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

Shakspeare.—HENRY VIII.

Transmission of the Register.

I venture to assert that no paper published is put up with as much care as the WEEKLY REGISTER; and the system adopted in the office is such that an error cannot easily be committed, or at least, pass undetected. While I offer a just tribute of gratitude for the excellent manner in which the concerns of our manifold post-offices are generally managed, and congratulate my countrymen on the great ability with which this liberal and most useful establishment is governed, I am not without just causes of complaint, as, indeed, might have been anticipated. In the hurry which must frequently occur we cheerfully find an apology for the detention of the REGISTER; yet it ought always to reach its place of destination; but it is often entirely lost; which I presume must arise from mere carelessness or something worse; for, if fairly treated, the packages are strong enough to bear the most circuitous and lengthy route in the union. Further to secure the work from damage I intend to have made for the purpose a *high-sized* paper, in which each number shall be enveloped, and to pack them yet more firmly than heretofore. This may prevent injuries from rough usage; and this is all I can do. But—

When I commenced the paper I was well assured that a great part of its value would consist in it as a *book of references*, and that every subscriber would wish to have a perfect and complete copy. I was sensible that an apprehension of its not being regularly received, would prevent many from supporting it; yet as from a belief that its defects might be supplied, much carelessness would be promoted, I refrained from saying as I do now, that *I will ensure the safe delivery of all the numbers of the first volume, by supplying the places of those that miscarry, application therefor being made free of expence.*

H. NILES.

Baltimore, Feb. 21. 1812.

History

Of the Invasion of Spain by Bonaparte.

ABRIDGED FROM THE MOST AUTHENTIC SOURCES.
CHAPTER X.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 445.)

March of Sir John Moore into Egypt—his retreat—battle of Corunna—death and character of Sir John Moore.

SIR JOHN MOORE had acted both in the Mediterranean and in Sweden as commander in chief, and had acquired the esteem of all ranks for his abilities as an officer and his qualities as a man.—When it was determined to send a British force into Portugal, his army was ordered on that service, but he was superseded by Sir Harry Burrard and directed to serve as third in command. He betrayed no resentment at this, but declared his willingness to serve in any station however low,

that the good of his country might require. In a similar spirit of magnanimity, when he arrived in Portugal, after the battle of Vimeira, he declared that as Sir Arthur Wellesley had done so much, it was fair that he should take the lead in the operations against Lisbon, and offered to execute any part that was allotted to him without interfering with Sir Arthur. After the disgraceful and disastrous convention of Cintra, the three generals by whom it was made, Sir Harry Burrard, Sir Hew Dalrymple and Sir Arthur Wellesley were ordered home for trial, and the supreme command of the forces, devolved upon Sir John Moore. He received his appointment at Lisbon, on the 6th of October. Nearly two months before this time the English government had determined to send a force into Spain, but all this time had been lost in the very profitable service of transporting Junot and his army into France, on their way to the same field of battle!

His instructions were to march through Spain with his force towards Burgos, which was to be the general rendezvous for his troops and those with which he was to be reinforced from England; and here he was to combine his operations with those of the commander in chief of the Spanish armies. From the papers laid before both houses of Parliament, it appears, that this plan of sending a British army into the heart of Spain, to act in the plains of Leon and Castille, was formed by Lord Castlereagh and the Marquis of Romana, not only without any communication either with Sir Hew Dalrymple, then commander in chief of the British forces in Spain, or Sir John Moore, who was destined to command the army to be sent there, but also without any concert either with the supreme and central, or any of the provincial juntas.

In aid of Sir John Moore a detachment from England under Sir David Baird was to land at Corunna, with whom he was to form a junction on the borders of Leon and Galicia. Sir David arrived at Corunna on the 18th October, and was astonished to find that he could not be permitted to land his troops until permission had been obtained from the supreme junta. When at length he was allowed to disembark, his reception was so cold, the assistance afforded him so reluctant, that he was inclined to conclude that the Spaniards really did not desire the assistance of the British. Sir John was no better pleased with his reception.—As a coasting voyage at this season of the year was both uncertain and dangerous, it was determined that the army should go by land. The Spanish commissariat-general being consulted concerning the means of subsisting the army on the great road by Elvas, replied that it was not possible to furnish an adequate supply. In the north of Portugal there was abundance of food, but the Portuguese said that artillery could not be transported across the mountains. It became necessary

ry therefore to divide the army. The artillery and cavalry were entrusted to lieutenant-general Hope with four regiments of infantry; they were to march to Elvas, on the Madrid road; and two brigades, under general Paget went by Elvas and Alcantara. The rest of the army moved through Almeida, two brigades under general Beresford, by way of Coimbra; three under general Frazer by way of Abrantes. These were to unite at Salamanca, and general Hope and Sir David Baird were either to join them there or at Valladolid.—As Sir John Moore approached the scene of action he gradually acquired more just accounts of Spanish affairs than had been transmitted to his government. The manifestoes of all the provinces had breathed a most determined spirit of patriotism. But the correspondent of the British general gave him more accurate views of Spanish affairs. They said little to him of the ardour and enthusiasm of the Spaniards; but their letters were filled with details of the weakness and tardy measures of the Junta. This assembly consisted of thirty-two persons, with equal powers. They were divided into four sections or committees: one for the administration of the interior; a second for that of justice; a third for war; and a fourth for the marine. Their councils were distracted by self-interest, mutual jealousies, and discords. On the whole, they seemed to be less afraid of any foreign enemy, than of internal riots and revolution, which they set themselves by all means to obviate and particularly by suppressing the liberty of the press. Thus they damped and chilled the spirit of the nation. Judging of what Bonaparte could do, by what the Spaniards were capable of, they thought it almost impossible for his army to traverse the Pyrenees in winter. Should the French have the temerity to effect such a passage, they would soon, it was believed, be furnished. These notions were applicable to the resources formerly possessed by France. But the magnitude of the military preparations of their present enemy, and the celerity of his movements, confounded all their calculations. A judicious plan of a campaign can be formed only by reflecting on the actual state of things, and must necessarily be hollow, and pregnant with calamity if founded on false intelligence; yet the Spanish junta exerted all their art to deceive, not their enemy, but their ally; and they succeeded so perfectly, as to lead them to execute a plan adopted to a state of things the reverse of their real condition. Their ardent and eloquent proclamations, exaggerated numbers, and vaunted enthusiasm, could not deceive him whom it would have been useful to deceive. Bonaparte found means to obtain exact information. There were traitors even among the loudest of their patriots, who enabled him to calculate with perfect accuracy the precise portion of patriotism scattered throughout the kingdom. Yet there are some facts, as Moore observes, that would almost lead us to suppose, that the Spanish juntas, from an excess of presumption and ignorance, and a heated imagination, were so blinded, as to have misled the British cabinet unintentionally. They certainly, at first, considered Spain as more than a match for the French, and they applied to their allies for arms and money, and not for men, whom they did not consent to receive until the 26th September.

Early in the month of Nov. Sir John Moore entered Salamanca. There he first learned the defeat of the Esquivaduran army at Burgos, and on the second night after his arrival, he was awaken-

ed by an express, who brought intelligence that the French were in possession of Valladolid—twenty leagues from his present quarters. His force consisted of only three brigades of infantry, and he had not a single gun. Every day brought with it new causes of anxiety, and intelligence of new disasters. Blake and Castanos were marching from the place of junction, and the boasted army of the latter did not amount (25 Oct.) to above one third of what it had been represented. It was no other than “a mass of miserable peasantry, without clothing, without ammunition, and with few officers that deserved that name.” Such was the account transmitted by captain Whittingham and Lord Wm. Bentinck. Sir John Moore placed nearly in the centre, between two divisions of his army, which were approaching, and apparently abandoned by his allies, was compelled to remain inactive. Perceiving the supineness of the Spanish government, and indignant at discovering the weakness which they had concealed from him till he was in the heart of Spain, he began to despair of the cause. He saw nothing around him, but an inactivity, which he mistook for torpor and indifference. They had not, he said, shown themselves a wise or a provident people; their wisdom was not a wisdom of action. Yet still he felt that they were a fine people; that they had a character of their own, quite distinct from that of any other nation, and much he thought might have been done for them. He erred in thinking that they would not do much for themselves.

On the 28th of Nov. while Sir John Moore was waiting the junction of his forces, he received intelligence of the total defeat of Castanos at Tudela on the 22d, the question was now no longer how to aid the Spaniards, but how to provide for their own safety. The question whether twenty-six British troops should remain to bear the attack of 100,000 French, or by retiring upon Lisbon, they should preserve themselves for more fortunate times, left no alternative. The intention of retreating being made known at Salamanca, excited very general disapprobation. Murmurs against it were heard in every quarter, and from men of all ranks. Even the staff officers lamented this resolution of their commander, and doubted the wisdom of his decision. In his letter to Mr. Frere, the British ambassador, at the court of Madrid, to whose advice he had been directed to pay great respect, written before the defeat of Castanos was known, he had proposed the question what the British army should do, in case of that event; whether he should retreat upon Portugal, or march upon Madrid, thus to run all risks, and share the fortunes of the Spanish nation?—The ambassador thought that great advantages would result from advancing speedily to cover Madrid. It was a point of great moment for effect in Spain, and still more in France, and in the west of Europe. The people of the town were full of resolution, and determined to defend it in spite of its situation; and nothing could be more unfavourable to the claim of the intruder than a siege of the capital. The first object of the English therefore, he thought, should be to march there, and collect a force capable of resisting the French, before further reinforcements arrived from France. Before this letter arrived, the general's resolution had been taken, in consequence of the defeat of Castanos; and though his staff-officers disapproved of his decision, he afterwards learned that General Hope agreed with him on this, as on all points.

