

# THE WEEKLY REGISTER.

Vol. I.]

BALTIMORE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1811.

[No. 14.]

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

Shakespeare—HENRY VIII.

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## Legislature of Maryland.

Communication from the Executive Council of Maryland to the general assembly.

### IN COUNCIL.

ANNAPOLIS, November 4, 1811.

Gentlemen,—It is to us a source of great pleasure, to be enabled to inform the general assembly, that the building erected for the purpose of carrying into effect the act concerning crimes and punishments, passed at November session, 1809, is now completed, and in all respects prepared for the reception of those criminals who may be condemned to work and labor therein. This valuable institution, we confidently trust, will fully answer the wise politic, and humane views of the legislature, and while it shall greatly promote the moral improvement of those unhappy persons who may become victims to the lawless violence of their own unbridled passions, will effectually enforce every necessary purpose of the criminal justice of our country. In cherishing this hope, so consolatory to the philanthropic feelings of the heart, we derive much encouragement from the happy experience of our sister states, whose enlightened policy it has been to reduce to actual experiment what before was only admitted in theory and speculation. Under the wise and superintending care of the legislature, this useful establishment cannot fail to prove an efficient corrective of vice, and a powerful auxiliary to virtue. In conformity to the direction of the legislature, expressed at their last session, a copy of the resolution relative to the divisional line between this state and the commonwealth of Virginia, has been transmitted to the governor of that commonwealth, to whom the wish of the general assembly, that a similar resolution might be passed by the legislature of that state was also communicated. To this proposition, no answer has yet been received; to what cause the omission is to be ascribed, has not yet been understood, and therefore cannot be stated, or even conjectured. No commissioners have been appointed on the part of this state, because the concurrence of both parties interested was essential to the accomplishment of the object of the resolution, it was deemed unnecessary to make an appointment until it was ascertained that a similar proceeding would be adopted by the legislature of Virginia.

The resolution empowering the executive to grant indulgence to certain debtors of the government, upon the terms and conditions therein stated, has not been acted upon, because no application has been made for the extension of payment thereby authorised.

As directed by a resolution of the legislature, the executive have appointed a person to take care of and preserve the public arms deposited in the arsenal at the seat of government; the duties of which

trust they believe to have been regularly and attentively executed. The executive have also contracted for such repairs of the state house as they deemed necessary for its preservation, which have been in part executed. They think it at the same time proper to suggest that a further appropriation will be indispensable to execute the object of the general assembly, and repair the deprecations committed by time upon that valuable and costly building.— Upon this subject, however, it is supposed unnecessary further to enlarge, as the means of information are equally accessible to all.

The resolution relative to an exchange of laws with our sister states, has been complied with.— Conformably to a resolve of the legislature passed at their last session, we have caused to be printed for the use of the state, one thousand copies of chancellor Kilty's compilation of English and British statutes, upon such plan and arrangement, as to consult economy, and make them conveniently assort with the revised code.

They beg leave also to remark, that no time has been lost in adopting every practicable means to have arsenals properly fitted up and prepared, at Frederick-town and Easton, for the reception and safe keeping of the public arms.

Conformably to the provisions of an act of the general assembly, passed at November session, eighteen hundred and eight, the executive have purchased twelve hundred stand of arms, two field pieces, fifty braces of horsemen's pistols, and one hundred horsemen's swords, all of which have been received, except the pistols, which it is expected will be sent on as soon as practicable; twelve hundred cartridge boxes have also been contracted for, one half of which have been received: the remainder are ready for delivery, and are daily expected.

The governor and council herewith transmit to the general assembly, sundry communications from the executive departments of our sister states, upon the subject of the proposed amendment of the constitution of the United States inhibiting any citizens thereof from accepting, claiming or retaining any title of honor, or nobility, without consent of congress, or accepting or retaining any present pension, office or emolument, from any foreign power. They also transmit sundry communications which have been received from our sister states, relative to an exchange of laws. The general assembly will likewise receive herewith a copy of an act passed by the legislature of the state of New York, together with a communication from the commissioners thereby appointed, the object of which seems to be to solicit our aid and co-operation in an improvement of the internal navigation of that state.

Congratulating you, gentlemen, upon your safe arrival at the seat of government, and hoping, from the united wisdom and exertions of all, the happi-

est results for the common good, in the management of our public concerns.

We have the honor to be,  
With high consideration and respect,  
Your fellow citizen,

EDWARD LLOYD.

[Mr. Lloyd's constitutional period of service having expired, Robert Bowie, esq. was elected governor of the state of Maryland, as already noticed. The following is his reply to the joint letter written by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of delegates, informing him of his appointment.]

Nottingham, November 13th, 1811.

GENTLEMEN.—Your joint letter of the 11th instant, announcing my appointment to the government of the state, was handed to me yesterday by express. Satisfied with the good opinion of my fellow-citizens, hitherto expressed by the various situations to which, at different times, they have thought proper to summon me, and engaged in the management of my private concerns, I had formed a determination, correspondent with my wishes, never again to return into public life; but at the present interesting crisis of our affairs, a call so important as that which is contained in your letter, has determined me, however reluctantly, to waive all private, personal considerations, and to exchange my present retirement for the more active performance of public duties. I accept the appointment; and permit me, through you, to express to the honorable bodies over which you respectively preside, my sincere acknowledgements for the confidence which they have thought proper to repose in me, at the same time, to inform them, that I shall attend at Annapolis on Friday next, to qualify agreeably to the constitution and form of government of this state.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, with the highest consideration, your obedient servant.

ROBT. BOWIE.

To the honorable the president of the senate and speaker of the house of delegates.

The following resolutions were introduced into the senate by Mr. Lloyd, late governor, on the 19th ult.

Whereas, it is highly important, at this eventful crisis in our foreign relations, that the opinions and feelings of every section of the union, should be fairly and fully expressed: Therefore, we, the legislature of Maryland, do resolve, that in the opinion of this legislature, the measures of the administration, with respect to Great Britain, have been honorable, impartial and just: that, in their negotiations they have evinced every disposition to terminate our differences, on terms not incompatible with our national honor; and that they deserve the confidence and support of the nation.

Resolved, that the measures of Great Britain have been, and still are destructive of our best and dearest rights; and being inconsistent with justice, with reason and with law, can be supported only by force: Therefore, if persisted in, by force should be resisted.

Resolved, that the measures of the administration with respect to France, we highly approve. They have been fully authorised by the law and by the fact.

Resolved, that the acts of injustice and violence, committed on our neutral rights, by France, have excited all that indignation which a lawless exercise of power could not fail to do; but having now ceased to violate our neutral rights, we trust that the period is not far distant, when by acts of ample justice, all cause of complaint will be removed.

Resolved, that the president's message, moderate, impartial and decisive, deserves all our praise. It points out the best course to an honorable independence.

Resolved, that the independence established by the aid and valor of our fathers, will not tamely be yielded by their sons. The same spirit which led the Maryland regulars, to battle, still exists in the state and waits only for its country's call.

TREASURY REPORT.

Extracts from the treasurer's report, showing the funds and expenditures of the state of Maryland, including the permanent expenses.

THE STATE'S CAPITAL.		£.	s.	d.
Six per cent. stock of the United States		344,632	34	
Ditto redeemed by the U. States,	187,123	64		
Deferred 6 per cts.	672,205	95		
Redeemed	186,766	85		
Leaving with 3 per cts.	335,104	74		
the sum of	979,052	55	or 367,144	14 00
Loaned to Charlotte Hall school	1,000	00	10	00
Installed Bonds, valid	8,795	17	1	
Uninstalled do. do.	3,344	17	4	
Due from clerks and sheriffs	6,955	00	9	
Stock in Potomac Company	45,166	13	4	
in Bank of Baltimore	39,825	00	00	
Union Bank of Maryland	15,900	00	00	
Farmers' Bank of Maryland	71,250	00	00	
Mechanics' Bank of Baltimore	29,062	10	00	
Hagers-town Bank Baltimore and Fredericktown turnpike	7,500	00	00	
Baltimore and York turnpike	3,750	00	00	
Union Manufacturing Company of Maryland	1,875	00	00	
	2,812	10	00	

604,412 2 6 14

(About one million six hundred and eleven thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars.)

Balances due from supervisors of roads, £1757 14 4—and from the Poor House in Baltimore county, £2400.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES,

From Nov. 1, 1810, till Nov. 1, 1811.

Balance in Treasury Nov. 1, 1810	£ 43718	9	3	1-2
Receipts from Nov. 1, 1810, until Nov. 1, 1811,	62750	16	4	
Expenditures from November 1, 1810, till Nov. 1, 1811,	£ 106,469	5	7	1-2
Deduct sundry appropriations due to the 1st Nov. 1811, and then remained unpaid	45,672	2	2	3-4
	7,196	12	3	
	53,600	11	1	3-4

Also, journal of accounts of the present session estimated at \$30,000

11,250 00 00  
22,350 11 3-4

Add to this the probable receipt for the ensuing year	61,104 6 1
Estimate of expence for 1812,	103,454 17 2 3-4
	39,938 00 00
Subject to future appropriations	63,516 17 2 3-4

REVENUE OF MARYLAND, &c.

