsest rope to the finest cambrics.

The economy produced by this machinery, when contrasted with cotton spinning, is three-eighths, and upon manual labor four-fifths.

This astonishing improvement in the art of spinning, which mechanics and men of science in all parts of the globe have labored in vain to produce, seems peculiarly reserved to be brought forth by the new world, and at a time the most fortunate.

It is worthy of remark, that the authors of this invention are sober, industrious men, but in very indigent circumstances, and it is feared unable to prosecute to advantage so noble a design.

Chronicle.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY 25, 1812.

The senate of the United States, has been chiefly occupied with business of a private nature, since our last notice of their proceedings. The bill from the house of representatives authorising the president to accept and organize certain volunteer corps, was twice read on the 17th inst. and referred to a committee of five members. On the 21st Mr. Reed laid on the table a resolution for the purpose of ascertaining, as far as the same may be practicable, the number of ships or vessels and amount of tonnage, and merchandize of the growth, produce or manufacture of the United States, exported from thence to any port or place in France, subsequent to the repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees, also to ascertain the duties paid or payable on such articles of merchandize.

Governor Harrison.—It is the easiest thing in the world to find fault. The pert insinuation of a fool, (who condemns before he reasons, or is ready to quarrel before he hears a question,) has oftentimes done most serious injury to a wise and good man. The conduct of governor Harrison, and the presumed instructions of the executive, have afforded a pretty fertile field for paragraph oratory in the news-papers, in which the editors supposed what they pleased, and drew their conclusions accordingly. As soon as room is afforded, we intend to insert the letter of this valuable man to that old veteran, his friend, general Scott, governor of Kentucky, with various proceedings much to his honor, as well as that of colonel Boyd, of the regular army, of whom governor H. has so handsomely spoken on every occasion; but cannot refrain, at this time, from presenting the following resolutions of the house of representatives of Kentucky, a state that suffered the loss of some of her best citizens in the conflict, and whose representatives, it is fairly to be presumed, know nearly as much of the business as some others who have decided with more promptitude, and no less assurance.

LEGISLATURE OF KENTUCKY, Jan. 7, 1812.

Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives of the state of Kentucky, in the late campaign against the Indians upon the Wabash, gov. Wm. Henry Harrison has behaved like a hero, a patriot and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skillful and gallant conduct in the battle of Tippecanoe, he well deserves the warmest thanks of his country and the nation.

Resolved, That the governor of this state be requested to transmit a copy of the above resolution to governor Wm. Henry Harrison.

On the night of the 16th inst. eight or nine wooden houses were destroyed by fire at Richmond—"the night of the 26th," (on the alarm being given, says the writer of the account) "rushed up on the memory of all, and screams and shrieks re-echoed and run through the streets." The loss of property, is estimated at 15 or 20,000\$ but no one personally injured. The ravages of the flames were stopped by the parapet walls of an adjacent brick building.

Counterfeiters of Bank notes.—We congratulate the public on the dissolution of the most formidable co-partnership in villainy that ever existed in the United States. The gang that lately sat out to inundate the middle states with counterfeit notes, appears to have been completely broken up at the very commencement of its career. Twelve or thirteen persons are secured.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.—1811.

On the 16th inst. the president of the United States by message, presented to congress an account of the contingent expenses of the executive for the year 1811, as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| To—three warrants drawn in favor of | |
| William C. C. Claiborne | \$ 2,300 00 |
| One do. in favor of D. Holmes | |
| governor of the Mis. Ter. | 96 00 |
| Balance subject to the orders of | |
| the president | 16,842 72 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 20,240 72 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| By—amount granted the president | |
| February 20, 1811 | \$ 20,000 00 |
| Ditto from C. A. Rodney, late | |
| attorney general of the United | |
| States, a balance in his hands | |
| of monies heretofore advanced | |
| from this fund in a former ap- | |
| propriation | 240 72 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 20,240 72 |

THE NAVY.—A strong disposition is manifested to increase the navy of the United States to such an extent as may be judged adequate to the protection of our coasts and harbors. The report of the committee, to whom that part of the president's message relating to a naval establishment was referred, of which Mr. Cheves is chairman, has long been laid off for insertion, but as yet omitted—it is decidedly in favor of building some ships of the line and a number of frigates. This report was supported by Mr. Cheves in committee of the whole, a few days ago, in a most eloquent and argumentative speech—and on Wednesday Mr. Clay (speaker) advocated the building of ten frigates in his usual masterly manner; contending that the western states were as much benefited by a navy as any other, to secure New Orleans and the safety of passage through the gulph, &c. The committee of the whole have agreed to appropriate money for fitting out all our present force; and, by a majority of five, negatived a motion to strike out the section for building ten additional frigates, as may appear by referring to the proceedings.

The vice-consul of France, at Savannah, has given notice to the collector of that port, that his functions had ceased on the 1st inst. in consequence "of the odious encroachment committed in that city, on the flag and subjects of his imperial majesty."—Alluding to the late riot in which two French privateers were burnt, &c. as related in the *Weekly Register*.

It is stated that gen. Dearborne, of Massachusetts, has been nominated by the president, as a major general in the additional army.—But others insinuate that gen. Armstrong is to have the command. Perhaps there is no truth in either rumor.

Washington January, 11.

"By a statement sent to the senate this morning from the treasury department, it appears that, during the year beginning October 1st, 1809, and ending September 30th, 1810, 4,162,766 gallons of spirits were distilled in the United States from materials other than grain imported from the West-Indies; and that 2,682,947 gallons were distilled from materials other than grain imported from the same islands, during the nine months commencing the 1st of October, 1810, and terminating the 30th June, 1811. The senate have been engaged on no interesting subject for several days. [Amer.