The Suprema Junta, unwilling to trust to the devoted credulity of the British ambassador, nor even to the false statements with which Morla abused that minister's understanding in despite of his eyes, dispatched two Spanish Generals, under pretence of concerting operations between the British and Spanish armies, and accelerating their combined movements and avoiding all delays, so contrary to the noble and important cause of the two countries. These generals corroborated the flattering statements which Sir John had received. But they were rather surprised when he introduced to them Col. Graham, who had, the night before, supped with Don Juan in his way from Madrid, whom they had represented as in possession of the pass of Somo-Sierra. A few days after the receipt of this letter brought by these Generals, Moore received another dated at Madrid 2d Dec. from the Prince of Castel Franco and Morla, professing to be a true and faithful representation of affairs at that moment. General Castanos' army, it stated, amounting to about 35,000 was falling back upon Madrid in the greatest haste to unite with its garrison. The force which was at Somo-Sierra (10,000) was also coming to that city for the same purpose where nearly 40,000 men would join them. While Sir John was deliberating upon this urgent summons to Madrid, he received another dispatch dated on the 5th, from Mr. Frere, at Talavera, repeating in terms still more vehement the necessity of an advance upon Madrid, and resting the fate of Spain upon the British General.

It could never enter into the conception of Sir J. M. that the two chiefs of the Junta had conspired to betray the capital of their own country, to entice the army of their allies into the hands of the enemy; nor was it to be imagined that the British minister could be so grossly deceived, as to send for his instruction, intelligence the reverse of truth, or to require of him in so positive a manner to defend a city which had actually surrendered. Moore now resolved to attempt a diversion in favour of the capital. He wrote to Sir David Baird to return to Astorga. "We must be at hand," said he, "to aid and take advantage of whatever happens. The wishes of our country and our duty demand this of us, with whatever risk it may be attended." He added this melancholy and prophetic sentence—"I mean to proceed bridle in hand, for if the bubble bursts and Madrid falls, we shall have a run for it." He opened a correspondence with the Marquis of Romana and communicated to him his intention of marching by Valladolid towards Burgos, in conjunction with Sir D. Baird, and with or without the army of Romana, for the purpose of threatening the communication of the French. On the 12th, he marched from Salamanca to Alajos, on his road to Valladolid, and the commencement of his enterprise was signalized by the capture of a small corps of the enemy at the village of Rueda; an event of little importance, except as it was highly honourable to the skill and enterprise of the cavalry under the orders of Brigadier general Stuart. On the 14th, he received, at Alajos the first intelligence of the base surrender of Madrid on the 4th—the same Madrid which the junta, at Talavera, on the 8th had declared to Col. Graham to be still under arms: indeed, so late as the 13th, the junta wrote from Merida to Estramadura, that the people still held out at Madrid, that the French had been beaten back, and gone to Zamora, and that

things went on very well in Catalonia! All the information which Moore received was contained in an intercepted letter from Berthier to Soult, by which he also learned the strength and situation of the different divisions of the French army. Here he likewise received a letter from the Marquis of Romana at Leon, approving the reasons of retreat he had formerly intended. From this city he intended to move to Valladolid. But the situation of Marshal Soult, with two divisions at Saldanha, and Junot at Burgos, exposed Sir D. Baird, to be attacked in forming his junction. Sir John accordingly returned to Toro, in order to join Sir D. Baird as soon as possible. At Toro he received advice of the disorganized and feeble state of Romana's army, with which he was meditating a junction for adding vigour to his intended attack on Soult. From Toro too, he dispatched an account to Mr. Frere, of the intelligence he had received by the intercepted dispatches; and here he was again assailed by the harassing intricacies of the junta, and the insulting representations of the Minister Plenipotentiary. The general, firm in his designs, and above the petty resentments of a weak mind, continued his march on Villapardo and Valeros. On the 20th he reached Majorga, and there, by completing his junction with Sir D. Baird, united the whole British army which now amounted to 23,000 infantry, 2,300 cavalry, the latter being in advance within a few miles of Sahagun, where about 700 of the enemy's cavalry were posted. Lord Paget attempted to surprize and carry off this corps, and though his complete success was prevented by an accident, he dispersed them and brought off 137 prisoners. Frequent skirmishes took place, with the success of which the British had no reason to be dissatisfied. In one of these actions, a French officer of chasseurs was cut down. His cloak bag was found to contain a silver ewer and basin, beaten close together, for more convenient packing, the handles of some silver knives and forks, a great many trinkets plundered from churches, and an embroidered jacket, with the badge of the legion of honour. Most of the wounded English were cut in the head, owing to their fantastic caps: the French helmets were not heavier though lined with a hoop of iron, and protecting the side of the face, either with chain or bar work. On the 21st the army arrived at Sahagun: the weather was severe, the roads bad, and covered with snow; and as the soldiers had suffered a great deal from forced marches, the general halted, that they might recover. On the two following days every arrangement was completed for the attempt on the enemy consisting of 18,000 men under Soult, at Carrion and Saldanha. The Marquis of Romana with the wreck of Blake's army with whom a co-operation had been concerted, was, on the 23d at Mansilla with about 7000 infantry, 120 horse and 8 pieces of artillery, expecting directions for the combined attack.

The convents in Sahagun were prepared for the reception of the wounded: the soldiers hoisted the orders for preparation with rapture, for they confidently anticipated a glorious victory. The general was less sanguine. "The movement I am making," he said to Mr. Frere, "is one of the most dangerous kind. Not only risk to be surrounded every moment by superior forces, but to have my communication with Galicia intercepted. I wish it to be apparent to the whole world, as it is to every individual of the army, that we

have done every thing in our power to support the Spanish cause, and that we do not abandon it until long after the Spaniards had abandoned it themselves."

At the hour appointed the whole force was under arms; the right column had begun its march, and the rest were in high spirits, expecting the word of command. At this moment a letter arrived from Romana, communicating intelligence which entirely altered the face of things. Reinforcements had been continually pouring forward to the assistance of Soult, so that his own army alone was much superior to the British. Junot, who had advanced from Burgos to Placentia, threatened the right flank of the British. The corps under Lefebvre which had advanced to Talavera de la Reyna in its way to Badajoz, was directed to march backward on Salamanca. Bonaparte himself, in person, on the 10th of December, marched from Madrid with 32,000 infantry and 800 cavalry: even Mortier's division which was on its march to Zaragoza, was stopped. In a word the whole disposable force of the French army, forming an irregular crescent, were marching like radii to environ the British. Thus it fully appeared that the bold measures which had been adopted by Sir John Moore, had prevented the immediate subjugation of the peninsula: for there was nothing to resist the victorious career of Bonaparte in the South, and Lisbon and Cadiz would have yielded to him as easily as Madrid had done. It remains to be seen what was the plan adopted by the British General to extricate his army from its perilous situation.

THE RETREAT OF SIR JOHN MOORE.

Immediately on receiving intelligence of the combination of the enemy, the General issued his orders for the army to return to quarters, and by day break the next morning to be under arms. "In my life," says one who heard the order, "I never witnessed such an instantaneously—withering effect upon any body of living creatures! A few murmurs only were heard, but every countenance was changed, and they who, the minute before, were full of that confidence which ensures victory, were at once deprived of all heart and hope." The retreat of the British army began by the passage of the river Esla. Romana was left in possession of the bridge of Mansilla, and the road to Leon. Sir D. Baird crossed the Esla by the ferry of Valencia, where he took post to cover the magazines at Benevento and Zamora. The General with the remainder of the army, on Christmas day, followed General Hope, with the reserve and the light brigades, over the bridge of Castro Gonsalo. These movements were masked by Lord Paget, who, advancing close to the divisions of the enemy, fell in with and defeated several detachments of cavalry which Bonaparte had pushed forward from Tordesillas. A thaw came on the day they first fell back, and on the following day it rained heavily, without intermission: the soil in that part of the country is a heavy loam, and the roads were a foot deep in clay. The proclamations of the French travelled faster than the British army; these were, as usual, full of promises which would not be fulfilled, and menaces which would. The British soldiers were indig-

nant with the Spaniards for their apparent supineness; they were exasperated by the conduct of some poor wretches, whose carts had been pressed to carry the sick and wounded, and who, as many of them as could, had taken their mules and run away in the night, partly from natural selfishness, still more because the movements of a retreating army exposed themselves to imminent danger, and their beasts to certain destruction. Weary and disheartened, in want of rest and food, disappointed of their confident hopes of victory, and indignant at turning their backs upon an enemy whom they would so eagerly have met in the field, it was a relief to them to give vent to those feelings, in the shape of anger, upon the only objects within their reach. In this temper they began to plunder and commit havoc wherever they went, and the officers, many of whom already murmured at the rapidity of their retreat, and were discontented at the total silence which the commander in chief maintained respecting his future measures, did not exert themselves as they ought to have done, to prevent these excesses.

Dec. 26.—Sir D. Baird who took the shorter line to Astorga, by way of Valencia, effected his march without molestation. The sick and wounded, following the same track, halted at the latter place, to pass the night. Hardly were they provided with the necessary food, and laid to rest, before the alarm was sounded, and they were again hurried into the waggons. The night was cold, misty, and exceeding dark, and the Esla was to be forded some little distance from the town. The ford is dangerous, because of the rapidity of the stream, occasioned by two narrow banks of shingles, which form an angle in the middle; and at this time the river was fast rising, from the melting of the snow upon the mountains. Perilous, however, as the ford was, the passage was accomplished, without other loss than that of some baggage waggons which broke down. In the mean time the other division of the army under Sir John Moore reached Benevento; there the soldiers had an opportunity of displaying a spirit more becoming them as Englishmen. Soon after the rear of the army had marched into the town, Dec. 27, an alarm was given that the enemy was on the opposite heights. In an instant all was on the alert; every man hastened to his place of rendezvous; and the cavalry poured out of the gates:—the plain on the opposite side was covered with fugitives, and the streets were filled with women bewailing their fate, and calling on their Saints and their Virgin for protection. The French, seeing with what alacrity they would be encountered, looked at them from the heights, and retired. On the following morning when the troops resumed their retreat, and the whole infantry and cavalry had departed, intelligence arrived that the French were again appearing, and that their cavalry were in the act of passing the Esla. Lord Paget and Gen. Stuart were still in the town. Lord Paget, still seeking danger, from the double impulse of courage and wretchedness, hastened to the spot; he found four squadrons of imperial guards already formed, and skirmishing with the piquets; other cavalry were in the act of passing. The tenth lancers were sent for: as soon as they arrived, Gen. Stuart placed himself at the head of the piquets, and charged the enemy. The French gave way, and repassed the ford more precipitately than they had crossed it. On the other side they formed again, and threatened a second attempt; but three pieces of horse art-