Received from the 1st of November, 1810, to the 1st of November, 1811, on the following, to-wit:  
 Balance remaining in the Treasury on the 1st of November, 1810

	£.	s.	d.
	43,718	9	3 1-2
For Escheats, caution and improvements on land	960	19	8 1-4
For confiscated property	507	15	3
For taxes under the Act for establishing and securing the salary to the chancellor	372	10	5
For bonds taken for money lent, For bonds taken for vacant land in Alleghany county	281	12	6
For bonds taken for Indian lands	282	4	10 1-2
For fines, forfeitures and amer- cements	398	15	00
For marriage licenses	2340	00	7 1-4
For ordinary retailers, hawk- ers and pedlars' licenses	1451	19	10
For militia fines	5574	13	11 1-2
From the treasurer of the Eastern Shore	75	1	3 1-2
From the president, directors and company of the Bank of Baltimore	3191	5	5 1-2
Do. Union Bank of Maryland	3186	00	00
Do. Farmers' Bank of do	1113	00	00
Do. Mechanics' Bank of Balt.	5343	15	00
Do. Hagers-town Bank	2615	12	6
From the president, managers and company of the Balti- more and Yorketown turn- pike road	759	00	00
From Benjamin Harwood trustee for the dividends of interest and reimbursement of principal on stock	56	5	00
From Wm. Marbury for a bal- ance due from him on the * auditor's books	9117	15	9 1-2
From the United States for di- vidend of interest and reim- bursement of principal on stock transferred to the treas- urer of the Western Shore, on behalf of and for the use of the state of Maryland,	5054	7	10
	20082	15	4

106,469 7 1 1-2

The probable annual demand on the treasury, for 1812;

	£.	s.	d.
The governor's salary	1000	0	0
Five counsellors	1000	0	0
Six chief judges of the judicial districts,	\$13200	}	30000
Twelve associate judges do,	16800		
			11250 0 0

The chief judge of the court of Oyer and Terminer, and general goal de- livery of Baltimore county,	525	0	0
Chancellor	1275	0	0
Treasurer of the Western Shore	750	0	0
Treasurer of the Eastern Shore	168	15	0
Trustee	75	0	0
Auditor	300	0	0
Printer	450	0	0
Clerk to the council	300	0	0
Clerk to the house of delegates	112	10	0
Clerk to the senate	56	5	0
Messenger to the council	156	5	0
Armourer, Eastern Shore	30	0	0
Armourer, Western Shore	38	10	0
Half pay list	1236	15	0
Contingent expences	500	0	0
Donation to the academies and schools in the different counties	1575	0	0
Indian annuities	138	15	0
Judge of the land office, Eastern Shore	150	0	0
Register of the land office, Eastern Shore	7	10	0
Register of the land office, Western Shore	11	5	0
Adjutant general, \$500	187	10	0
Brigade inspectors, 12, \$60 each, \$720	270	0	0
Arms and accoutrements to be pur- chased for the state, \$15000	5625	0	0
Penitentiary, for the purchase of stock of raw materials, provi- sions, working tools and imple- ments; physician's account and salaries to the keeper and assist- ant keeper of the penitentiary house, \$4000	1500	0	0
Journal of accounts for the session of 1812, say \$30,000	11250	0	0
	£39938	0	0

Geography—Louisiana.

CORRECTED AND COMMUNICATED BY THE AUTHOR.

*Manners and customs of the ancient inhabitants—government—historical epochs—comparison between their situation under the former, and the present governments.*

There is scarcely any thing more difficult, and consequently more rare, than correct delineations of character. This task is usually undertaken by friends or enemies, and the result, is either panegyric or satire. Even amongst such as are unbiassed, how few the happy copyists, who can paint nature with her own colors so as to be recognized by every beholder, and from every point of view!

Conscious of this difficulty, I entertain humble hopes of success, or of being able to satisfy the expectations and enquiries of the intelligent reader.—And, this more particularly, where there are no striking and prominent features, but the traits of an infant colony delicately marked.

A colony will not remain long separated from the parent stock, until it exhibits a peculiar and distinct character. Climate situation and country, although not exclusively the agents in forming this character must, nevertheless be, admitted to have great influence. Nor do the manners of the parent country continue invariable; other times, other men, other circumstances, produce the most surprising changes, while the colony beyond the sphere

of their influence retains its pristine customs and manners. The Spaniards of Mexico, are said to bear a stronger resemblance to their ancestors of the fifteenth century, than to their present brethren of Old Spain; the French inhabitants of the Mississippi, have little resemblance to the gay, but dissolute, and frivolous Frenchmen of Louis the fifteenth and sixteenth, and still less, to those who have felt the racking storm of the revolution.

To the country on both sides of the Mississippi, the general name of *Les Illinois*, was given. It was inhabited by a powerful nation of that name, and at present reduced to a handful of miserable creatures. After the discovery of the Mississippi, by Mons. Jolliet, and the priest Marquette, from Canada, a number of Canadian traders, about the year 1686, settled in Kaskaskia,\* originally a large Indian town. By degrees a number of families were introduced to quit Canada, for a country represented as much more desirable. A monastery of Jesuits was established here, which succeeded in converting a number of the Indians to christianity. I am credibly informed, that they had at one time twenty-five hundred catechumens. In time, these people, as it has ever been the case, were found to degenerate and diminish, from their intercourse with the whites; and the French were left the possessors and proprietors of their village.

About the beginning of the last century, the celebrated scheme of *Law and company*, was set on foot, and supported by the high reputation for wealth and fertility, which Louisiana had already acquired. To further this delusion, it was represented in still more glowing colors, and it became the paradise of Frenchmen. The Illinois, were regarded as of immense importance; the attention of the nation was turned towards them, and notwithstanding the failure of Law's project, this remote colony flourished surprisingly. Besides Kaskaskia, which became a rich and considerable town, there were several large villages, a lucrative fur trade was carried on, and an extensive agriculture. These settlements sent to New-Orleans, in one year (1746) eight hundred thousand weight of flour. But, at this time there was not one permanent establishment on the west side of the Mississippi: although resorted to by traders, and the lead mines known and worked. Twenty five or thirty years after the failure of Law's scheme, when the French government, with something more substantial in view, had formed the plan of securing the immense and fertile valley of the Mississippi, and of connecting it with Canada, immense sums of money were expended. Fort Chartres, which is said to have cost the crown nine millions of livres, was built, and the village of Fort de Chartres rose by its side.—Etc, such alas! are the reverses to which the affairs of men are subject, the village has disappeared for ever, and the fort is but a noble ruin. The post was deemed an important one, at which there was stationed an officer of high rank with a suitable command. Much of the elegance and refinement of the officers, was communicated to the susceptible inhabitants.

The war between France and England which broke out about the year 1754, deprived France of her possessions in this part of the world. In consequence of this, Illinois experienced a sudden

\* Perhaps the same with *Quis-quisque*, near which, a party of the unfortunate expedition of Hernandez de Soto, were defeated and almost destroyed, about the year 1539. A tradition prevailed amongst the Kaskaskians, of their having destroyed the first whitemen they had ever seen.

and rapid decay; which was again accelerated by the conquest of general Clark, for the United States in 1779. The greater number of the wealthy and respectable, descended the Mississippi, and settled in New-Orleans, and the lower country. Others crossed the Mississippi, and established St. Louis and St. Genevieve. Scarcely any but natives of the country remained. The foreigners, chiefly returned to the countries, from whence they first emigrated.

Such is the origin of the greater part of that class of the population of this territory, which I have designated by the name of the ancient inhabitants.—They are chiefly natives of the country; but few families are immediately from France, or even from New-Orleans or Canada.

In the character of these people it must be remembered, they are essentially Frenchmen; but without that restless, impatience and fire, which distinguish the European. There is even in their deportment something of the gravity of the Spaniard; yet, extremely fond of every kind of gaiety and amusement. From the gentle and easy life which they led their manners and even language, have become soft and mild: the word *passible*, expresses this characteristic. In this remote country, there were few objects to urge to enterprise, and few occasions to call forth, and to exercise their energies. The necessities of life were easily procured, and a beggar was never heard of amongst them. Ambition soared far hence, for here there was no prey.—Hospitality was exercised, because no one thought of being otherwise: a tavern amongst them is but a late thing. Judges, codes of law, and prisons were of little use, where the utmost simplicity of manners prevailed, and every one knew how far to confide in his neighbor. In such a state of things, to what end are learning and science? the schools were few; they were merely taught to read and write, and a little arithmetic. The number of those who were lovers of knowledge, or had made any proficiency, was small. From the habits of these people, it would naturally be expected, that they would have been little accustomed to reason on political subjects. These inhabitants, were as remarkable for their tame and peaceable disposition; as the natives of France are for the reverse.

Amongst their virtues, we may enumerate, honesty and punctuality in their dealings, hospitality to strangers, friendship and affection amongst relatives and neighbors. Instances of abandonment on the female side, or of seduction are extremely rare. The women make faithful and affectionate wives, but will not consent to be considered secondary personages in the matrimonial association. The advice of the wife, is taken on all important as well as on less weighty concerns, and she generally decides. In opposition to those virtues it must be said, that they were devoid of public spirit, of enterprise, of ingenuity, and were indolent and uninformed.

They are catholics, but very far from being bigoted or superstitious, as some travellers have said.—They have been more justly charged with a neglect of their priests. They were however, strict observers of the rules and discipline of their church, and of all the different holy days in the calendar. Their *festes* were considered as the most interesting occasions; they doubtless contributed much to their social happiness. Of late, this attention to the ceremonies of their religion is much relaxed, since other objects of pursuit and interest have been opened to their view. The catholic worship is the only one yet known in the territory, excepting in private families, and in a few instances of itinerant presbyters.

Amongst the ancient inhabitants, there could not properly be said to have been more than two classes, the wealthy or intelligent, and those without education or property. But they all associated, dressed alike, and frequented the same ball room. They were in fact nearly all connected by the ties of affinity or consanguinity: for so extensive is this connection, that I have seen the carnival, from the death of some common relation, pass by cheerless, and unheeded. The number of characters excluded from society was exceedingly small.—What an inducement to comfort ones self with circumspection and propriety? The same interest at stake, the same sentiments, that in other countries influence the first classes of society were here felt by all its members. Unhappily the strugglers in the cause of virtue are faint, when there is no prospect of a reward from our fellow-men; and to yield is little dreaded when the loss is small, for we value ourselves according to the estimation of the world. How many from having been unjustly despised, have become truly despicable, and how many from unmerited praise have been formed into the most valuable characters!

Their wealth consisted, principally, in personal property; lands were of a secondary value except when improved. Slaves were regarded in the light of *bens souciere*, or real property, and in fact, the highest species. Plate and money, the representative of wealth, and generally considered a very good one, and merchandize occupied the next place. Lead and peltry, were frequently used in the place of a circulating medium.