The general assembly of North Carolina adjourned on Monday, the 23d of December, after having passed 23 laws of a public and 109 of a private nature.

From the necessity, (says a Raleigh paper) to which the public treasurer has been driven of borrowing money from the banks for two years past, a small augmentation has been made in the taxes.—Land is to pay 10d. instead of 8d. on the 100 acres, and town property and polls 2s. 6d. instead of 2s. wholesale merchants § 12, and retail dealers, § 6; pedlars § 6 for every county, and billiard tables § 60.

EARTHQUAKE.—*Extract from a letter to the editor, dated Henderson, (Ky.) Dec. 28, 1811.* "A severe shock of an earthquake was felt at this place on the 16th inst. at half past 2 o'clock, A. M.—many chimneys were cracked by the motion; and at sun-rise another shock threw down most of the chimneys so injured. We have had a shock every day since until the 25th instant. I expect to send you a more particular account."

At the date of our last advices from Spain, the grand armies were many miles asunder, without any apparent intention of attacking each other, gen. Suchet, after the fall of Saguntum had proceeded to invest Valencia. The Spanish general Ballesteros had overran Andalusia, advancing with in six or seven leagues of Seville, and defeating several small corps of the French. A great degree of military activity seems to prevail in many parts of Spain, and the rencontres of adverse detachments are frequent and very destructive.

A great want of harmony exists in the Cortes—Some of their meetings have been very boisterous. In one instance the members and spectators were so unruly that the president was compelled to adjourn. A commission has been appointed to try the ex-regent Lardizabal. Mr. Valiente, a member of the Cortes, denounced by the people, was protected by a military force on board a ship for a safety. Much more confusion was expected, and indeed there seems reason to fear that a counterpart of the horrors of Paris during some part of the French revolution, will be performed at Cadiz.

The militia of the city and county of New-York, (says the Columbian) consists of ten regiments of infantry, one battalion of rifle-men, one squadron of cavalry, three regiments of artillery, one company of flying do. and one company of veteran volunteers. The field pieces are of brass, in complete order for service, and well provided with ammunition.

Exclusive of these, the heavy iron pieces mounted on travelling carriages, and the small arms and accoutrements in the arsenal, under commissary McLean, are numerous and in perfect readiness, but to what amount, we are not precisely informed.

The fortifications belonging to the United States, exclusive of the forts at the Narrows, and immediately attached to the city, are as follows, and could be strengthened by almost any number of cannon at the shortest notice.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| City battery. | 28 thirty-two pounders |
| North do. | 16 do. |
| On Bedlow's Island | 30 twenty-fours |
| On Ellis' do. | 14 thirty-two's |
| At Castle William | 26 forty-two's |
| | 26 thirty-two's and |
| | 50 fifty's |
| Fort Columbus | 48 twenty-four's and |
| | 57 18's, besides field pieces. |
| Total | —290. |

Letters have been received at Washington, which state, that a large body of Indians, say 3 or 400, had assembled at the mouth of Cumberland river, north of the Ohio, who had taken 15 boats, and killed every person on board of them except two, that escaped in a canoe. We are sorry to be induced to believe there is too much truth in the statements.

Three hogs were brought to Wilmington market on the 11th inst. which weighed together 2301 lbs. They were raised in the neighborhood.

LONDON, November 5.
A curious invention has been adopted on board some of our merchant ships, which seems excellently calculated to prevent their being boarded by the enemy's small privateers or boats. It consists in fastening to the ruff-trees and quarter-rafts of the vessels a set of boxes, which contain spring bayonets four feet in length, and which in case of alarm are immediately pushed out in a horizontal position, thereby forming a line of bayonets one foot asunder, completely fore and aft over which it is extremely difficult for the boarders to pass. They seem to meet with such general approbation, that it is very probable they will supersede the use of boarding nettings.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, January 23.—A few unimportant petitions were presented and referred.

THE NAVY.—The house again went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Nelson in the chair on the navy bill.

On the motion to fill the first blank in the second section (number of frigates) with TEN, Mr. Wiggery spoke sometime in his favor.

The motion was lost by a large majority.

The vote taken yesterday, not to strike this section, was re-considered, and the section was stricken out.

Mr. Cheves moved to fill the blank in the fourth section (for the purchase of timber, &c.) with two hundred thousand dollars annually for three years. Mr. Rhea moved to strike out the section. Messrs. Clay (the speaker) Wright, and Mitchell, opposed the motion. It was lost, and the motion of Mr. Cheves carried by a large majority.

The committee then rose and the house adjourned.

The Editor's Department.

At this eventful crisis, when every ear is opened to learn the proceedings of Congress—when measures of the most important nature and tendency are agitated or acted upon, it might be reasonably expected that the pages of the REGISTER would be chiefly devoted to these topics, though so voluminous as to exclude almost every thing else, without being able to keep pace with them. The present number will be found highly interesting—the letter from the secretary of the treasury to the chairman of the committee of ways and means, will command universal attention—its great length, connected with the arrangements made previous to the receipt of it, have compelled us to postpone the remainder of *Mr. Giles'* speech—the continuation of the *History of Spain*, with many valuable articles of a miscellaneous nature. If possible (compatible with existing necessity to reprint certain back numbers of the Register) a supplement shall be issued next week. *¶ Having discovered the disadvantages of the procedure, we shall not, in future, so overlook ourselves with speeches as we have done—but give a GREATER DIVERSITY of matter.*