* It is asserted that when Bonaparte received intelligence that the British were moving to the Duero, he said, "Moore is the only general fit to contend with me, I shall advance against him in person." *Quart. Rev.* Aug. 1809, p. 208.

tery, which now came up, were stationed near the bridge, and opened a fire upon them, that did considerable execution. About 70 prisoners were taken; among them was the young Gen. Lefebvre, commander of the imperial guards. It was said that the Emperor himself was on the heights and viewed this action. The ardour of the French was manifestly damped—and Moore soon after uniting with Sir D. Baird, proceeded (Dec. 30) on to Villa Franca and Lugo. At Astorga all the superfluous camp equipage was destroyed, and all the sumpter mules, horses &c. that could not keep up with the mules, abandoned. On the march, the military chest was sacrificed. Barrels full of dollars were staved and precipitated over rocks, into ravines, dens and rivers. From Astorga to Lugo the road lay for the most part through bleak mountains covered with snow, affording so scanty a supply of provisions, owing to the marches of the different armies backwards and forwards, that the troops were sometimes two days without tasting any food. The men half-famished, half frozen, and altogether desperate were no longer in any subordination. They forced their way into the houses where their rations should have been served, seized it by force, and destroyed more than they could carry away. During the march the extremes of vice and misery seemed to meet. In some of the villages the unburied dead bodies of the inhabitants lay outstretched before the doors of their own houses, from which they had been driven by the unrelenting soldier, urged by his own necessities, to perish with cold and hunger. In others no trace of inhabitants were to be found. Stragglers from different corps plundered the different magazines, commissaries, stores and cellars, and afterwards lay intoxicated by the side-way, mixed with the sick and those overcome with fatigue, to be trampled under the feet, or mangled by the sabres of the enemy. Besides the terrible example of a man who had been shot at Villa Franca, for such conduct, Gen. Moore held up other warnings not less impressive. Several stragglers who had been hacked and hewed by the French troopers, were led through their respective corps as examples of the consequences of drunkenness and disobedience to orders.

Bonaparte pursued no further than Astorga: he then charged Marshal Soult, with what he called "the glorious mission of destroying the English army—of driving them into the sea."—The British army pursued their weary way, without provision to sustain nature, shelter from the rain and snow, fuel for fire, to keep the vital heat from total extinction, a place where the sick and fatigued could rest a moment in safety. All that had hitherto been suffered was but the prelude to this consummate scene of horrors. It was still attempted to carry on some of the sick and wounded; the beasts which drew them failed at every step; and they were left in the waggons to perish in the snows. "I looked round," says an officer: "when we had hardly gained the highest point of those slippery precipices, and saw the rear of the army winding along the narrow road. I saw their way marked by the wretched people who lay on all sides expiring, from fatigue and the severity of

It The child of a woman who died of hunger and fatigue, was found clinging and trying to draw sustenance from the cold breasts of its lifeless mother! A soldier of a Highland regiment took the infant, carried it along with him, and now protects and calls it his child.—*Annual Register*, vol. 51, p. 19.

the snow; their bodies reddened in spots the white surface of the ground." The men were now desperate; excessive fatigue, and the feeling of disgrace there was in thus retreating, or as they said, running away from the enemy, excited in them a feeling which was almost mutinous. A few hours pause was what they unanimously wished for, an opportunity of facing the French, the chance of an honourable and speedy death, the certainty of sweetening their sufferings by taking vengeance on their pursuers. A Portuguese bullock-driver, who had faithfully served the English from the first day of their march, was seen on his knees amid the snow, with his hands clasped, dying in the attitude and act of prayer. He had at least the hopes and the actual consolation and comfort of religion in his passing hour. The soldiers who threw themselves down to perish by the way side, gave utterance to far different feelings with their dying breath; shame and strong anger were their last sentiments, and their groans were mingled with imprecations upon the Spaniards, by whom they fancied themselves betrayed, and the generals who rather let them die like beasts, than take the chance in the field of battle. That no horror might be wanting, women and children accompanied this wretched army; some were frozen to death in the baggage waggons, which were broken down, or left upon the road for want of cattle; some died of fatigue and cold, while the infants were pulling at the exhausted breast—one woman was taken in labour upon the mountain; she lay down at the turning of an angle, more sheltered than the rest of the way from the sleet which drifted along; there she was found dead, and two babes, which she had brought forth, struggling in the snow;—a blanket was thrown over her to hide her from sight—the only burial that could be afforded, and the infants were given in charge to another woman.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Philosophical Disquisitions.

NO. IV.

From what has been said in my former number, animal life is the continued application of new matter acting upon organized animal matter, producing motion in the animal on which it acts; but does the action of exciting matter on animal matter give us all the phenomena of life? How are we to explain sensation, volition, irritation, the passions, &c.

In order to do this, I will first observe, that there is an uninterrupted communication kept up between that part of an organized animal called the brain, and every other part of the body; this communication between the brain and body, is occasioned by an unknown modification of matter called nerves, they have their origin from the brain, and are distributed to every part of an organized animal;—those nerves, which are intended for the senses, have their origin immediately from the substance of the brain: those which produce the great variety of voluntary, involuntary and mixed motions, originate from the spinal marrow: now as soon as one of those nerves passes off from the brain, it divides and subdivides into an infinite number of minute branches and ramifications, pervading the most delicate fibre of every part of the animal solid.

Now, the great variety of sensation, volition, irritation, &c. must be produced by the great variety of exciting matter, acting upon the ends of those nerves, producing motion in them, which motion

is communicated to the brain. An idea then, seems to be nothing more than motion produced in the brain by exciting matter, from without, acting upon the end of a nerve, and it seems highly probable, that this is the case with respect to all ideas and every faculty the mind possesses.

In order to explain this more clearly, I will give a few examples. The exciting matter of a ray of light, acts upon the retina of the eye, this produces motion in the retina, which gives rise to perception in the brain, through the medium of the optic nerve, hence the origin of light and objects. The exciting matter of sound, produces vibration in the air, which acts upon the tympanum of the ear; motion is communicated to the brain through the medium of the auditory nerve, hence the origin of hearing. The exciting matter of odors, acts upon a very delicate membrane of the nose, this membrane is put in motion, which is conveyed to the brain by the olfactory nerve; hence the origin of smell. The exciting matter of food acts upon the tongue, motion is conveyed to the brain; hence the origin of taste. Various exciting matter acts upon the ends of the fingers and surface of the body, motion is communicated to the brain through the medium of a variety of nerves; hence the origin of touch or feeling.

The great variety of exciting matter produces the great variety of motion, and the great variety of motion produces the great variety of sensation, volition, irritations, &c. either agreeable or disagreeable to the animal on which it acts. The exciting matter of contagion produces motion, unfriendly to the animal nerve on which it acts; hence the origin of epidemic fever. The exciting matter of food, drink, &c. produces motion friendly to the nerve which receives it; hence the origin of health.

Now, as long as exciting matter continues its action on animal matter, so as to produce motion, which has not a tendency to destroy organization, the animal is supported by it; but when it acts in such a manner as to disarrange its parts; without arranging them again, the animal becomes incapable of performing his office. Organization being destroyed by the improper application of exciting matter, the parts of which it was composed become exciting matter for other animals producing new organization. When we consider, that an animal is nothing more than an organized machine placed within the reach of a great variety of exciting matter, and that a certain portion of it is continually acting upon it in order to produce motion, it would not, at first view, seem strange that this organ should be so often out of repair.

All the matter of which animals are composed, is divided by physiologists, into solid and fluid. The solid parts consist of bone, cartilage, muscle, integument, nerve, &c. The fluids consist of blood and that which is formed from it—although the solid may appear to be entirely free from fluidity, yet when subjected to chemical analysis it is found to contain a considerable portion of fluid matter, every portion of the solid is continually receiving a due portion of moisture for the purpose of keeping up a sufficient degree of motion to preserve its organization. The fluid which filters through the solid is continually acting upon it, by reason of its affinity; as it circulates, a portion of the solid is carried along with the fluid, and leaves a portion of fluid matter behind to supply the place of the worn down solid.

After fluid matter has acted some time on solid matter, the affinity between the two is lessened in consequence of the greater affinity existing between

the solid aggregate; this affinity increases until the animal solid arrives to a certain age, for the more dense and solid matter becomes under certain circumstances, the greater must be the power required to overcome its resistance. This is the case with most matter as far as it has come under my observation, and I have also observed, the longer a given bulk of matter remains together, the more firmly united and consolidated it becomes, and its affinity for other matter diminished.

Fluid matter now exerts a more feeble influence upon solid matter; it passes through it without producing the same sensible changes as was formerly observed; now when fluidity passes through a solid having but little affinity for it, its motion must be necessarily slow, unless remote affinity impels it forward. The circulation of all the fluids being retarded in consequence of worn-down affinity, it is at length incapable of exerting any influence upon solid matter; the parts of which the solid are composed, have so great an affinity for each other, that exciting matter cannot act upon it in such a manner as to produce the variety of motion necessary to the life of the solid; it now exhibits none of the phenomena of life. This I imagine to be the case with very old animals, that die with age: for it has come under the observation of almost every person, that when an animal arrives to a great age, the solids become rigid, and will not give way to the impulse of the fluids: of course the circulation of the blood and all the fluids secreted from it, glide slowly through the system: the fibres of the stomach become incapable of acting upon the contained food; of course a larger portion than is consistent with health is required to rouse the stomach into action; the lacteals do not absorb a sufficient quantity of chyle; the intestines become torpid; the power of the heart and arteries lose their force and frequency; and death from worn down affinity closes the scene. The old organ loses gradually the parts of which it is composed, and becomes exciting matter for new organic germs. The time required for its dissolution depends in a great degree upon the manner exciting matter acts, and the demand neighboring organic germs have for it.