There was little variety in the employments of the inhabitants. The more enterprising and wealthy, were the traders, with exclusive privilege of trading to a particular nation, or section of country, and at the same time kept a small stock of goods at their houses, for the accommodation of the inhabitants, but not in open shops or stores as in the United States. There were no tailors or shoemakers; such as pursue these occupations, are Americans. The few mechanics, principally carpenters and smiths, who exercised their trades, scarcely deserved the name. The lead mines I have already observed, engaged a considerable number. The government gave employment to very few, excepting at St. Louis. By far the greater proportion was engaged in agriculture; in fact it was the business of all, since the surplus produce of the country was too inconsiderable to be depended upon.—A number of the young men embraced the employment of boatmen, which was by no means disreputable. It was a desirable thing for a young fellow to have it in his power to say, that he had made a voyage in this capacity. They took a pride in their occupation, as if it afforded a field for generous ambition. They certainly possess great dexterity as oarsmen.

—*Adductis spumant fretaveris lacertis. Infundunt pariter sulcos: totamque dehinc convulsam remis vestrisque tridentibus æquor.*

But this occupation amongst many other changes has been reduced to the same footing as with the Americans. It is true the greater part of those who followed this employment, were little more respectable than the same class in all countries; but the circumstance of their being engaged in it was not sufficient to exclude them from balls or respectable societies, and on such occasions they conducted themselves with the utmost propriety.

There were no domestic manufactures. The spinning wheel and the loom were alike unknown. So deficient were they in this respect, that, although

possessed of numerous herds, the churn was not used; they made butter by beating the cream in a bowl, or shaking it in a bottle.

Their amusements, were cards, billiards and dances: this last of course the favourite. The dances were cotillons, reels and sometimes the minuet. During the carnival the balls follow in rapid succession. They have a variety of pretty customs, connected with this their favorite amusement. Children also, have their balls and are taught from infancy a propriety and decorum of behaviour highly pleasing. They learn a certain ease and freedom of address, and are taught the secret of real politeness, *self-denial*; but which by the apes of French manners, is mistaken for an affected grimace of complaisant regard, and a profusion of bows, scrapes and professions.

Their language, every thing considered, is much more pure than could be expected; their manner of lengthening the sound of words, although languid, and without the animation which the French usually possess, is by no means disagreeable. It is more soft than the European French, but is very different from the language of the Creoles of the islands. They have some provincialisms, and some words are in use, which in France have become obsolete, but in general, the French language is well spoken. The ancient inhabitants are far from being deficient in understanding; their minds are quick and sprightly.

In their persons, they are well formed, of an agreeable, pleasant, countenance; indicating cheerfulness and serenity. Their dress was formerly extremely simple; the men wore a blanket coat, or of coarse cloth or coating, with a cap behind in place of the cape, which could be drawn over the head; from which circumstance it was called a *capot*: it was made something like a frock coat.—They wore a blue handkerchief on their heads; no shoes, and seldom any stockings; moccasins were used by both sexes, and hats were rarely seen. The dress of the ladies was likewise simple, and the variations of fashion were few; they were however dressed in a much better taste than the other sex.—Yet, these manners will soon cease to exist but in remembrance and description: every thing has changed. The American costume is generally introduced, among the more genteel. I never saw any where greater elegance of dress than I have at a ball in St. Louis. We still see a few of both sexes in their ancient habiliments; capots, moccasins, blue handkerchief on the head, a pipe in the mouth, and a long queue behind.

The condition of their slaves, when compared with most countries, where slavery is tolerated, is not hard or severe. Their labor is not great, or painful, they are allowed many privileges, and are well clothed and fed. [Better information satisfies me that this encomium is unmerited.]

The government of the province, though a mixture of the civil and military, was not complicated. Each district had its commandant, and the smaller villages of settlements their syndics. They were the judges in civil matters under a certain amount, and the captains of the militia. These were appointed by the governor at New Orleans, to whom there was an appeal from their decisions, and to whom were referred such matters as exceeded their jurisdiction. Arbitration, under the direction of the commandant, had in some degree the effect of obviating his want of authority. A party complaining obtained a notification from the commandant to his adversary, of the complaint and command to render him justice; if this had not the

desired effect, he was notified to appear before the commandant at a certain day and answer the complaint; and if this was neglected, a sergeant was sent with a file of men to bring in the delinquent. The lieutenant governor, who resided at St. Louis, was the commander of the militia, and had a general superintendance of the public works, and affairs of the province, but I am not informed of the exact extent of his powers. The laws of Spain were in force here; but it does not appear that any others had taken effect, besides the laws respecting lands, in such as related to the municipal arrangements. Laws regulating social contracts are so intimately interwoven with the manners of a people, that it is no easy task to separate them; hence, *la coutume de Paris* the common law of France, was the system by which their contracts were governed. The judges, in administering justice according to the American jurisprudence, are often perplexed, by the article of cession, which provides that respect should be paid to the usages and customs of the country. A few troops were kept up in each district, throughout the province, but too inconsiderable to afford much protection to the inhabitants. This country being so remote from the main possessions of Spain, it was not regarded with much attention, when we consider its natural importance. *The rod of government was so light as scarcely to be felt*; the worst of the governors were content, with imposing on their king, by exorbitant charges for useless fortifications and public works, or for supplies never furnished. I have heard of some oppressions practised on strangers, but I have been informed by a number of Americans settled here before the change, that the Spanish government treated them with a particular attention and respect. I believe instances of individual oppression were few; I attribute this, not so much to the nature of the government, as to the state of society.

The present government appears to be operating a general change; its silent, but subtlespirit, is felt in every nerve, and vein, of the body politic. The United States, acting upon broad principles, cannot be influenced, by those contemptible partialities, that would cause distinctions between their adopted children and their own sons. The United States do not want colonies; they will not hold others in the same state as that which they themselves so nobly despised. They are in fact, both natives of the same land, and both can claim freedom as their birth-right.

It requires many hands to work the complicated machinery of our government; the object of which is to enable men, as much as possible, to govern themselves. Each of the principal towns has its officers, its legislatures, in which, the ancient inhabitants have the principal voice. They have been placed on the bench, they are jurors and magistrates; titles are distributed, which, although of little consequence in themselves, yet, serve to make a man feel that he counts something; for instance, the commissions of general, major, colonel, captain, &c. Thus, one might suppose, that their manners and habits of thinking are ripening for the reception of a free government. The Americans\* have communicated to them, their industry and spirit of enterprise, and they in turn have given some of

\* This name has been given exclusively to the citizens of the United States, by foreign nations. Perhaps, from their having been the first American colony that became an independent nation. Bonaparte, I hope, has involuntarily given rise to several more.

their more gentle and amiable customs. Upon the whole, the American manners and even language, begin to predominate. The young men have already been formed by our government, and those growing up will have known no other. A singular change has taken place, which, one would think, ought not to have been brought about, by a transition from a despotic government to republicanism; luxury has increased to a considerable degree, the different classes of society have become distinctly marked. On the other hand, more pains are taken in the education of youth; some have sent their sons to the seminaries of the United States, and all seem anxious to attain this desirable end. Several of the young men have received commissions in the army of the United States. The young ladies are instructed with more care, and the sound of the piano, is heard within their walls for the first time.

Personal property, a few articles excepted, has fallen on an average, two hundred per cent. and real property has risen nearly five hundred. The cultivators raised little produce, beyond what was necessary for their own subsistence, it was, therefore, held at what price they pleased; and in this they were somewhat justified by the high rates of merchandize. Their agriculture was so limited, that there have been instances, of their being supplied, on the failure of their crops, from the inundation of the Mississippi, by the Spanish government. The low value of lands was owing to the vast quantities of it, which lay waste and unoccupied, in proportion to the extent of the population, and the consequent ease with which it could be procured. Rent was hardly known.

It may be a question whether the poorest class have been benefited by the change. Fearless of absolute want, they always lived in a careless, thoughtless manner; at present the greater part of them obtain a precarious subsistence. They generally possess a cart, a horse or two, a small stock of cattle, and cultivate trifling garden spots. At St. Louis, they have more employment than in the other villages; they make hay in the prairie, haul wood for sale, and are employed in small jobs about town—some are boatmen, and patrons, a kind of fresh water sailing masters. At St. Genevieve they pursue a little more agriculture, having portions in the great field, but this will most probably be taken from them by the greater industry of the American cultivators, who can afford to give double the sum for rent; their chief dependence is in the employment they have from the lead mines, and the American merchants. A number of late have removed to the country and are settled on public lands, where they cannot expect to remain long. Those who live in the more remote villages, are less affected by the change, but there is little prospect of their being better situated. But few of them have obtained rickettes or permissions from the commandants to settle on lands; in fact there was no safety from the depredations of the Indians, in forming establishments beyond the villages. Land was only valued for what it would produce, and any one could obtain as much as he chose to cultivate. This uninformed class, perhaps the most numerous, have been so little accustomed to look before them on political subjects, that they have scarcely begun to see

† But, it is to be observed, that produce did not bear the same proportion to merchandize that it does now; for instance, from six to ten bushels of corn, were necessary for the purchase of a common handkerchief, which now can be had for one.

their situation. But I fear they will feel, there are hundreds that do not own a foot of land. Poverty is stealing upon them with a slow but sure step. It is only of late years that they have become sensible of the advantages of ownership in land. The Americans will occupy the greater part of that which has been put in order for cultivation; and the ranges for cattle with the liberty of taking wood in the neighborhood of most of the villages, is already abridged. Something ought to be done for them by the government: it would be a well placed generosity. It would be doing nothing more than acting consistently with the principles upon which these people have been brought "into the bosom of the American family;" not to augment the number of subjects, and extend our territory, but to encrease the sum of human happiness. Could it ever have been supposed that the consequence of a change from the Spanish government to that of the United States would be destructive of their happiness and prosperity!

Until possession of the country was taken by us, there was no safety from the robberies of the Osage Indians. That impolitic tenderness and lenity which the Spanish and even the French government have manifested towards them, instead of a firm though just course, gave rise to the most insolent deportment on their part. I have been informed by the people of St. Genevieve, who suffered infinitely the most, that they were once left without a horse to turn a mill. The Osages were never followed to any great distance, or overtaken. This cowardly and despicable conduct only served to encourage them. They generally entered the neighborhood of the villages, divided into similar parties, and in the night stole in, and carried away every thing they could find, frequently breaking open stables, and taking out the horses.—After uniting at some place of rendezvous, they marched leisurely home, driving the stolen horses before them, and without the least dread of being pursued. They have not dared to act in this manner under the present government; there have been a few solitary instances of robberies by them, within these three or four years, but they are sufficiently acquainted with the American character to know, that they will be instantly pursued and compelled to restore. The following well attested fact will serve to shew the insolence of the Osages under the former government. A young couple were on their way from Big River to St. Genevieve, with their company, to have the matrimonial knot fixed by the priest; they were met by sixty of them, robbed of their horses, and stripped entirely naked!—It must be said however, that they have been rarely known to take away the lives of such as may have chanced to fall into their hands. The insolence of the other nations, who came openly into villages, the Florias, Loups, Kickapoos, Chactaws, Cherokees, &c. is inconceivable. They appeared to be masters of the towns, and excited general terror.—The houses have on some occasions, been closed up, and the doors barred by the terrified inhabitants; they were not always safe even there. It is strange how these people have disappeared within these few years: there are at present scarcely enough to supply the towns with game.

The historical epocha of this territory are few and simple. Shortly after the first formation of the settlement by the treaty of '63 it was ceded to Spain—the secret treaties between this power and France of 1762, were not known and perhaps never would have been if France had proved successful in her contests with Britain. The history of Louisi-

ana, generally, until it came into the hands of the United States, is the history of this territory. By the treaty of Ildenson, October 1800, the country was re-ceded by Spain to France; the situation of France at that period, not permitting her to take possession, she ceded it to the United States. The fears of its falling into the hands of her enemy, and the sum to be received for it, were also strong inducements.

On the part of the United States, possession was taken of this territory in 1804, by captain [now major] Stoddard, who was the first civil commandant. According to the act of congress which divided it from the district of Orleans, with the name of the district of Louisiana, it was placed for the moment under the government of the territory of Indiana. Governor Harrison of that territory accordingly organized the government and put it in motion. In 1805 it was erected into a territory by the name of the *Territory of Louisiana*.—For these things I must refer the reader to the different acts of congress.—Two important treaties were made with the Indians, one with the Sacs and Foxes and the other with the great and little Osages.

If I am asked whether the ancient inhabitants are more contented and happy under the new order of things, or have reason to be so? I should consider the question a difficult one, and answer it with hesitation. It is not easy to know the secret sentiments of men, and happiness is a relative term. It is true I have heard murmurings against the present government, and sorrowing after that of Spain—which I have attributed rather to the chagrin of the moment than to real and sincere sentiment.—But I have not seen any of those signs which unequivocally mark a suffering and unhappy people. The principal source of uneasiness arises from the difficulties in settling the land titles between the United States and the ancient inhabitants. Nearly all the larger claims still remain unsettled, while the claimants still continue in a state of vexatious doubt and uncertainty, whether they are to be rich or restricted to circumstances, perhaps, more moderate than under the Spanish government—for these persons have, in a great measure, lost their influence, and are superceded in trade and lucrative occupations by strangers; their claims are consequently their chief dependance. But this subject embraces such a variety of considerations, that it is not possible to do justice to it by a few remarks. It is a subject upon which the claimants are feelingly alive. There is no doubt but that the United States will do them justice. This anxiety is a tacit compliment to our government, for under the former the lands would not have been worth it.—Completed titles carry with them their own proof, and there is no doubt, but that the United States will feel bound to perfect, an inchoate or incomplete title, which would, in all probability, have been perfected by Spain. I think further, that equitable circumstances should be considered, and rigid, or strict proof not required; and a title resting even upon slender grounds, with respect to Spain, and doubtful whether it would have been confirmed by her, should be taken into view where there is no evidence of fraud. It would not be for the honor of the United States, that *rigid andiggardly justice* should be done to a people who came into their power, without their own choice, and without being consulted. It is difficult to comprehend how six years should have transpired, without an apparent approach to this final adjustment. It is not any wonder there should be heart burnings and discon-

tent: that they should give vent to their impatience, and accuse the United States of injustice. When I say this in favor of the inhabitants, I am not so much influenced by wishes for their welfare, as anxious for the character of my country.

The poorer class reason but little; but it is in the power of the United States to prevent them from feeling. There is a middle class whose possessions, or claims, were not extensive, but sure, and with the increased value of property have obtained since the change of government, a handsome competence.—These upon the whole are the most satisfied; I have heard many of them express their approbation of the American government. They feel and speak with the freedom of men, and are not slow in declaring, that formerly the field of enterprise was occupied by the monopoly of a few, it is now open to every industrious citizen. There are some things in the administration of justice which they do not yet perfectly comprehend: the trial by jury, the delays and multifarious forms of our jurisprudence. They had not been accustomed to distinguish, between the slow, and cautious advances of *even handed justice*, and the quick dispatch of arbitrary will. In their simple state of society, the administration of justice was equally simple; but they are not aware, that when society becomes extensive, and its occupations, relations, interests more numerous, people less acquainted with each other, the laws must be more complex. The trial by jury, is however, foreign from the customs and manners of their ancestors; it is therefore not to be expected that they should at once comprehend its importance and utility.

From the change of government, they derived security from the insults of the indians; a more extensive field, and a greater reward was offered to industry and enterprise; money became more plenty and merchandize comparatively cheaper. Landed property has increased in value. In opposition to this, it may be said that formerly, they were more contented, and had less anxiety; there was more cordiality and friendship, they constituted but one family without clashing interests, and living in the utmost harmony with each other. The idea of becoming extinct, by dissolving before a people of a different race, and of losing their habits, manners, sentiments and language, might excite unhappy sensations. Already the principal villages look like the towns of the Americans: are not the cherished customs and manners of our fathers and of our own youth dear to us all? Is it not better to see them vanish as a dream? Sentiments like those must sometimes steal into their breasts. They awake, and their homes has disappeared.

But is it likely that this state of society could have been of long continuance? That very policy of encouraging American emigrants, if continued, would by this time, have overwhelmed them by a torrent of emigration: and it would have been the receptacle of the worthless part of the Americans. They would not have been able, isolated, as they were, to withstand the accumulating wave of American population. Had they been transferred to France, they might have been assailed by the horrors of the conscription; had they continued attached to Spain, what miseries might not have reached them from the convulsed state of the Spanish monarchy. And is it nothing to exchange the name of colonists. Creoles, for that of citizens of an independent nation, where they can aspire to the highest office and honors. There are some who can feel what it is to be exalted to the dignity of freemen. Never will they again be transferred from

one nation to another, they have become the brothers of the Americans, AND IF THEY ARE EVER SOLD AGAIN, IT WILL BE FOR BLOOD.

Own allowances must be made for those parting pangs, which on this occasion would naturally be felt. Like two streams that come from climes, remote from each other, although flowing in the same channel, they will not soon unite their contributory waters, and mingle into one.

## Philosophical Disquisitions.

No. II.

Having explained the manner in which the planets and moons, were formed, we are naturally led to the consideration of minor changes produced in each individually.—When the earth was first formed, it must have been primitive matter without the least vestige of furniture; as a proof of this, read the 2d v. of the first chapter of Genesis: "And the earth was without form and void." The first sensible change, then, that was produced on the surface of this naked mass was probably brought about by the action of light from the sun, disengaging latent heat, which volatilized its surface; as a proof of this, read the 3d v. of the first chapter of Genesis: "And God said, let there be light, and there was light."—Light, whether it is received from the sun and fixed stars, or diffused throughout space, is hard to tell. It is the opinion of some philosophers, that heat is produced by the action of light on matter, and that without light there can be no heat, whether this is the case or not, we will first suppose heat acted upon the earth's surface, dissolved it and gave rise to an atmosphere.

This atmosphere is composed of every possible modification of matter, existing in a variety of forms, assuming a gaseous state: this meriform gas acts upon the surface from which it was raised. It now becomes a secondary cause, producing effects, which must necessarily grow out of these causes. Now it seems evident, that a certain portion of hydrogen, which is a component part of the atmosphere, might unite to a certain portion of oxygen, which is the principle of combustion, and form water; which is mentioned in the 2d and 6th vs. of the 1st chapter of Genesis. Another component part of matter called carbon, might unite with the two first mentioned, and form the first and most simple germ of the vegetable kingdom, which is mentioned in Genesis 1st and 11th vs. This germ, in a short time, might have been roused into action by the stimulating effects of an atmosphere. The exciting cause continues its action upon the germ, until it is evolved, and its evolution depends entirely upon the manner in which the cause acts. The affinities of the primitive principles, which first form a vegetable, become greater by their frequent union with each other; and in proportion as their affinities increase the more perfect becomes the vegetable.

The vegetable kingdom, now continues improving by the more perfect union of its parts, until a distinction is made between the primitive vegetable, and those of a more perfect order. It now possesses organization, which exhibits a phenomenon called life. Vegetation now goes on by rapid strides towards perfection, until we observe motion and sensation: here the vegetable kingdom ends, and the animal begins. At first, it would seem difficult to draw a line between the vegetable and animal kingdoms; but I look forward to a time, when naturalists will arrive at such a state of perfection in the works of nature, as not only to draw the exact boundary, between vegetable and animal matter, but



will prove, that there is one continued chain from the most simple form of vegetable existence, to the highest order of animal organization. For my part, I am perfectly satisfied upon this subject, no candid philosopher will doubt, but that the highest order of the vegetable kingdom is but one degree below the lowest grade of animal existence. This then being a fact, which I trust will not be doubted, may not the most simple form of animal, derive their existence from the higher class of vegetables, by their perfection, in structure and organization? I think it highly probable, and shall take it for granted, that this is the case.

After an animal is formed from the more perfect order of vegetation, it is dependent on it afterwards for subsistence, it looks up to it for protection and a mean by which it is supported and nourished. As the animal goes on progressing in improvement, it becomes capable of continuing its species, without the assistance of the parent vegetable, merely by the action of one organized body upon another.