Physiologists all agree in opinion, that the solids of all animals derive their existence from fluids, although strictly speaking, there is no such thing in matter as fluidity, for it seems to be nothing more than solidity partially antagonized by repulsion. The male semen when it first comes in contact with the ova of the ovum, is in a fluid state, but in a short time, it assumes a very different form, viz. from a fluid paste to the hardest bone. In tracing the rudiments of a new being from fluidity to a state of solidity, it is necessary to observe, that a great portion of the solids of all animals exhibit a fibrous appearance, those fibres were evidently formed from vessels circulating fluid. In the embryonic state, fluids pass without much resistance; but as soon as fluid and affinity erected their affections, the fluid found considerable resistance, made on the part of the solid: this resistance increases, and at length the fluid matter is not suffered to pass through the solid, unless it is the more volatile parts. Every lamina of bone, fibre, muscle, tendon, &c. seems to have been once vascular, but the continued application of fluid matter causes the vessel, through which it passes to thicken: the diameter of each circular fibre is continually becoming less until all the fibres of which the vessel was first formed, become solid. Were not this

the case, how are we to account for the fibres of muscle, bone, &c. running more or less parallel to each other,—these fibres are very plainly seen in the muscles of an adult or bones of a fœtus. As soon as one vessel becomes solid, and has obstructed the passage of fluids, it is compelled to seek another route in the neighborhood of the solid; the solid now directs the course of the fluid along its surface, and in a short time, a thin and delicate membrane is formed around the fluid: the fluid now is no longer governed by the solid which first directed its course, having a reservoir of its own, it circulates through it, and imparts fluidity to its inner surface, until it becomes a solid by the laws of affinity.

Now, we have two parallel fibres, with a delicate membrane, or bond of union between them; this seems to be the first solid part formed from fluid matter, it pervades the whole body, and gives union and strength to it. This membrane by physiologists is called cellular, from its having a number of cells. It must be formed at a very early period, for as soon as fluid matter comes in contact with the solid matter, one portion of the former united with another portion of the latter: there is now a medium between the density of the two: this new matter increases in solidity by its affinity, until a thin membrane is formed: fluid matter now, has a less affinity for it; singular changes take place in the fluid contained in the membrane, until the whole becomes a solid. To give the reader a more correct idea of this substance, let us take for instance, any of the large muscles, and macerate it in water for several days, when taken out, a thin membrane is found partly detached; this is the connecting medium between the muscle and its fellow: after this coat is removed, the muscle seems to be composed of a number of parallel fibres: remove these fibres, and we find each connected to its fellow by a like membrane: so, that a muscle, when minutely examined, is composed of nothing but a number of thin and minute lamina. This is likewise the case with bone, cartilage, &c. The periosteum seems to be coeval with bone, perhaps it is first formed, ossification then takes place in the contained fluid, and continues until the whole is converted into bony matter: this hard substance having closed almost every avenue: fluid matter is now conducted along the surface of the bone; and in consequence of lessened affinity between the two, a substance of a softer consistence is formed on the bone called cartilage. The size, strength and form of the cartilage will depend upon the size, strength and form of the bone, and the quantity of fluid, which comes in contact with it. Now as the first affinity acts with the greatest force, the second with a less, &c. it seems probable that the rudiments of the hardest substance of an animal are first formed, viz. bone.—The next affinity acting with a less force, may lay the foundation for a substance called cartilage. The third tendon, muscle, &c.

Now the first affinity existing between the male semen and the fluid which is contained in the ova of the ovium, when this comes in contact, is the greatest; of course, the foundation is laid for the hardest animal substance, minor affinities succeed the first, until the solid becomes properly formed and organized, it is now only capable of giving to the fluidity a small portion of its matter; and at the same time receiving from the fluid mass new matter equal to that which it parted with: The continued application of fluidity is now necessary to keep up a degree of motion on the organized body, and

its motions depend upon the action of fluidity and other exciting matter.

Having traced the rudiments of a new being from the fluid to the solid state, and finding its organization similar to the parent matter, which gave it existence, it is reasonable to suppose, the parent is not capable of supporting it any longer; it is therefore disengaged from its place of confinement and ushered into light and life. Immediately it comes into existence, it is acted upon by exciting matter, very different from that furnished by the parent. The air, for instance, acts upon the lungs and tender surface of the body: the effect of this is an exertion, on the part of the infant, to relieve pain; it cries aloud, the lungs now become dilated by atmospheric air, the vital parts of which are absorbed by the small blood vessels of the lungs; it stimulates them to action; the circulation of the red fluid is put in more rapid motion, and continues to go on until life ceases to exist. In order that parental affinity may not be entirely withdrawn after the new being is disengaged from the parent, the first six or nine months it sucks the breast of the mother. It is then capable of withstanding the great variety of rough agents, which have a tendency to destroy it: the world is now before it where to choose, and exciting matter its guide.

CREECH.

Twelfth Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Friday Feb. 14.—After disposing of some private petitions—

The house resumed the consideration of the bill for arming the militia; when on motion of Mr. Milnor, an amendment was made to that section of the bill which inflicts a penalty on the representative of any deceased militiamen improperly withholding his arms.

Mr. M. Clay stated that he yesterday voted in favor of an amendment to the bill, leaving it with the respective states or territories to distribute the arms provided by this bill, in such a manner as they may direct. He now wished to have that vote reconsidered, and moved to that effect.

The yeas and nays were called upon the question.

Mr. Lacombe observed, that as this was an important question, upon which, perhaps, the fate of the bill depended, he could wish to have it decided in a fuller house, there being barely a quorum of members present. He therefore moved that the house adjourn.—Carried.

Adjourned till Monday.

Monday, Feb. 17.—Mr. Bacon, from the committee of ways and means, made the following important SPECIAL REPORT, which was read, referred to a committee of the whole on Monday next, and ordered to be printed:

REPORT.

The COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS having taken into their consideration the subject of the revenue and expenditure of the United States, for the present and two succeeding years, in particular reference to a state of contemplated war during a greater portion of that period, ask leave to REPORT.

That the ordinary expenses during the present year, grounded on the estimates already laid before congress, are estimated as follows, viz:

Expenses of a civil nature both foreign and domestic,	\$ 1,260,000	estimated as for the present year at about	\$ 9,000,000.
Army, exclusive of the additional military force authorised by the act the present session, and including \$ 32,800, for the service of militia in the years 1809, 1810 and 1811,	2,581,000	To which must be added the interest then accruing on the loan proposed to be authorised for the service of the present year, estimating the same at six per cent. and amounting to	660,000
Naval department, including the marine corps,	2,500,000	Making the revenue necessary to be provided, for paying the ordinary expenses, and interest on loans for that year [and leaving the extraordinary expenses of the year also to be provided for by loans]	\$ 9,660,000
Arsenals, arms, ordnance, repairs of fortifications, including \$ 200,000, permanent appropriations for the purchase and manufacture of arms,	614,000	That the receipts into the treasury from the present sources of revenue during that year, calculating on a state of war during a greater portion of the present year, are estimated (conjecturally) at	3,100,000
Indian department,	220,000	Leaving a deficiency to be provided for by additional revenues to be received during that year of	\$ 6,560,000
Interest on the public debt,	2,225,000	Estimating the ordinary expenses of 1814 as for the present year at about	\$ 9,000,000
Total ordinary expenses,	9,400,000	And adding the interest accruing on the loan proposed for the present year	660,000
That the actual receipts into the treasury during the same year are estimated at,	8,200,000	And also the interest then accruing on the loan which in all probability may be necessary to cover the extraordinary expenses of 1813, and which it would not be prudent to calculate at less than eleven millions	660,000
Leaving a deficit in the receipts of	1,200,000	Making the revenue necessary to be provided, for paying the ordinary expenses and interest on loans for that year [and leaving the extraordinary expenses of the year also to be provided for by loans]	\$ 10,320,000
Which deficit may however be paid out of the monies remaining in the treasury at the close of the year, leaving a sum of \$ 1,800,000 on hand, which in the opinion of the committee, it would not be prudent under existing circumstances farther to exhaust.		Estimating the receipts into the treasury from the present sources of revenue during that year at	3,100,000
That the extraordinary expenses of the present year already authorised by law, or which by bills pending before congress are in a course of authorization, are as follows :		Leaving a deficiency to be provided for by additional revenues to be received during that year of	\$ 7,220,000
Ordnance and ordnance stores, camp equipage and other quartermaster's stores,	\$ 1,900,000	Under this prospective view of the financial situation of the government, it became in the judgment of the committee their imperious duty as well in reference to the obligations incumbent upon them from the general trust with which they were clothed, as also in deference to that portion of the message of the President of the United States, which had been specially referred to their consideration, to enter as early as possible upon a system of ways and means calculated to provide 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."	
Six companies of mounted rangers,	108,772	Any provision falling short of this requisition, would, in the opinion of the committee, betray an improvidence in the government, tending to impair its general character, to sap the foundations of its credit, and to enfeeble its energies in the prosecution of the contest into which it may soon be driven in defence of its unquestionable rights, and for the repulsion of long continued and most aggravated aggressions. Should the ruinous system of relying altogether upon the aid of loans, for defraying, not only the extraordinary expenditures of the present and succeeding years, but also a large portion both	
Additional military force,	5,112,560 26		
Repairing vessels out of commission and purchase of timber for naval purposes,	680,000		
Erection of additional fortifications	1,000,000		
Calling out certain corps of volunteers,	1,000,000		
Calling out militia	1,000,000		
	\$ 10,801,332 26		
Total extraordinary expenses (say)	11,000,000		
The whole of which sum it is necessary and is accordingly proposed to raise by loan conformable to the bill herewith reported by the committee.			
That the amount of the principal of the public debt which is reimbursable during the same year, consisting of six per cent. deferred and exchanged stock, is	\$ 2,135,000		
And in the event of stocks falling below par [thereby imposing upon the commissioners of the sinking fund an obligation to purchase in order to satisfy the annual appropriation of eight millions of dollars for the reduction of the public debt] may amount to the further sum of	3,640,000		
Total amount of the principal of the public debt which may become reimbursable during the present year	\$ 5,775,000		
Which sum it is also proposed to authorise the commissioners of the sinking fund to borrow, conformable to such bill as may hereafter be reported.			
That the ordinary expenses of government for the year 1813, may be			

of the ordinary expenses of the government, and the interest on the public debt, including that on new loans, be suffered to prevail, and no additional revenues be seasonably provided, it will result, that the loans which it may be necessary to authorize during the year 1813, must amount to at least 10,560,000 dollars, and for 1814, to 18,220,000 dollars; an operation which, by throwing into the market so large an amount of stock, accompanied with no adequate provision for paying even the interest accruing on such as may be created, but relying altogether upon the decreasing ability to borrow for the purpose of paying such interest, must have a most unfavorable effect upon the general price of public stocks, and the consequent terms of the loans themselves.—It may be added, that a system of that sort would, it is believed, be found altogether unprecedented in the financial history of any wise and regular government, and must, if yielded to, produce at no distant period, that general state of public discredit which attended the national finances during the war of the revolution, and which nothing but the peculiar circumstances of the country, and the wants of a well organized and efficient government during the period of that revolution, could at all justify.