How the male and female of the most simple animal, first came in contact seems hard to tell: but as I have entered the field of conjecture, I hope it will not be considered a piece of impudence or presumption, if I should continue the journey. It seems probable, that when the most simple animal organization was first formed and motioned, exciting matter continued its action upon it, and caused this organized body to give out principles, affinities, &c. which were, in every respect, similar to the originals: these united and formed an organized body, similar to the first. Now the similarity and affinity which exists in the one, must necessarily exist in the other, because the principles are the same, and the exciting matter, which acts upon the one, is equal to the exciting matter which acts upon the other, and of course the motions produced in the one, correspond with the motions produced in the other. In consequence of these motions produced in each, by exciting matter, principles are evolved, which by their union would form an organized body, partaking of the form, colour, &c. of the originals.—According to the laws of affinity, the two originals united, as soon as this union took place, the disengaged principles from them, likewise united, and formed a tertium quid. The affinities of the two originals, now, are lessened in consequence of their mutual embraces, the first affinity acts with the greatest force, the second with a less, and the third with a still less force, until there is an indifference on the part of both. The affinities which exist between the organic germs, increase until they are evolved.—The animal now borrows its support, not only from its vegetable parent, but begins to commit outrages on its own species. Now the first spark of intellectual intelligence begins. A sponge, which by some naturalists is supposed to be the first order of animals, has the power of dilating and contracting its cells, in such a manner, as to take in food and drink, when it comes in contact with its mouths. Simple vegetation is pushed forward by stimulants: but by intellectual intelligence, I mean a power of acting, choosing, and designing in a body properly organized, the different organs of which are capable of a variety of motions, superior to simple vegetation, or the first degree of animation. Animal matter has now become so much changed and modified that a variety of causes and effects are produced. It not only possesses motion and sensation, in a high degree, but it is endowed with thought, motion produces organization, the great variety of exciting matter, which is the effect of motion, acts upon organization, producing sensation, or the

power of feeling. A certain quantity of sensation produces desire or aversion, this is thought or perception, which takes place in that part of an animal, which is the most exquisitely organized; this is the highest point of improvement, to which matter can be carried by complicated affinities. The brain, therefore, is matter in the highest possible state of perfection; at least when we speak with reference to terrestrial affairs.

The reader will observe, I have made no mention of the soul. It is left to its proper guardians; what it is, or in what form it exists, is not for me to determine. I am, therefore, of opinion, that the mind exists independent of the soul, and that it is, no ways connected with it, that it has no communication with any thing, but matter on which it is continually acting. Mind, then, seems to be nothing more than matter disengaged from the brain of an animal, for purposes best known to God himself; I infer, that it is matter from this circumstance, that when the exciting matter, which is necessary for the support of life, is withdrawn, it ceases to exist or exert any influence at all upon the animal matter. As an example, we will withhold the ordinary portion of food necessary to the healthy state, in this case, the mind becomes enfeebled; continue this abstraction, and in a short time the mind being capable of acting at all; it perishes with the body; this is invariably the case with respect to mind, when any stimuli are withheld necessary to healthy motion. I beg pardon for this digression. From what has been said, it is evident that there are various stimuli, from a variety of causes, producing different effects.

The stimulus of the atmosphere acts upon the lungs, the vital part called oxygen is absorbed, for the purpose of keeping up a sufficient degree of heat to preserve the animal in a healthy state; the stimulus of food acts upon the stomach, it is necessary to the growth of all animals, as well as plants; those and a thousand other stimuli are continually acting upon all animals from the first commencement of their embryo state, down to the closing scene of life. All the variety of stimuli act upon the organs for which they were intended by the author of our existence.

Animals, as well as vegetables, are compelled to exist; they are forced into existence, by exciting matter acting upon other matter prepared to receive it. Existence, or life, then is nothing more than an effect produced by a great variety of exciting matter. It has always been called exciting cause, but as I suppose all causes, which act upon an animal to be nothing more than matter in a peculiar form, I use the term exciting matter.

The learned Dr. Rush defines life to be "the effect of stimuli acting upon the organs of sense and motion." I define it to be exciting matter acting upon organized animal matter, producing motion in the animal upon which it acts. There is no difference between the doctor's definition and mine: his stimuli must be matter, as well as his organs of sense and motion. Dr. Brown supposes life to be "exciting causes acting upon excitability, producing excitement." His exciting causes must be matter as well as his excitability and excitement. We only differ about words. The fact is we are unacquainted with animal and vegetable life; we know it to be effects, produced from causes, and that is enough for our purpose. We observe a great variety of phenomena, it is true; our senses convince us of figure, color, sensation, thought, &c. and it is entirely unnecessary, that we should know the variety of motions, which produce the great variety of

causes and effects, in matter. We know all matter possesses motion:—motion is nothing but a change of figure, this change of figure is continually taking place all over the universe, which universe is entirely kept up and supported by it. One set of vegetable and animal productions spring up, run their course and rot; a new set follow the old and run a similar course, so that all matter is nothing more than composition and decomposition of a few primitive principles, and the great variety of changes which are continually taking place is brought about by complicated affinities, which will never be properly understood.

The reader will, perhaps, reproach me for having started out with two first principles, and increased the number to several millions; but is this more strange, than that myriads of beings should originate from a single stock? Adam and Eve were first formed, and from them have descended the whole human race; this is, likewise, the case, with regard to every other class of animals.

It may, likewise, be objected to my theory, that exciting matter cannot act upon animal matter, to produce sensation and thought. Is it not as reasonable to suppose, that sensation and thought are produced by exciting matter on animal matter, as to suppose motion is produced by it? Where is the difference? If you are at a loss to account for sensation and thought, you must, likewise, be at a loss to account for motion; you, therefore, dare not deny sensation and thought from exciting matter, as you cannot account for motion from its application.

C.E.S.

## Swiss Decree.

SOLURE, Sept. 20.

The subsequent particulars are the substance of a decree of the diet of the confederation relative to the Swiss soldiers in the service of England.

“The diet of the confederation having considered, that notwithstanding the decree issued under its authority in compliance with the wishes of the French emperor, prohibiting all recruiting and enrolment for the military service of those powers with which Switzerland is not in alliance, it is discovered that there are in the English service, certain individuals of whom his imperial majesty requires of the Swiss government the immediate recall; the said diet convinced that the near relations between France and the confederation with respect to commerce, make it obligatory upon the latter to accommodate itself to the wishes of his imperial majesty, and to remove every obstacle which may impede the recruiting of the Swiss regiment already engaged in the service of France, decrees as follows:

ART. I. The Swiss now in the British service are recalled, and to the end of the present year is allowed for their return; and those, who, after that term shall be found disobedient to this order, shall forfeit their right of citizenship and their property.

ART. II. Every Swiss, who after the publication of this decree, shall enter into the military service of England, shall suffer the same penalties.

ART. III. The landamman will submit the present decree to the cantons for their ratification, without delay, and the government will provide that all possible means of publicity be given to it that none may plead ignorance of the same.

## Foreign Relations.

The committee of foreign relations have made a very important and interesting report (see congressional proceedings, page 252). The resolutions attached to this report—aye, and others of a much stronger and more pointed nature, have long since been “carried” by the nation, by “ayes and noes,” at the places of voting. The sentiment of a people was never more clearly expressed, on any subject, than it has been in America on the matters treated of by this committee—they are ripe for any thing but submission; and should this report be adopted, and immediately receive effect, congress will do nothing more than ratify the deliberate judgment and cool determination of their constituents, who “have counted the costs of the contest, and found nothing so dreadful as voluntary” debasement.

For the honor of our country, however, we hope, before these resolutions shall assume the forms of law, that the representatives of the people will search their own hearts, and ascertain, if it be possible, whether they have fortitude to give energy to them and persevere in them—whether they can bear the brunt and bustle of the new order of things that may ensue—whether they can be appalled by clamor, or will suffer their plans to be unhinged by the threats and menaces of a discontented minority.—This preliminary is indispensably necessary; such another retrograde movement as the tenth congress made, would, we fear, undermine the republican institutions of our country, by inducing the people to apprehend that government, so constituted, cannot have energy enough to preserve its own dignity.

The American nation was delighted with the famous report of the committee of foreign relations, some years ago, when Mr. G. W. Campbell was its chairman—they have frequently been gratified with the striking ascendancy of their statesmen in the field of argument—they have admired Madison's correspondence with Rose, Armstrong's with Champagny, and found many excellent things in the letters of Mr. Pinkney to the marquis Wellesley.—But what of all these? Have they, or either of them, removed one cause of complaint? The noble stand taken in “Campbell's report” was timorously (I had nearly said traitorously) abandoned—the eloquent truths of Madison redressed no wrong, though they confused his adversary—and the honest bluntness of Armstrong, with the polished indignation of Pinkney, have done as little for us—the people are weary of words; and too many have begun to look upon the state papers of their country (which ought to be most interesting to them) as chiefly calculated to fill up the columns of our newspapers in a dearth of foreign matter, rather more gracefully than old advertisements, setting forth the virtues of Blackhead's essences of pitchforks, and the like.

The doleful story told by the committee is truly humiliating—it would hardly be believed in future ages that America had submitted to such indignities, were not the facts substantiated in the archives of her government; but so it is—we have given line upon line, and remonstrance upon remonstrance—sent message after message, with despatch upon despatch, bundles of papers, mountain high, like Pelion upon Ossa. From England we have not gained a single point—the whole chain of injury remains unbroken; nay, it would appear, that a bloody link of it had been extended, even to the

shores of the *Wabash*. In the language of the report "forbearance has indeed ceased to be a virtue."

If congress shall adopt these resolutions, and manfully give them that energy and spirit the posture of affairs demand, they may certainly calculate upon the zealous support of their fellow citizens. In foreign countries, and in England particularly, much stress has been laid upon the political divisions prevalent amongst us—but it is a fact, that the whole number of the opponents of the present administration, is far short of the number of the tories and affected we had in the revolutionary war—and that, of those opponents when the question shall be put, "For America or England?" a very small and contemptible portion, indeed, will fail to rally round the standard of government. If any there are who shall refuse it, a war will not be without its blessings—for it will weed our country of traitors. I never have held that miserable opinion of the people of the United States that some men have professed, for sinister views; and the time may shortly arrive when the truth will appear, that, though, with the spirit of freemen, we may dispute among ourselves, a foreign power, touching a part, will make an enemy of the whole.