To have withheld from the public view a fair exposition of the probable state of the fiscal concerns of the government, under the first pressure of active war, or to have deferred submitting to the house such a system as in the opinion of the committee was indispensable to place the revenues of the country upon a basis commensurate with the public exigencies, would in their judgment, at once have evinced in the eyes of foreign nations an imbecility of action and of design, the effects of which must be too obvious to be mistaken. And as it regards our own country, would have indicated a policy as feeble and short sighted, as it must have been considered deceptive and disingenuous—as unworthy the rulers of a free and enlightened nation, as in its result it would have been found fatal to its interests, and paralyzing to all its efforts. It is obvious that the whole amount which it is necessary to raise in order to meet the anticipated deficit of revenue for the ensuing years, is indeed “moderate when compared either with the population and wealth of the United States or with the burthens laid on European nations by their governments.”

To doubt whether the “will or the ability” of the people of the United States to bear such burthens as are indispensable to this end, would be to doubt their dispositions to meet seriously the contest which is presented to them, and would go far to prove that it had better not have been attempted.—

To doubt the readiness of the government to bring “promptly and efficiently” into action the necessary resources of the nation, would be cast a distrust over the sincerity of those pledges which they have so recently and distinctly given to the world in that respect, and would imply a suspicion of their firmness or forecast not for a moment to be entertained.

For a more full and distinct elucidation of the general subject which it has become the duty of the committee to present to the house, they beg leave to refer to the letter of the secretary of the treasury, in answer to the several enquiries made of him by their order, and which has heretofore been laid before the house—concurring as they most fully do in the general opinion expressed by him, “That 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 expence, 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.”

It is then proposed by the committee, that the additional revenue which will be necessary “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,” should be immediately provided for in the following modes, viz.

<i>1st. Additional duties of imposts and tonnage.</i>	
1st. An increase of the duties now payable by law on imported merchandise calculated to yield a net revenue of	\$ 2,500,000
2d. A further retention on the amount of all drawbacks allowed by law on the exportation of goods, wares and merchandize, calculated to yield a net revenue of	100,000
3d. An additional tonnage duty on American and foreign vessels, calculated to yield a net revenue of	200,000
4th. A duty on salt imported, calculated to yield a net revenue of	400,000
Total net amount of revenue estimated from additional duties of impost and tonnage	\$3,200,000

<i>2d. Internal duties.</i>	
1st. A duty on licences to distil spirits from foreign and domestic materials, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	275,000
2d. A duty on licences to retailers of wines, spirits, and foreign merchandize, including tavern-keepers, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	500,000
3d. A duty on sales at auction of foreign merchandize and of vessels, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	150,000
4th. A duty on all sugars refined in the United States, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	200,000
5th. A duty on carriages used for the conveyance of persons, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	150,000
6th. A duty on various instruments of writing, to be collected by means of stamps, calculated to yield a gross revenue of	450,000

Total gross amount of revenue estimated from the internal duties	\$1,725,000
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<i>3d. Direct tax.</i>	
A direct tax to be laid and apportioned among the several states according to the rule prescribed by the constitution, gross amount	3,000,000

Total gross amount estimated to be received from internal duties and direct tax, when they shall be effectually organized (or in 1814)	\$4,725,000
Deduct expence of assessment, collection and losses, at about 15 per cent.	700,000
Net amount estimated from internal duties and direct tax for 1814	\$4,025,000

Net amount estimated from additional duties, of imposts and tonnage, internal duties and direct tax for 1814	\$7,225,000
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But which on account of the ineffectual organization of the internal duties and direct tax may not yield, in 1814, that amount by a sum of

\$650,000

Leaving the net amount estimated for 1813

\$6,575,000

And for this purpose the committee recommend to the house the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.

1. Resolved, That an addition of 100 per cent. be made to the several rates of permanent duties now imposed by law on all goods, wares and merchandise, imported into the United States.

2. Resolved, That 25 per cent. be retained on all the drawback allowed by law on the exportation of goods, wares and merchandise, exported from the United States.

3. Resolved, That additional tonnage duties be laid at the following rates, viz.

1st. On all vessels licensed for the coasting trade or fisheries, 20 cents per ton a-year.

2d. On all other vessels owned by citizens of the United States, 25 cents per ton on the entry of the vessel.

3d. On all foreign vessels, 1 dollar 25 cents per ton on the entry of the vessel.

4. Resolved, That a duty of 20 cents per bushel be laid upon all salt imported into the United States.

5. Resolved, That duties be laid on licences to distil spirits at the following rates, viz :

1st. On stills employed in distilling spirits from foreign materials, at the rate of 75 cents per gallon on the capacity of such stills.

2d. On stills solely employed in distilling spirits from domestic materials, at any distillery at which there are one or more stills of more capacity together than 150 gallons, at the rate of 50 cents per gallon on the capacity of such stills.

3d. On other stills solely employed in distilling spirits from fruit, at the rate of five dollars on each still a-year.

4th. On other stills solely employed in distilling spirits from any domestic materials, at the rate of \$15 on each still a year.

6. Resolved, That duties be laid on licences to retailers of wine, spirits, and foreign merchandise, including tavern keepers, at the following rates, viz :

- If in cities, towns or villages, containing more than 100 families,

1st. On retailers of foreign merchandise, including wines and spirits, \$25.

2d. On retailers of wines alone, \$20.

3d. On retailers of spirits alone, \$20.

4th. On retailers of domestic spirits alone, \$15.

5th. On retailers of foreign merchandise other than wines or spirits, \$15.

If in any other places than cities, towns or villages, containing more than 100 families,

1st. On retailers of foreign merchandise, including wines and spirits, \$15.

2d. On retailers of wines and spirits, \$15.

3d. On retailers of domestic spirits alone, \$10.

4th. On retailers of foreign merchandise, other than wines and spirits, \$10.

7. Resolved, That duties be laid on sales at auction of foreign merchandise, for every hundred dollars of the purchase money 2 dollars,—and on sales at auction of ships or vessels, for every hundred dollars of the purchase money 25 cents.

8. Resolved, That a duty of 4 cents per pound be laid on all sugars refined in the United States, allowing a drawback on the exportation of the same,

9. Resolved, That duties be laid on carriages used for the conveyance of persons, at the following rates, viz :

1st. On every coach, charriot or post chaise, \$25.

2d. On every phaeton, and on every coaches, having pannel work in the upper division thereof, 15 dollars.

3d. On every other four-wheeled carriage hanging on steel springs, \$10.

4th. On every four wheeled carriage hanging upon iron or wooden springs, and on every two-wheel carriage, with a top, or hanging on steel or iron springs, \$5.

5th. On every other four or two-wheel carriage, 3 dollars.

10. Resolved, that stamp duties be laid on the following instruments of writing, viz :

1st. On all notes payable to bearer or order issued by any bank or bankers, at rates on an average of one dollar for every hundred dollars, with an option to pay, in lieu thereof, 2 1-2 per centum on their dividends.

2d. On all notes of hand, above 50 dollars, payable to bearer or order, having one or more endorsers,—and on all bills of exchange above 50 dollars, having one or more endorsers, at rates on an average of five cents for every hundred dollars.

11. Resolved, That three millions of dollars be raised by a direct tax to be apportioned among the several states agreeably to the rule prescribed by the constitution.

12. Resolved, That each state be authorised to pay the amount of its quota to the United States with a deduction of 15 per cent. if paid before the assessment is commenced, and of 7 1-2 per cent. if paid before the tax becomes due.

13. Resolved, That all the duties above enumerated and the tax aforesaid shall be laid and become payable only after the United States shall have become engaged in a war with a foreign European nation, or shall have authorised the issuing letters of marque and reprisal against the subjects of such nation.

14. Resolved, That the said duties and tax shall continue until one year after the conclusion of peace with such foreign nation and no longer.

The report being read, was ordered to be printed and made the order of the day for Monday next.

Mr. Bacon then introduced a bill to authorise a loan for any sum not exceeding millions of dollars, which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Porter, gave notice that he would to-morrow bring in a bill to raise a provisional military force of 20,000 men.

The speaker asked and obtained leave of absence, after to-day, for Mr. D. R. Williams, for the remainder of the session.

The house assumed the consideration of the bill for arming the militia of the United States; when Mr. M. Clay's motion to reconsider the amendment which had been agreed to, putting it in the power of the respective states to distribute the arms as they thought proper, came under discussion. It was supported by Messrs. Macon, Smilie, Stow, Fisk and Little :—and opposed by Messrs. Roberts, Tallmadge, Widgery, Rhea and M'Coy.

It was argued, in favor of a reconsideration, that this amendment might defeat the object of the bill, which was to put arms into the hands of every young man when he attained the age of 18; that this amendment placed it in the power of the state legislatures to lay up the arms in an armory, or to put them into the hands of a favored party; instead of arming the nation, the arms might be locked up

from the people—it would be arming the government against the people, and not placing the people in a situation to defend themselves against any oppression with which they might be menaced from whatever quarter it might come. Allusions were made to the period when *M. Pherson's Blues* threatened the peace of the city of Philadelphia, and to the *Embargo times*, in order to shew that the arms would be safer in the hands of the people, than laid up in armories by the states.

Against the reconsideration, it was contended that the respective state legislatures might safely be trusted with the power of distributing these arms; that they never could be supposed to become the oppressors of the people, since they were annually elected by the people; and that the probability was they would distribute the arms amongst the citizens in such a manner as each state would deem best calculated to render the militia efficient. As to the instances of improper conduct in a small number of individuals, alluded to, no danger could ever be apprehended from such momentary delusions.

The question for reconsideration was negatived 62 to 52.

Mr. Williams moved to amend the bill, by adding a proviso to the amendment above alluded to: "*Provided such directions shall not contravene the provisions contained in the first section of this act.*" [Which directs that every citizen arriving at the age of 18 shall be put in possession of a stand of arms.] This motion was negatived 55 to 54.

Mr. Hall moved another amendment: "*Provided that no regulation shall be adopted by any state which shall extend further than to cause the arms to be properly taken care of.*"

Before a question was taken on this amendment, the house adjourned.

Tuesday, February 18.—Some private petitions being disposed of—

Mr. Porter, agreeably to notice offered to the house the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare and report a bill authorising the president of the United States to engage, commission and organize a provisional military force of twenty thousand men, in addition to the force already authorized by law.

The house agreed to consider the motion.

Mr. Porter spoke at some length in support of his motion: [the following sketch of his speech was reported for the *American*] he presented the reasons which had induced him to offer this resolution. He explained the nature of the provisional force proposed to be raised. It was a volunteer force, which, when commissioned by the president, would become regulars, to serve for twelve months. He said, that an army enlisted for a short period could be considered in the light of volunteers; and volunteers, raised and commissioned by the president according to the principles contemplated by the resolution, were an army on short enlistments. If gentlemen were serious in their declarations respecting an invasion of Canada, a provisional force of this description were absolutely necessary to ensure a prompt success. It could be organized in a few weeks, and prepared to act with vigor. He declared the sincerity with which he had determined to go to war; and if the proper means to secure success were not adopted, it should not be imputed to him. He had heard, with no small degree of surprise and regret, gentlemen from the interior accused of being particularly anxious to

involve the nation in a war, because they were out of danger. He said, he was from the interior; but he and his constituents would be as much exposed in a war with Great Britain, they would have to make as great sacrifices in such a war, as any part of the nation. His house and property were on the British lines; he had many friends in Canada, with whom he had been in habits of intimacy for a long time. He had not therefore lightly made up his mind to exchange the present, in many respects, happy and prosperous situation of the country, for the uncertainties and calamities of war. Having deliberately decided upon his course, he should not shrink from it. He should despise himself, if he could be influenced to swerve from it by any considerations of exposure of his property or personal danger. His Canadian friends were sensible of his situation and the motives which governed him. They knew that he was guided by the same love for his country and regard for its rights, by which they were animated in relation to their country and its rights. The only hope of his constituents, in the event of an invasion of Canada, was in the promptitude, vigor and effect with which it should be undertaken and prosecuted: their hope was in the celerity with which it should be subjugated: their safety depended upon this. The only question was then with respect to the best kind of force which could be most speedily brought into action to effect the contemplated object. From personal observation, and from the knowledge of the British provinces which he had derived from other sources, he undertook to state that Canada possessed only a force of 6000 regulars, stationed at Quebec, and about 20,000 militia, not well organized, armed or disciplined. He was willing to admit, in the abstract, that a regular army, enlisted for a long period, was generally the most efficient force to carry on war; but it would be a long time before such an army could be raised. If we meant to invade Canada with a prospect of success, it ought to be done before the British could throw reinforcements into it. The ice in the St. Lawrence would break up by the last of May: reinforcements could be thrown into the upper country by the last of June. His idea was, that a provisional force, to consist of 15 or 20,000 northern volunteers, already disciplined and armed for actual service, should be immediately authorized, and marched into Canada before the last of May. They could have taken Canada while we have been talking about it. They would be enabled to subjugate Canada in a few weeks, with the exception of Quebec. They should then fall down at some eligible position below Montreal, establish a fort, the officers exercise and make themselves acquainted with the practical use and duties of artillery, and proceed at their leisure to the siege and reduction of Quebec. A part of them could return to New-England, and, with other forces, proceed thence into the eastern provinces and to Halifax for the purpose of taking possession of them. The military maxim, advanced the other day by his honorable friend from Georgia (colonel Troup) that an unsubdued enemy garrison should not be left in the rear of an invading army, did not apply to the case of proceeding to take Halifax previous to the reduction of Quebec. The distance between Quebec and Halifax was so great, the country so rugged, that the best plan would be to proceed to Halifax, not from Quebec, but from the northern section of our own country. Besides, it would be imprudent and impossible, without the greatest hazard, for any part of the British forces

stationed for the defence of Quebec, to leave that garrison for the purpose of attacking the American army sent against Halifax, or for the purpose of retaking any part of Canada occupied by the Americans. The army authorised to be raised and enlisted for five years could, in the mean time, be organized and disciplined to reinforce the troops contemplated to act in the first operations of the war. It was impracticable, he said, to raise this army in due time. The people of the northern states were willing to serve in the war; they were willing to invade Canada; but they must do it as volunteers.—They were not willing to become military slaves for five years. He presumed it was not necessary to argue in favor of the efficacy of volunteers in this house, whatever might be the opinion in the other branch of the legislature. Mr. P. then endeavored to demonstrate that the volunteers already provided for, would be inadequate to affect the object for which they were authorised. He contended that they were militia, commissioned by the states, and could not be marched out of the limits of the union. He examined, with precision and perspicuity, the constitutional doctrines heretofore advanced in relation to this subject. He said, the militia belonged to the states, except for the specific purposes of executing the laws of the union, suppressing insurrection, and repelling invasion.—They were designed to enable the states to resist the encroachments of the federal government, if it should ever become necessary. As to the right of this government to use the physical force of the nation for the purposes of war, derived from its power for such purposes, that right could only be exercised according to the mode pointed out by the constitution. Congress had an unquestionable right to the physical force of the nation; but it could not use the militia in foreign military operations. The moment a militia man engaged in the service of the United States for foreign war, he ceased to be such; he became a regular soldier.—He reprobated the doctrine, that the militia could be drafted and sent on a foreign military expedition. He said, of all the tyrannical arts of Bonaparte none were more detestable than his conscriptions to enable him to prosecute the wars of his ambition. The king of England himself had no power over a single man in the kingdom for foreign war, except by the voluntary engagement of such man. And would any man contend, that in this country of liberty, of republican liberty, the militia could be compelled to go on a foreign service? But, say gentlemen, although the militia cannot be forced to march out of our limits, they may do so by their own voluntary consent. He admitted this; but they must become federal troops: they must become regulars to a certain extent; they must be commissioned by the U. States; they must volunteer according to the constitution, not according to their own will and pleasure.

This was the essence of freedom—to regulate our actions agreeably to laws freely enacted. He denied the sovereignty of the general government for any purposes. What was sovereignty? It consisted in an undefined, unlimited discretionary power. It existed only in heaven; or if political sovereignty resided any where in this country, it was in the people, not in the government. No sovereign powers, therefore, except those expressly and specifically delegated in the constitution, could be exercised by congress. He had been alarmed, when it had been said that the president was of opinion the militia could be marched out of the union,

taken in connection with the proposition to the report of the committee of ways and means, of yesterday, to raise money through the medium of the states, instead of raising it by taxes imposed by Congress. He pledged his reputation that the president would not march the 50,000 volunteers already authorised out of the country. Gentlemen had asked the committee of foreign relations for their ulterior measures. Where the committee of foreign relations madmen or fools? Would you have them to lay a declaration of war on your table at this time, when the president has not a single man to carry on the war? You have given him armies and volunteers on paper, not actual efficient troops.

The question on the resolution was taken by yeas and nays without further debate, and negatived, as follows, yeas 49; nays 57:

YEAS—Messrs. Anderson, Archer, Dard, Bartlett, Blackledge, Burwell, M. Clay, Cochran, Condit, Crawford, Davis, Dinsmore, Earle, Findley, Fisk, Gholson, B. Hall, Hawes, Kent, King, Lacock, Lefever, Little, Lyle, Moore, McCoy, McKee, McKim, Metcalf Morrow, Nelson, Newton, Ormsby, Pickens, Piper, Pleasants, Pond, Porter, Richardson, Rhea, Sage, Sammons, Sevier, Seybert, Shaw, G. Smith, Stow, Tracy, Turner, Whitehill—49.

NAYS—Messrs. Alston, Baker, Bassett, Bibb, Bigelow, Bleecker, Boyd, Breckenridge, Brigham, Butler, Champion, Cheves, Chittenden, Davenport, Desha, Ely, Emott, Fitch, Franklin, Gold, Gray, Green, Grundy, O. Hall, Hufty, Jackson, Law, Lewis, Livingston, Lowndes, Macon, Maxwell, McBryde, Milnor, Morgan, Moseley, New, Newbold, Pearson, Pitkin, Potter, Quincy, Ridgley, Roane, Roberts, Rodman, Smilie, J. Smith, Stanford, Stewart, Sturges, Taggart, Tallmadge, Troup, White, Widgery, Wilson, Wright—58.

On motion of Mr. Newton, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Stanford in the chair, on the bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury, under the direction of the president of the United States, to purchase of Winslow Lewis, his patent-right for a new mode of lighting light-houses; which being amended, and an appropriation of 60,000 dollars made, the bill was reported to the house, agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

ARMING THE MILITIA.—The house resumed the consideration of the bill for arming the militia; when Mr. B. Hall's amendment being under consideration, for limiting the operation of the amendment which gives to the respective legislatures the power of disposing of the arms as they may direct, to the mode of taking care of the arms:

The question being taken on Mr. Hall's amendment, it was negatived 55 to 51.

The question was now, "shall the bill be ordered to be engrossed for a third reading?"

This was opposed by Mr. Brigham and Mr. Pitkin, principally on account of the fines, &c. contained in the bill. The latter gentleman denied the right of congress to impose any fine on militia-men before they came into the service of the United States; and cited the act of 1792, to show that no penalties were inflicted in that law.

Mr. Macon replied to them, and said there could be no doubt but the power vested in congress by the constitution, "to provide for organizing, arming and disciplining the militia," included the power to make suitable provisions for preventing the arms from

being made away with. It would be strange to say, that when congress put arms in the hands of the militia, they could not make regulations for their preservation for the use of the public. The reason why nothing of this kind was provided in the law of 1792 was, Congress had not then put arms into the hands of the militia.