Many are disposed to think the report of the committee is not sufficiently strong—we believe if carried into effect, it will speedily bring all questions in dispute to issue. A permission to arm, necessarily implies a determination to support an exercise of it. The arming of the merchantmen will therefore bring the matter to a test, and the preceding resolutions are evidently bottomed on this anticipation. It is well known that if an impressed American citizen runs away from a British vessel of war, he would be treated as a deserter, if retaken—if he refuse to obey the imperious man-stealer, who dragged him from his home, his country and his friends, he is punished for mutiny—and, if more than all, he "seeks his long lost liberty through blood and slaughter," and indignantly bursts the bonds that held him, he is esteemed guilty of piracy. The constant usage of England will surely interpret any resistance on the part of an American vessel as an act of hostility; and the consequence will be, open honest war, or an abandonment of her cruel, unjust and unreasonable pretensions. We shall soon ascertain whether the prince regent and his ministers are actually as mad as the king himself—as ready to dash out their [politically] brains against every necessary resisting obstacle, as he, poor simple creature, is to break his skull against the walls of his chamber and the things it contains.\* If so they are, why let it come. The people of the United States do not wish the downfall of England; she would much rather she might preserve her present high standing in the world, provided her government would learn moderation, and practise justice; and, believing that a war with the United States, more than any thing else, would lead thereto, seeing that we alone possess ability to attack her in the tenderest points [*her commerce and manufactures*], have on that very account deprecated the long apparent necessity for taking such an attitude as might tend to it.

But the cup of humiliation has been drained of its very dregs—forbearance has become a crime, and patience ceased to be a virtue. Added to the long list of causes for complaint against England, the late affair on the *Wabash* is not the least calculated to excite our sensibility. It is notorious, that ever since the peace of 1783, the British agents in *Canada*

have cherished and supported a hostile disposition in the Indians towards us; though, under every administration, the deluded aborigines have been treated with mildness and fatherly care. The speech of lord *Dorchester* cannot be forgotten—particularly as it has been succeeded by an uninterrupted chain of circumstances calculated to keep its infernal principles alive. The tomahawk of the savage was up, waiting for the signal; the signal has been given: the murdered innocents at *Wyoming* bleed afresh, and the perfidious race, with their more wicked allies, must feel the force of a just re-entment, to prevent a repetition of slaughter and death. H. N.

## On the same.

FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLICAN.

We do not object to any article of the war-like preparations with which the report of the committee of foreign relations concludes, so far as they go. But we look upon them to be materially inadequate. It is meant to take *Canada*, the addition to the army is vastly inferior to what it ought to be. Militia cannot be relied upon for operations of any great extent, or for service of a long duration.—Volunteers, such as can be favorably distinguished from the militia, are not to be raised. Another deficiency respects the navy, which ought to be immediately enlarged, or laid by as totally useless.—There is no medium. It is too small as an instrument to chastise England, or to afford our coast and commerce any valuable protection against her.

The arming of merchantmen meets our peculiar approbation; and we should extremely regret to see the intrigues of Bonaparte's adherents prevail in frustrating the salutary measure. If armed merchantmen cannot cope with British men of war, the trade ought to be protected by powerful escorts of the public navy, against the exercise of any act of force or indignity not warranted by the law of nations. But the utility and the expediency of arming the merchantmen would be peculiarly evinced in the repression of French and Danish piracy. The marauders, which line our coast and infest our cities, would be so cramped and harassed as to spoil their projects, and render buccaneering a trade not much worth. We should then hear of comparatively very few burnings of our vessels and robberies of our citizens. The vessels, which might have occasion to visit the Baltic, would be easily placed out of danger, from the combined robberies of the Danes and French. For most of the piracies have been perpetrated there by a force calculated to infest only an unarmed trade. But it may be objected, that the armed merchantmen will be restrained by instructions accompanied with the demand of security, from exercising their power against any vessels but those of Great Britain. Could such a restriction be enforced, we grant that nobody would go to the expense of arming; for scarcely a British cruiser is to be met, against which a merchantman could effectually defend herself; there being no British privateers. Should congress act unwisely as to limit defence to one power, only, it would be war, but not war begun in that declared and magnanimous form, which the spirit of our democratic preservers promises. Still it is not to be expected, that an American having provided himself with the means of defence would tamely receive insult or injury from equal or inferior force, merely because the aggressor was a French freebooter or a piratical Dane.

\* See page 151.

† This speech shall be published in the REGISTER.

As to the money necessary to accomplish every public purpose, to signalize our revenge, ensure justice and render the glory of democracy triumphantly resplendent, that is the smallest consideration of any. Since the Smith's have strayed from grace, Mr. Gallatin's eyes have been opened. He has discovered that 40 millions dollars are borrowed at six per cent, and in case that fails, larger duties may be laid upon the dead carcass of commerce, and we may receive another fillip from internal taxes. When we laugh at his ways and means, and their annual inconsistency, as he happens to be in a bad or good humor with his patron, we by no means wish to be understood that the resources of the nation are insufficient to maintain its honor and avenge its wrongs. Those resources are double at least what they were when we drew the sword and threw the scabbard away in the war of the revolution. Wise and patriotic statesmen would draw them forth, and render them efficient for every purpose for which they might now be required. But whether they can be beneficially wielded by the men in power, is another question, which would be solved soon after the war commenced; when, if they proved incompetent, if they did not manifest humiliation by retiring, the sublimed spirit of the people would correct their errors and remedy their ills. War is in some respects a distressful season; but it is the parent of noble feelings, and the touchstone, in republics, of real talents and worth. State juggling becomes high treason; and want of capacity, a certain passport to contempt and oblivion.

It is now nearly thirty years since the general peace closed the scene of American glory in arms. A recurrence to that period, freshness, indeed, the memory of much evil and suffering, but it inspires the heart with hope and confidence in any struggle which is necessary to be repeated for objects the most precious to patriotic pride, such as swell the bosoms of the heroes of that day. But it must never be forgotten that they were of too stern stuff to be converted into the tools of personal ambition, or of individual passion. They fought for their country under her banners, not disdained to be seen near the dirty streams of faction. So it will be again. A war will purify the political atmosphere, and break down the entrenchments by which chicanery fortifies itself in undue prerogatives. Idiots who bellow in public bodies, will be sent to bedlam, and impostors to the stocks. All the public virtues will be refined and hallowed; and we shall again behold at the head of affairs, citizens, who may rival the immortal men of 1776, when the dignity, firmness and wisdom of congress, caused it to be compared to a Roman senate. How different from that of our own days.

## Twelfth Congress.

### IN SENATE.

*Monday, December 2.*—Agreeably to the order of the day, the senate resumed the consideration of the bill for the apportionment of representatives among the several states, according to the third enumeration.

On motion by Mr. Bayard, to strike out the words "thirty-seven," being the ratio fixed by the house of representatives as necessary to entitle to a representative; it was determined in the affirmative, as follows:

*For striking out*—Messrs. Bayard, Bradley, Crawford, Cutts, Dana, German, Gilman, Goodrich, Gregg, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, Leib, Lloyd, Robinson, Smith, (of N. Y.) Tait, Varnum—18.

*For striking out*—Messrs. Bibb, Brent, Campbell of Ohio, Campbell of Ten. Condit, Franklin, Gaillard, Lambert, Pope, Reed, Smith, of Md. Taylor, Turner, Worthington—16.

A motion was then made by Mr. Taylor to fill up the blank with the word "forty," and determined in the negative—13 to 21.

On motion by Mr. Bayard to insert the words "thirty-five" in lieu of the words stricken out, it was determined in the affirmative, as follows:

*For the motion*—Messrs. Bayard, Bradley, Brent, Crawford, Cutts, Dana, German, Gilman, Goodrich, Gregg, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, Leib, Lloyd, Reed, Robinson, Smith of Md. Smith of N. Y. Tait, Varnum—22.

*Against the motion*—Messrs. Anderson, Bibb, Campbell of Ohio, Campbell of Ten. Condit, Franklin, Gaillard, Lambert, Pope, Taylor, Turner, Worthington—12.

The bill being amended on the foregoing principles, was ordered to be read a third time as amended.

*Tuesday, December 3.*—The bill for the apportionment of representatives among the several states according to the third census, was read a third time and passed.

The senate took up for consideration the bill making further provision for the corps of engineers. And further amendments having been agreed to, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading—(leaving the academy still at West Point.)

*December 4.*—The bill making further provision for the corps of engineers, was read the third time and passed.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Friday, November 29.*—The house were engaged until a late hour on this day, in the discussion and decision on the contested election of general Hunterford, of Virginia.

The report of the committee of elections in this case, states, that further time should be allowed to the sitting member to procure testimony, &c.

The report was overruled by the house; the sitting member was declared not to be entitled to his seat, and JOHN TALLAFERRO, esq. declared to have been duly elected.

Mr. Porter, from the committee on foreign relations, made the following report, which was referred to a committee of the whole:

*The committee to whom was referred that part of the president's message, which relates to our foreign affairs, beg leave to—REPORT IN PART.*

That they have endeavored to give to the subject submitted to them, that full and dispassionate consideration which is due to one so intimately connected with the interest, the peace, the safety and honor of their country.

Your committee will not incur the burden of your journals and waste your patience with a detailed history of all the various matters growing out of our foreign relations. The cold recital of wrongs, of injuries and aggressions known and felt by every member of this union, could have no other effect than to deaden the national sensibility and render the public mind callous to injuries with which it is already too familiar.

Without recurring then to the multiplied wrongs of partial or temporary operation, of which we have so just cause of complaint against the two great belligerents, your committee will only call your attention, at this time, to the systematic aggression of those powers, authorized by their edicts against neutral commerce—a system, which, as re-

arded its principles, was founded on pretensions that went to the subversion of our national independence: and which, although now abandoned by one power, is, in its broad and destructive operation, as still enforced by the other, sapping the foundation of our prosperity.

It is more than five years since England and France, in violation of those principles of justice and public law, held sacred by all civilized nations, commenced this unprecedented system, by seizing the property of the citizens of the United States, peaceably pursuing their lawful commerce on the high seas. To shield themselves from the odium which such outrages must incur, each of the belligerents sought a pretext in the conduct of the other—each attempting to justify his system of rapine as a retaliation for similar acts on the part of his enemy. As if the law of nations, founded on the eternal rules of justice, could sanction a principle, which if engrained into our municipal code, would excuse the crime of one robber, upon the sole plea that the unfortunate object of his rapacity, was also a victim to the injustice of another. The fact of priority could be true as to one only of the parties; and whether true or false, could furnish no ground of justification.