Mr. Milnor spoke against the bill, principally on account of its objectionable penal clauses, and concluded his observations with a motion to strike out the 4th section: but on his taking his seat, a motion was made and carried to adjourn.

Wednesday, Feb. 19.—Mr. Wright, from the committee in relation to American seamen, reported a bill for the protection, recovery, and indemnification of American seamen, which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Porter, from the committee on foreign relations, reported a bill supplementary to the act to raise an additional military force.

Mr. P. said, it would be extremely inconvenient for the executive authority to make all the appointments of the officers for this additional military force immediately, for want of proper information on the subject; it would be particularly so, to make them all on the same day, and it was a rule in the army that promotions should be regulated by the date of commissions. This bill provides, therefore, that all appointments made during the present session, shall bear the same date. It was intended also to supply an omission in the law respecting the light artillery and light dragoons.

Mr. P. wished, if there were no objection, that the bill should be ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; but Mr. Quincy objecting to this course, the bill was committed for to-morrow.

A message was received and read from the president of the United States; covering a report in compliance with a resolution of this house of the 19th of December, calling for a system of rules and regulations proper to be adopted for training and disciplining the regular troops and militia of the United States. Referred to the committee on military affairs.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the secretary of war, in conformity to the act of 1794, containing an account of the expenditure in the fabrication and repair of arms in the Armories of the United States, which was ordered to be printed.

WAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

Mr. B. Hall said he found that considerable alarm had been produced by the report of the committee of ways and means in relation to war taxes, which he proposed to allay by the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the committee of ways and means be directed to enquire into the expediency of authorising the citizens of the several states and territories to furnish for the seamen, marines and army of the United States, the various necessary articles of clothing—the expenses for clothing, &c. to be apportioned amongst the several states and territories in conformity with the constitutional principles of levying a direct tax; and whether, and how far, it may be practicable or expedient, for any and what articles of provisions or supplies for the army and navy, to be furnished by the citizens of the several states and territories, in lieu of duties, excise or taxes."

Some objection being made to the reference of this resolution, Mr. B. Hall said that ten millions of dollars could be more easily paid in this way in Georgia, than two millions in specie, why then,

said he, not suffer the people at once to furnish the articles wanted, instead of the money to purchase them with? It would, indeed, take the business out of the hands of contractors; but that would be no loss to the nation. It was no more than a proposition for the consideration of the committee of ways and means. If they deemed the plan impracticable, they would say so. He hoped, therefore, it would be agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Rhea, the resolution was ordered to lie on the table and to be printed.

The bill authorising the secretary of the treasury to purchase Winslow Lewis's patent right for a new method of lighting light-houses was read the third time and passed.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill for arming the militia of the United States; when the question was taken on Mr. Milnor's motion to strike out the 4th section; and negatived, there being only 28 votes for it.

[After several other motions to amend, the question for engrossing the bill was finally carried—Yeas 53, Nays 48.

[For Thursday's proceedings see page 464.]

Athenian Society of Baltimore.

The progress of this patriotic establishment must afford high gratification to its friends, and the public in general. In its business we may observe a true type of the state of our country at large; silently, but surely, advancing to entire independence. May heaven speed the issue—and so diminish our connections, and of course, lessen our interests, in the concerns of the old world!

About three years ago a few private individuals, taking into consideration the many good effects that might result from establishing a ware-house for the sole purpose of receiving and vending DOMESTIC MANUFACTURES, associated and formed a stock of only \$20,000 divided into 1000 shares, on which, at this time, not more than \$12,000 are paid. They have since obtained an act of incorporation.

The affairs of this prosperous little society are managed by a president and seven directors, who have under them the necessary clerks and assistants. The business done is the best evidence any man can desire to have of the zeal, industry and prudence of those to whose charge it has been committed—and, without derogating from the praise so justly due to others, we think it a duty to state, that to Mr. *Burnston*, the president, the public, as well as the stockholders, are greatly indebted for the success of this charming institution.

Though the business of the corporation is considerable, and for the money employed, exceedingly large, we fairly presume it will yet experience a great annual increase, when its merits become more generally known, as the capital may be further augmented. Hitherto we are informed the funds have been amply sufficient; the credit of the society being most scrupulously maintained in every particular.

At the ware-house, in Market-street, is collected a very valuable and extensive assortment of *Dry Goods*, &c. in part belonging to the society, and in part to individuals, deposited for sale on commission. Independent of business done for large manufacturers, it is one branch of the concerns of this institution to make advances to the more

humble fabricators of goods on deposits—and, as *profit* was not the object of the association, such goods are disposed of on the most generous and liberal terms—calculated merely to defray the expenses.

in the progress and great increase of the sales of the society, we may observe not only an increase of manufactures but a *decrease of prejudices*, the most formidable enemy it has had to encounter. Formerly it was a received opinion (and many, perhaps hold it yet*) that we could not make certain things as good as they could be made in *Europe*—but *actual experience* has put this matter at rest, and the destructive notion is rapidly passing away. Again,—nineteen twentieths of the people still have an impression that American-made goods, no matter of what kind they are, must be sold *dearer* than the imported; yet this idea, in regard to numerous important articles, is as absurd as the first; without taking into view the generally superior durability and firmness of the home-made stuffs. Those who have opportunities, from their residence in, or vicinity to, Baltimore, are invited to the *Athenian Society's warehouse* to learn the fact for themselves, and by a pleasing certainty to banish a painful conjecture.

There is plenty of room for two or three other such institutions in Baltimore—and an increase of them in all the towns of the United States would greatly promote and facilitate the use of *domestic manufactures*. The editor of one of the daily prints in this city,† sometime ago, threw out a hint which I am astonished has not been improved. He said that if some competent taylor were so to arrange his business as to sell, or make up, nothing but home-made stuffs, and keep a good assortment of them (*assortments are to be had*) in Baltimore, he would make a rapid fortune. What would answer in this city will do in any other considerable town; and the taylor so conducting himself would obtain the very “cream” of customers—he would have but little

* About seven years ago I witnessed a circumstance which afforded me a high gratification. I was in a book-store (no matter where) when a person came in and asked for a ream of letter paper. The bookseller shewed some of an excellent quality, with which his customer was fully satisfied—but asking the price, was led to suppose, from its cheapness, that it was *American*, and demanded if it was so? On receiving an answer in the affirmative, he said it would not do—he wanted “*English*.” “I have other paper,” said the bookseller, “for which I must have such and such a price, will you look at it, sir?” The price being high enough, the gentleman after much examination and comparison made his purchase, paid his money cheerfully, and carried his paper away. The two reams exhibited came from the *same mill*, and were taken out of the *same bundle*! [Large quantities of paper are made in the *United States* with *British* water marks—and, if not openly offered as *British*, at least insinuated to be so and sold as such. I can see no harm in it—the quality is as good, and if the people will have prejudices, let them pay for them!] We may laugh at this story and think the purchaser was a fool—but, verily, many of us, though not so silly as to paper, are as great dunces in other things. It is not long since that certain manufacturers of dry goods to the Eastward were compelled to pack their commodities in *British* cases to insure their sale!

† “The Whig.”

occasion for that plague of mechanics, a *dag book*, and might do eleven-twelfths of his business for cash.

The following are the articles that gave rise to the preceding remarks:

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF THE ATHENIAN SOCIETY.

The president and directors of the Athenian Society submit the following statement of the business and progress of the institution, for the year 1811, since the last exhibit submitted on the 2d of February last.

The total amount of sales from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1811, is \$ 51,519 14.

To show the progress and great increase of the sales of this institution, it may be satisfactory to bring into view the sales of the several years—

Sales from the 1st Jan. 1809 to	11 mo.	\$17,698 9
1st Dec. 1809		
1st Dec. 1809 to	13	32,137 92
31st Dec. 1810		
1st Jan. 1811 to	12	51,519 14
31st Dec. 1811		

The net profits of the last year are apparently small, on the amount sold, which arises from the large proportion of sales made on commission, and the moderate profits on those sold for account of the society. It being the *avowed object* of the institution, to facilitate the general use of *American manufactures*, smallness of profits is the only certain mode of producing this desirable object.

The amount of dividends heretofore *generously relinquished*, stand to the credit of the premium fund, conformably to the act of incorporation, and held to the order of the premium committee for premiums they may award, with all additional dividends now declared, that may not be called for, but *generously relinquished and given to the premium fund*.

It may be unnecessary to call the attention of the stockholders to the utility of this institution; the present exhibit is a *practical comment more forcible than speculation*.

All which is respectfully submitted, by order of the board.

ISAAC BURNESTON.

President of the Athenian Society.

Feb. 3, 1812.

BALTIMORE, FEB. 15, 1812.

The “premium committee,” for the year 1812,

Appointed by the “*Baltimore Athenian society*, for the encouragement of useful arts and domestic manufactures,” agreeably to the act of incorporation, have agreed to propose the following *premiums* for the present year.

The committee have to regret that the infant state of the fund committed to their disposal, does not enable them to offer more liberal rewards to those patriotic citizens, whose exertions are directed towards the attainment of so great an object of national wealth and independence. The success, however, of the institution beyond even the expectations of its friends, affords a well grounded hope that, in future, more extensive premiums will be offered. The committee, well aware that no manufactures can ultimately succeed, which will not bear a competition, in quality and price, with any others whatever, have not the most distant idea of the manufactures of the United States *now* requiring any other encouragement than the fostering aid of the general and state governments: they, therefore, propose these premiums merely as honorary rewards.

PREMIUMS.

1. To the person or persons, in the United States, who will, during the present year, completely *bleach* and *finish*, the greatest quantity of domestic linen, not less than ten pieces, each twenty yards long, and not coarser than a twelve hundred—a premium of a piece of *plate*, or its value, *fifty dollars*.

2. To the person who will, during the present year, manufacture the *best sheeting*, made from flax; not less than ten pieces each twenty-two yards long and 9 8 wide; the same to be at least half bleached, and not coarser than an eight hundred:—a piece of *plate*, or its value, *fifty dollars*.

3. To the person or persons, in the state of Maryland, who will during the present year, manufacture the best piece of superfine cloth, not less than twenty yards in length:—a piece of *plate* with an appropriate motto, or its value, *thirty dollars*.

4. To the person at Maryland, who will, during the present year, manufacture the *best woollen blankets*; not less than ten pair, each 9 4 wide:—a *gold medal*, or its value, *thirty dollars*.

5. To the person who will, during the present year, manufacture the best piece of *fancy vesting*, not less than twenty yards long:—a *gold medal*, or its value, *twenty dollars*.

6. To the person who will, before the first of July next, manufacture and *completely bleach*, the *finest* piece of muslin, suitable for ladies' dresses, and not less than twenty yards long:—a *gold medal*, or its value, *twenty dollars*.

7. To the person who will during the present year, manufacture the *finest* cotton stockings; not less than five dozen:—a *gold medal*, or its value, *twenty dollars*.

Candidates for any of the above premiums, to exhibit the fabrics at the domestic warehouse of the society, No. 80 Baltimore street, for the inspection of the committee.

Communications, *post paid*, directed to the secretary, No. 20, Chatham street, will be promptly attended to.

Signed, by order and in behalf of the committee.

ROBERT M'KIM, Chairman.

JOHN D. CRANE, Secretary.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

RUSSIA. A peasant named *John Samzow*, has discovered a method for making paper stoppers for bottles so expeditiously, that one man may make 7000 in an hour. In consequence, 1000 corks which sometime since sold for 65 rubles, have fallen to 8, and it is expected that should the competition continue, they will be so low as half a ruble per thousand, which is the price of the paper substitutes.

GERMANY.—M. BADER, counsellor of Mines at Munich, in Bavaria, has invented, what he terms an aquatic sledge, constructed on such a principle, that it may be impelled and guided on the water, by the rider himself without any aid. The first public experiment was made on the 29th August, 1810, before the royal family at Nymphenburg, with complete success. It consists of two hollow canoes or pontoons, 8 feet long, made of sheet copper, closed on all sides, joined to each other in a parallel direction, at the distance of 6 feet, by a large wooden frame. Thus joined, they support a seat resembling an arm-chair, in which the rider is seated and impels and steers the sledge by treading two large pedals before him. Each of these pedals is connected with a paddle, fixed perpendicularly in the after-part of the machine behind the seat, and the inter-

val between the two pontoons. In front of the seat stands a small table, on which the rider may read, write, draw, or eat and drink. His hands being at perfect liberty, he may even play an instrument, load and fire a gun, or do whatever he pleases. It is evident that this machine must be admirably calculated for the purpose of taking sketches of aquatic scenery, as also for the diversion of shooting water-fowl; in which case, the sportsman conceals himself behind a slight screen of branches, or rushes so as to approach the birds unperceived. This article is far safer than a common boat, the centre of gravity being constantly in the middle of a very large base, a circumstance, which renders overturning, even in the heaviest gale, absolutely impossible. It is moreover so contrived, that it may be taken to pieces in a few minutes, packed in a box, and put together again in a very short time.—It is not improbable that this highly original invention may in time be applied to more important purposes than mere diversion.

BOHEMIA.—The German Journals give the following statistical account: The kingdom of Bohemia contains 266 cities, 110 suburbs, 296 towns, 11,892 villages, 521,702 houses, and 752,437 families. The number of native inhabitants is 3,114,383, and exceeds that of 1810, by 27,634.—Of this number, 1,429,745 are males, and 1,684,638 are females. If to this be added the number of strangers, 15,569 of whom are from other parts of Bohemia, 791 from other provinces of the monarchy, 6,847 from foreign countries, the whole population of the kingdom amounts to 3,137,495. Of this number 4,194 are ecclesiastics, 2,085 nobles, 6,404 public functionaries and headmen, 75,727 burghers, commercial men and artists, 139,369 peasants, 22,030 gardeners and journeymen, and 59,629 Jews.—Of the males 557,530 are married, and 872,215 are bachelors and widowers.

SWEDEN. A late London paper states that the crown-prince of Sweden, (*Bernadotte*, an ex-French general, and favorite of the emperor) had positively refused to comply with the demand of Bonaparte for a supply of 8000 men—stating, plainly, that Sweden was not under any obligation to him, and that all the troops she maintains are necessary for her own defence.

There is probably some truth in the preceding.—*Bernadotte*, represented to be an excellent and well informed man as well as a valiant and successful soldier, has made himself very popular with the Swedes, and feeling his own independence will naturally resist the claims of the emperor, who, but lately was commanded by him.

AMERICAN SEAMEN.—Mr. Wright's bill for the protection of American seamen, now before congress has the following provisions—with all our heart and soul we wish they were or could be carried into full extent.—Our government has knowledge of the impressment of 6,257 of our citizens by the British—this is not certainly one half that have been feloniously and villainously kidnapped—more hereafter. The bill declares—that any person impressing a seaman shall be treated as a pirate, and suffer death—that a seaman shall be justified in wounding or killing any person attempting to impress him—that for every seaman impressed the president shall retake by seizing a subject of the government permitting such impressment—that an impressed seaman may attach any son in the hands of any debtor of a British subject at the rate of thirty dollars per month for the time he has been

detained—that British seamen shall be seized and the same be exchanged by cartel, if Great Britain shall think proper—that no supplies shall be furnished to any vessel whose commander has impressed an American seaman—that no vessel belonging to a foreign power in the habit of impressing our seamen, shall be permitted to unload her cargo in any port of the United States.

The Chronicle.

BALTIMORE, February 22, 1812.

The senate has been chiefly engaged in considering the several appropriation and other bills, passed by the house of representatives.

The rejection of Mr. Porter's proposition (see Tuesday's proceedings of congress) is said to have arisen from an opinion that the volunteers already authorised may be used for offensive war. The result of it, however, convinces us that when the plain question of war shall be put, a large majority will be found in its favor.

Maj. gen. Dearborn and brig. gen. Wilkinson are at the seat of government.

The Orleans convention have finished their business, and appointed two of their members to carry the constitution adopted to congress, for its approbation.

The United States armories at Harper's Ferry and Springfield, cost for the year 1811, \$245,162 77, during which time were made 22,020 muskets, and 1,505 ditto repaired.

AARON BURR was to take passage for the United States from London, the latter end of December.

Our accounts from Denmark are rather favorable. Mr. Erving's exertions are indefatigable. Advances are just received of the restoration of two ships worth \$100,000 each.

Mr. Weaver's resolutions for calling a convention to take into consideration the propriety of altering certain parts of the constitution of Pennsylvania, were negatived in the senate—16 to 12.

The president of the United States has, we learn, approved of the acquittal of brig. gen. JAMES WILKINSON of all the charges alleged against him, and caused his sword to be restored to him. The particulars of the case have not reached us in such a shape as to enable us to speak of them with certainty; but we shall probably have it in our power to lay them before our readers in a few days. (*N. Int.*)

Late advices are received from France and England. A letter from Paris dated the 18th of November gives a most favorable account of the reception of our minister, Mr. Barlow, by the emperor. A particular day was appointed for his audience, instead of being received as usual among a crowd of diplomatists. He was waited upon and complimented by the "great dignitaries of the empire," and introduced to the emperor's cabinet by the prince arch-chancellor, the high officers of state being in waiting. Mr. Barlow's address to Bonaparte has not been received; but the following is given as the reply of the emperor.

"I am happy to receive a minister plenipotentiary from the United States, particularly so distinguished a gentleman, whose opinions are so well known to me—make the English respect your flag, and you will obtain every thing you wish from me."

It seems as though immediate attention had been paid to Mr. Barlow's representations. So much of them as relate to commerce appear to have been submitted to the council, to whom such subjects are referred, at which the emperor himself presided, and hopes of a satisfactory change in his system are

entertained. Many valuable vessels requested under the Rambouillet decree, have been given up to the claimants, and permitted to make sales or depart, as they thought expedient. We have lately had many arrivals in the United States from France—the value of their cargoes is immense, and the voyages appear to have been highly profitable. On the whole there is a well-grounded hope that a lucrative and extensive trade will be opened to the continent, if the British will permit it.

Our London dates are to the 26th of December.

A general opinion prevailed that parliament, on their meeting January 7, would cause the orders in council to be abrogated or satisfactorily modified. [This opinion has obtained much credit in some of the cities in the United States.] The old king for two or three days had refused to eat, and his decrease was looked for. The duke of Clarence, William Henry, third son of the king, is appointed "admiral of the fleet," or commander in chief of the British navy. Stocks, December 26, 3 per cent. reduced, 62 1-4 3-8 5-8. French troops had been passing through Austria, towards the Russian frontiers. It is said preliminaries of peace have been signed between Russia and Turkey. The following article is from the "*London Statesman*," of December 10—and called "IMPORTANT."

"Government has received intelligence from France, from which it appears to be one of Bonaparte's principal objects, is at this moment, to get a squadron of French ships into an American port, as an inducement for the United States to declare war against England. He has five ships of the line equipped and manned at L'Orient, supposed to be destined immediately for that important service; he has also fifteen sail of the line at Toulon, while our blockading squadron off that port consists only of eleven; a reinforcement of it, however, we understand, may be expected daily."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, Feb. 20.—Mr. McKee, from the select committee to whom the resolutions on that subject had been referred, reported a bill for the relief of the officers and soldiers who were in the late engagement near the Wabash. Twice read and referred to the committee of the whole for to-morrow.

The bill supplementary to the bill for raising 25,000 men, was read a third time and passed.

The house again proceeded to consider the bill for arming the militia.

Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Tallmadge spoke against it. Mr. Calhoun objected, because the distribution was left to the state legislatures, who might put the arms in arsenals. Mr. Tallmadge objected to very many of the details. Both were friendly to the principle of arming.

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Macon, Mr. Randolph, and Mr. Wright spoke in favor of the bill.

Mr. Little was tired of this long debate on the subject, considering it a waste of time, and called for the previous question, which always is, *shall the main question be now put?*

More than a fifth of the members present rose in favor of putting it.

Mr. Goldborough called for the ayes and noes.—Granted. They were, ayes 52, noes 62.

By one of the rules of the house, if the main question is deterred in the negative the subject in debate is postponed till the next day.

[Of the other business done, being of no great or immediate importance, due notice shall be taken in our next.]