The United States, thus unexpectedly and violently assailed by the two greatest powers in Europe, withdrew their citizens and property from the ocean: and cherishing the blessing of peace, although the occasion would have fully justified war, sought redress in an appeal to the justice and magnanimity of the belligerents. When this appeal had failed of the success which was due to its moderation, other measures, founded on the same pacific policy, but applying to the interests, instead of the justice of the belligerents, were resorted to. Such was the character of the non-intercourse and non-importation laws, which invited the return of both powers to their former state of amicable relation by offering commercial advantages to the one who should first revoke his hostile edicts, and imposing restrictions on the other.

France, at length, availing herself of the profers, made equally to her and her enemy, by the non-importation law of May, 1810, announced the repeal on the first of the following November, of the decrees of Berlin and Milan. And it affords a subject of sincere congratulation to be informed, through the official organs of government, that those decrees are, so far at least, as our rights are concerned, really and practically at an end.

It was confidently expected that this act on the part of France, would have been immediately followed by a revocation on the part of Great Britain, of her orders in council. If our reliance on her justice had been impaired by the wrongs she had inflicted; yet when she had plighted her faith to the world that the sole motive for her aggression on neutral commerce was to be found in the Berlin and Milan decrees, we looked forward to the extinction of those decrees, as the period when the freedom of the seas would be again restored.

In this reasonable expectation we have however been disappointed. A year has elapsed since the French decrees were rescinded, and yet Great Britain, instead of retracting *par passu* that course of unjustifiable attack on neutral rights in which she professed to be only the reluctant follower of France, has advanced with bolder and continually increasing strides. To the categorical demands lately made by our government for the repeal of her orders in council, she has affected to deny the practical extinction of the French decrees; and she

has, moreover, advanced a new and unexpected demand, increasing in hostility the orders themselves. She has insisted, through her accredited minister at this place, that the repeal of the orders in council must be preceded not only by the practical abandonment of the decrees of Berlin and Milan, so far as they infringe the neutral rights of the United States; but by the renunciation on the part of France of the whole of her system of commercial warfare against Great Britain, of which those decrees originally formed a part.

This system is understood to consist in a course of measures adopted by France and the other powers on the continent subject to, or in alliance with her, calculated to prevent the introduction into their territories of the products and manufactures of Great Britain and her colonies; and to annihilate her trade with them. However hostile these regulations may be, on the part of France towards Great Britain; or however sensibly the latter may feel their effects, they are nevertheless to be regarded only as the expedients of one enemy against another, for which the United States, as a neutral power, can, in no respect, be responsible: they are, too, in exact conformity with those which Great Britain has herself adopted and acted upon in time of peace as well as war. And it is not to be presumed that France would yield to the unauthorised demand of America, what she seems to have considered as one of the most powerful engines of the present war.

Such are the pretensions upon which Great Britain founds the violation of the maritime rights of the United States—pretensions not theoretical merely, but followed up by a desolating war upon our unprotected commerce. The ships of the United States, laden with the products of our own soil and labor, navigated by our own citizens, and peaceably pursuing a lawful trade, are seized on our own coasts, and at the very mouths of our harbors, condemned and confiscated.

Your committee, are not, however, of that sect whose worship is at the shrine of a calculating avarice. And while we are laying before you the just complaints of our merchants against the plunder of their ships and cargoes, we cannot refrain from presenting to the justice and humanity of our country the unhappy case of our impressed seamen.—Although the groans of those victims of barbarity for the loss of (what should be dearer to Americans than life) their liberty—although the cries of their wives and children in the privation of protectors and parents, have, of late, been drowned in the louder clamors at the loss of property: yet is the practice of forcing our mariners into the British navy, in violation of the rights of our flag, carried on with unabated rigor and severity. If it be our duty to encourage the fair and legitimate commerce of this country by protecting the property of the merchant, then, indeed, by as much as if life and liberty are more estimable than ships and goods, so much more impressive is the duty to shield the persons of our seamen, whose hard and honest services are employed, equally with those of the merchants, in advancing, under the mantle of its laws, the interests of their country.

To sum up; in a word, the great cause of complaint against Great Britain, your committee need only say—That the United States, as a sovereign and independent power, claim the right to use the ocean, which is the common and acknowledged highway of nations, for the purposes of transporting, in their own vessels, the products of their own soil and the acquisitions of their own industry to a

market in the ports of friendly nations, and to bring home, in return, such articles as their necessities or convenience may require—always regarding the rights of belligerents, as defined by the established laws of nations. Great Britain in defiance of this incontestible right, captures every American vessel bound to, or returning from a port where her commerce is not favored; enslaves our seamen and in spite of our remonstrances, perseveres in these aggressions.

To wrongs so daring in character, and so disgraceful in their execution, it is impossible that the people of the United States should remain indifferent. We must now tamely and quietly submit, or we must resist by those means which God has placed within our reach.

Your committee would not cast a shade over the American name by the expression of a doubt which branch of this alternative will be embraced. The occasion is now presented when the national character, misunderstood and traduced for a time by foreign and domestic enemies should be vindicated.

If we have not rushed to the field of battle like the nations who are led by the mad ambition of a single chief or the avarice of a corrupted court, it has not proceeded from a fear of war but from our love of justice and humanity. That proud spirit of liberty and independence which sustained our fathers in the successful assertion of their rights against foreign aggression, is not yet sunk. The patriotic fire of the revolution still burns in the American breast with a holy and unextinguishable flame and will conduct this nation to those high destinies, which are not less the reward of dignified moderation than of exalted valor.

But we have borne with injury until forbearance has ceased to be a virtue. The sovereignty and independence of these states, purchased and sanctified by the blood of our fathers, from whom we received them, not for ourselves only, but as the inheritance of our posterity, are deliberately and systematically violated. And the period has arrived when in the opinion of your committee, it is the sacred duty of congress to call forth the patriotism and resources of the country. By the aid of these, and with the blessing of God, we confidently trust we shall be enabled to procure that redress which has been sought for by justice, by remonstrance and forbearance in vain.

Your committee, reserving for a future report, those ulterior measures, which in their opinion ought to be pursued, would at this time earnestly recommend in the words of the president, "That the United States be immediately put into an armor and attitude demanded by the crisis, and corresponding with the national spirit and expectations." And to this end, they beg leave to submit, for the adoption of the house, the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the military establishment, as authorized by the existing laws, ought to be immediately completed by filling up the ranks and prolonging the enlistment of the troops; and that to encourage enlistments, a bounty in lands ought to be given in addition to the pay and bounty now allowed by law.

2. That an additional force of ten thousand regular troops ought to be immediately raised to serve for three years; and that a bounty in lands ought to be given to encourage enlistments.

3. That it is expedient to authorize the president, under proper regulations, to accept the service of any number of volunteers not exceeding fifty thousand; to be organized, trained and held in readi-

ness to act on such service as the exigencies of the government may require.

4. That the president be authorized to order out from time to time, such detachments of the militia, as in his opinion the public service may require.

5. That all the vessels not now in service belonging to the navy and worthy of repair be immediately fitted up and put in commission.

6. That it is expedient to permit our merchant vessels owned exclusively by resident citizens, and commanded and navigated solely by citizens, to arm under proper regulations to be prescribed by law, in self defence, against all unlawful proceedings towards them on the high seas.

The house adjourned to Monday.

*Monday, December 2.*—John Talliaferro, declared by the house to be entitled to the seat lately occupied by John P. Hungerford, appeared and took his seat.

Mr. Gold reported an amendment to the bill respecting taking affidavits and bail in and for the circuit courts of the United States, which was referred to a committee of the whole.

The amendment of the senate to the bill "extending the time for opening the several land offices established in the territory of Orleans" was agreed to by the house. So the bill requires only the signature of the president to become a law.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Bassett in the chair, on the bill allowing further time for completing the payments on certain lands held by right of pre-emption in the Mississippi territory; which was gone through, reported to the house, and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Little, from the committee appointed to wait on the president of the United States, with a resolution passed on Friday, calling for certain information, reported that they had performed that duty, and received for answer, that the president would cause due attention to be paid to the request of the house. And the house adjourned.

*Tuesday, December 3.*—Mr. Dawson from the committee on that subject, reported a bill for the relief of the infirm, disabled and superannuated officers and soldiers of the late and of the present army of the United States; which was read the first and second time and committed to a committee of the whole house.

On motion of Mr. Randolph,

Ordered, that the committee appointed to enquire into the faithful application of public monies, be authorized and empowered to send for persons and papers.

On motion of Mr. Newton,

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to enquire whether any, and if any, what alteration and amendments are necessary to be made in the several acts of congress establishing ports of entry and delivery.

An engrossed bill allowing a further time for completing the payments on certain lands held by the right of pre-emption in the Mississippi territory, was read a third time and passed.

*Wednesday, Dec. 4.*—On motion of Mr. Williams,

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and manufactures be instructed to report a bill explanatory of the act laying duties on manufactured copper.

*Apportionment bill.*—The amendments of the senate to the bill for the apportionment of representatives were then considered.

Mr. Stanford moved that the farther consideration thereof be postponed until to-morrow; which was determined in the negative.—Yeas 56—Nays 72.

After considerable further debate the house then adjourned. [For Thursday's proceedings see page 256.]

### The Documents.

On a slight consideration of the subject we designed to have offered some remarks on the correspondence between Mr. Monroe and Mr. Foote, respecting the orders in council. But, on reflection, as we modestly believed we could not "argue the topic" better than the secretary of state, we thought it as well to abandon the idea!—Perhaps, however, it may be right to call the attention of our readers to this conclusion, inevitably to be drawn from a careful perusal of the arguments of these gentlemen, pro and con: that Great Britain demands, as a condition for the revocation of these orders, that we should compel France and the powers of the continent, with whom she is at war, to receive her manufactures and produce. THIS IS THE PLAIN ENGLISH OF THE MATTER, IN SHORT HAND.

### The Chronicle.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.

We learn that letters from Vincennes announce the return to that place of the United States' troops and volunteers who were present at the late engagement near the Prophet's town. It is not understood that the Indians made the least attempt to impede their return. Indeed, their complete dispersion, and the loss they encountered on the field of battle, probably put it out of their power.

A letter from an officer in col. Boyd's regiment of regulars, states that the officers and men, volunteers as well as regulars, displayed great bravery and determined courage. The loss of the regular troops is said to have been, including the wounded that have died since the battle, about 20 killed and 50 wounded.

Extract of a letter from Governor Harrison, to the Secretary of War, dated head quarters, near the Prophet's town, Nov. 8, 1811.

Sir—I have the honor to inform you that the dawn of yesterday terminated an action between the troops under my command, and the whole of the Prophet's force. Their precipitate retreat, leaving a number of their warriors dead on the field, and the subsequent abandonment of their town, which was partially fortified, attest for us a complete and decisive victory. It has, however, been dearly purchased. A number of brave and valuable men have fallen victims to their zeal for their country's service. The behavior of the regulars and militia troops, was such as would have done honor to veterans. I arrived at my present position, a mile from the town, on the evening of the 6th instant; a correspondence was immediately opened with the Prophet, and there was every appearance of a successful termination of the expedition, without bloodshed. Indeed, there was an agreement for a suspension of hostilities, until a further communication should take place on the next day. Contrary, however, to this engagement he attacked me at half past four o'clock in the morning, so suddenly, that the Indians were in the camp before many of the men could get out of their tents. A little confusion for a short time prevailed, but aided by the great exertions of the officers, I was soon enabled to form the men in order. The companies which were hard pressed, were supported, several successful charges made, and about day light, the enemy were finally put to flight.—Our killed and wounded amount to 179, of these 42 are now dead.

I have not been able to ascertain the number of Indians in the action, it must, however, have been considerable.

The principal chief of those Potawatemies who have joined the Prophet, is wounded, and in our possession. I have taken care of him, and shall send him back to his tribe. At a more leisure moment I shall do myself the honor to transmit a more particular account of the action, and of our previous movements: and am, with the highest respect, sir, your humble servant.

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

The hon. Wm. Eustis, Secretary of War.

BALTIMORE, December 7, 1811.

FOREIGN. We have London advices to the 20th of October, with late dates from France, Portugal and Spain. In England the crops of wheat and other grain have been very deficient, and a large foreign supply will be demanded. American wheat is rated at 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d. per 70 lbs. Flaxseed, cloverseed, rice and tar are in demand. A serious dispute is reported to exist between the marquis Wellesley and Mr. Perceval; "when rogues fall out." General Bonaparte is collecting a considerable army (30,000 men) at Cherbourg, with the ostensible view of attacking the islands of Jersey and Guernsey—it is also said that he is making preparation to take possession of Denmark; a most improbable report. Captain Bingham, late of the Little Belt, has been made a post-captain, and promoted to the command of a frigate—for his gallant attack on the President. The king of England still lived but was pronounced incurable. An Englishman by the name of Wagstaff, detected in putting on board a vessel for New-York a quantity of spindles used in spinning cotton, in which vessel he himself also designed to have left the country, has been committed to prison, and doubtless, will be severely punished.—From Ireland, we expect interesting news; this nation has long been in a ferment. The catholic delegates were determined to hold their convention in Dublin in October last, the lord lieutenant's proclamation to the contrary notwithstanding. Public anxiety was wound up to the highest pitch to know the course that would be pursued. The prevailing opinion at Sierra Leone is, that the celebrated traveller, Mungo Park, died at Tombucto. An American schooner, with 400 slaves on board, was lately captured in the African seas by the British. The emperor of the French, in his late tour, was accompanied by all the ministers of state except the duke of Bassano, who remained at Paris to receive Mr. Bailow. The many vessels visited by French privateers and public vessels near the coasts of France, though bound to or from England, and suffered to proceed unmolested, gives us happy assurance that the decrees are repealed.—The British, on the contrary, make numerous captures of American vessels passing to and from the ports of France—between 80 and 100 are known to have been seized since the revocation of the French edicts. A division of the French army, said to be commanded by marshal Soult, appeared in the neighborhood of Algeiras, about the 10th of October, and compelled the Spanish general Balasteros, to seek protection under the batteries of Gibraltar. His force was less than 6000 men, and he effected his retreat without much loss. The French are in full possession of St. Roque.

Various rumors have reached us of the unsettled state of Mexico; but as we have little other intelligence than what comes from the royalists (on which we place no dependence) and, indeed, not much of

that, we know not what, credit to give them. It appears, however, that a bloody civil war was raging in the internal provinces. May "the Gods" be defeated.

The war in Turkey has assumed a more active and vigorous character. Some warm actions have taken place on the left bank of the Danube, in which the Russians claim the victory. The army of the Vizier is receiving great reinforcements. But on the 18th of Oct. a Turkish frigate arrived in England conveying, it was said, official intelligence of peace having been concluded between Turkey and Russia.

The British parliament is to assemble for the dispatch of business in the first week in January.—the restrictions on the regency are to cease in six weeks thereafter. *Price of Stocks*, Oct. 20.—3 per cent. consols for money, 63 1/8—1 1/4—for account 63 5/8—Omnium 1 dis.

The prince regent has appointed *Charles Stuart, Esq.* minister to Portugal, and member of the Portuguese regency, rear admiral *George Cockburne*, and *John Philip Horner*, late *Charge des affaires* to the United States, commissioners to mediate on the affairs of the Spanish colonies, and *Old Spain*. [A decree lately passed the Spanish Cortes for the above purpose; which from various circumstances, we are assured will avail them nothing. The tree of liberty is too deeply planted (we trust,) in South America, to be cast down by foreign force; or un dermined by foreign emissaries. The people have tasted the sweets of civil and religious freedom, and will not part with them easily.]

The cardinals sent by the emperor of France to the pope have returned to Paris without accomplishing the object of their journey. The holy father firmly resisted all they demanded, not deigning even a reply. He spoke only to the Italian cardinals.

*The Messengers.* Lieutenant *Biddle*, of the U. S. navy, and *Mr. Taylor*, arrived in this city on Saturday evening, from Washington. They are to wait here for their despatches (which are expected by this morning's mail;) on the receipt of which they will embark immediately in the U. S. sloop of war *Hornet*, capt. *Lawrence*, for France and England.

[*New York paper.*]

The general assembly of N. Carolina convened at Raleigh on the 19th ult. Gen *JOSEPH REDDICK* was chosen speaker of the senate, and *WM. HAWKINS* speaker of the house of delegates.

The legislature of Virginia convened at Richmond on Monday last. *Robert Taylor, esq.* was re-elected speaker of the senate, and *James Barbour, esq.* speaker of the house of delegates.

The convention elected in Orleans Territory to frame a constitution, &c. met at the time appointed by law; but, without commencing the business for which they were convened, adjourned for 14 days, on account of the continued insalubrity of the atmosphere at that place.

It is understood, that *Cesar A. Rodney, Esq.* has resigned the office of attorney general of the United States, and that *William Pinkney, Esq.* is to be his successor, who has resigned his seat in the senate of Maryland.

*Extract of a letter from colonel Hawkins, the Creek agent, dated September 20, 1811, to a gentleman of respectability near Columbia.*

"I am now at *Tockaubatchee*, attending on the national council just convened, to prepare their minds for the opening of roads through the Indian country in conformity with the orders of government.

\* The Spaniards—so called by the natives on account of their pride.

"A deputation arrived last night of 19 *Cherokees*, 47 *Cherokees*, and 16 *Shawanees*, from the north west, including two or three from tribes unknown to us, for want of interpreters. The *Shawanees* were accompanied by a *Creek*, who has resided among them for the last twenty years. A great number of our chiefs are assembled.

"The *Cherokees* inform me, they have entire confidence in the justice of our government, and so far as the road from Tennessee passes through their land; they have given their consent. They heretofore had some doubts relative to the affairs of their nations; but the just conduct of our government has now united them in an unshaken confidence in it; their business here is to adjust some matters relative to property between the *Creeks* and them, and to meet the *Chickasaws* in relation to their land claim."

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

*Thursday, Dec. 5.*—The speaker laid before the house sundry resolutions of the people of St. Louis, U. L. expressive of their wishes for an alteration in the form of government of that territory.

The bill from the senate making provision for the corps of engineers, was referred to a committee of the whole on Wednesday.

The amendment of the senate to the bill for apportioning representatives was then taken up, and after sometime spent therein, the question on agreeing was taken and determined in the negative—*yeas 65*—*noes 64*—the speaker voting in the negative. A committee of three members was appointed to confer with a committee of the senate relative to this disagreement between the two houses.

#### The Editor's Department.

Feeling to fatigue our readers with political matter, we have postponed several articles of that nature to make room for *miscellany*. The next paper will be valuable in statistics; with the succeeding (No 16) shall be issued a supplement, to dispose of a greater portion of the matter that presses upon us, from the meeting of congress and the several state legislatures. To get in hereafter more articles specially designed as *records*, a very small but beautiful, type, will be procured as soon as possible.

**ERRATA.**—In the table (page 237), for present number of members in the house of representatives from Massachusetts, for "18" read 17.

And, in the motto made by col. *Little* (page 240) respecting American seamen, strike out all that part which makes a distinction between native and adopted citizens. It is astonishing how this distinction could have been drawn by the reporter, seeing there was nothing like it in the resolution, or the design of the mover; whose principles, I know, are hostile to such discriminations.

Died, on Tuesday morning last, in the 38th year of his age, Mr. *GEORGE DOBBIN*, of this city, printer, and one of the proprietors of the "American." For the decease of an honest man society mourns; and as his acquaintance was general, few persons have been more extensively and sincerely lamented. His warm heart, liberal ideas, and gentlemanly deportment—plain sincerity, active charity and universal benevolence, secured him the love of all.—He was at peace with mankind living; and died with a blessed assurance that his peace was made with his God. Enlogy is lost in bringing to mind the practical virtues of our endeared and departed friend.