

mediate command of a Squadron destined for Halifax.

The French fleet, consisting of 27 ships, certainly sailed from Brest water, on the 26th ult. and directed their course to the westward—Of this most important fact, ministers received accounts on Thursday last.

The expedition to the coast of France, is, we believe, entirely abandoned. The French have 80,000 men in cantonments between Cherbourg and St. Maloes; and our equipments, from some unfortunate delays, appear to be perfectly known in France. Paris papers have mentioned them for some time past.

A Congress of deputies from the Allied Powers is still talked of to assemble at Frankfurt upon the affairs of France. A day of thanksgiving has been ordered at Vienna for the many signal victories obtained over the French this campaign.

LEYDEN, Dec. 30.

An address has been presented to the Convention by the Lyoneses, in which that wretched people complain of the horrors which the representatives commit daily in that city, especially the emissaries of the Jacobins, the seven monsters who compose the ci-devant revolutionary commission.

"Scarcely is judgment pronounced, (say the unhappy Lyoneses,) when those who have been condemned are exposed in a mass to the fire of cannon, loaded with grape-shot; they fall one upon another, struck with the thunder; and often mutilated, they have the misfortune not to be killed by the first discharge. The victims who yet breathe, after having suffered that punishment, are finished by sabres or musquetry."

The representatives have substituted for the two revolutionary tribunals which they had created, a committee of seven judges. This measure was indispensable. The two tribunals, embarrassed by forms, did not answer the wishes of the people: Prisoners accumulated in the prisons: Partial executions had lost all effect upon the Lyoneses. The committee of seven, judges in a summary manner; and its sentence is as just as it is sudden.

On the 14th December 60 villains were shot to death. On the 15th, 208. On the 17th, 60 were acquitted. On the 18th, 68 were shot, and 8 guillotined. On the 19th, the holy and miraculous guillotine made 13 the head shorter. On the 20th, 50 were set at liberty. On the 21st, 53 were shot.

Soon the guilty at Lyons will no longer pollute the soil of Liberty! We find daily gold and silver, coined and not coined. The quantity will astonish you when you hear it.

BOURDEAUX, Dec. 20.

The military commission proceeds in a revolutionary manner: The heads of conspirators fall on the scaffold—the suspected are shut up till peace shall be concluded—and the moderate, the indifferent, and egoists, are punished by the purse.

Lately all the actors of the grand theatre, to the number of sixty-eight, were arrested. *It was a Focus of Aristocracy*—we have destroyed it. On the evening before, the theatre was surrounded, when there were upwards of 2000 persons in it; and all suspected persons who were re-united in great numbers, were imprisoned; the same night 200 capital merchants were arrested, and seals put on their papers—and the military commission will soon do them justice.

The guillotine, and great fines, will purify the merchants, and will exterminate the monopolizers and money-changers.

Reason, makes here a great progress; all the churches have been shut; plate arrives in great plenty at the mint, and on the Decades we shall celebrate the feast of Liberty. The forced loan succeeds rapidly, 250,000 livres were yesterday poured into the receiver's chest. Bourdeaux will contribute more than one hundred millions to the Republic.

NATIONAL CONVENTION.

December, 24.

Thomas Paine, and all Foreigners, expelled from the Convention.

Barrere—"The moment is come to make known a vice which has introduced itself among us. The People have been persuaded that they might choose Foreigners to represent them; but a single fact shall prove how dangerous such a measure would be.

"An Italian came with some patriotic works: His ambition wanted a Decree which granted him the title of a French Citizen; he urged that title, because his property had been confiscated on account of his writings in his own country. Well

we learn, that this property has just been restored. Let us decree, that all foreigners shall be excluded from the National Convention."

Bourdon of Oise—"Since there are no more Brissotines in the Convention, Thomas Paine, never came once among us: He is busy with carrying on his intrigues secretly."

The proposal of Barrere being put to the vote, was unanimously adopted in these words:

"Every Foreigner is, and shall be, excluded from the National Representation."

Congress of the United States.

House of Representatives

The observations of Mr. Smith of South-Carolina, on the passing of the bill for the naval armament.

(Concluded.)

Mr. S. next reviewed the principal objections to the bill, he said—1st. That the force contemplated was incompetent. 2d. That sending an armed force on the ocean would be the means of involving us in a war with some of the maritime powers. 3. That we had no friendly ports in Europe, which our frigates could resort to for supplies or refitment. 4th. That the expense would exceed the object to be protected. 5. That our trade would be deprived of the seamen required to man the frigates. 6. That it was now so late in the season we could not protect our vessels the ensuing summer, and that some favorable events might occur before the frigates could be equipped, which would render them unnecessary. 7. That this was the beginning of a naval establishment, which would hereafter involve this country in immense debts and maritime wars.

1st. To the first objection Mr. Smith replied that he was surprised those gentlemen who deemed the number of frigates inadequate to the object had never proposed to encrease the quantum of force; though this objection had been re-echoed by several gentlemen, none of them had thought proper to move an augmentation of the strength; the only motion of that nature, had proceeded from a quarter which had been always friendly to the measure. From the documents on the table, and from the diligent enquiries of a large committee, the force contemplated by the bill, did however, appear adequate; the number, and strength of the Algerine corsairs had been pretty nearly ascertained: it had been stated from good authority, that their vessels were light, and that they did not cruise in fleets, but scattered for the purpose of plunder. It also appeared that a smaller force than ours, had been successfully employed by Portugal, in blocking up the Straights.

2d. The second objection arose from the danger of being involved in a war. It had been said, that some of the maritime powers, whose interest it was, that our commerce should suffer from these piratical depredations, would see with displeasure, our armed vessels on the ocean; and would insult them; that our officers would resent such insults, and thus draw us into a war. If there were any nation so anxious to go to war with us, as this objection supposed, they would be at no loss for pretences, without this; if while we were exercising so just, lawful and necessary a right, as that of using the only means in our power, of protecting our commerce from ruin, and our fellow-citizens, from a most dreadful captivity, any nation should wickedly and wantonly interfere, and molest our frigates, it would shew such a disposition to quarrel with us, and be such an act of hostility, as would justify war on our part. Whatever nation it might be, he should view such an aggression as the effect of predetermined hostility, and should not hesitate a moment to consider them as much our enemies, as the Algerines themselves. But this armament would furnish no little pretence for any danger of this kind, that he viewed all such terrors as chimerical; indeed it was somewhat strange, that these apprehensions should have been suggested by gentlemen, who considered commercial restrictions particularly directed at Great Britain, as of a most pacific tendency.

If irritating measures, pointedly directed at Great Britain, were not likely to excite a hostile spirit in her, much less was it to be expected that measures of un-

avoidable necessity, against the Algerine pirates, would excite that spirit.

3d. It had been clearly shewn, that there were many convenient friendly ports, to which our vessels of war, would have access. Spain, Portugal and France, had been mentioned; it was not probable, we should be at war with all those powers, at the same time. Being at peace with them all, we had a right to expect a friendly admission into their ports. A state of war would undoubtedly, present many difficulties, but even in that event, the proposed measure, did not appear less indispensable.

4th. The expense had been strongly urged, as a weighty objection. Mr. Smith observed, that the saving in insurance, the value of our ships and cargoes, the ransom of our captive seamen, was more than an offset against this item. But was not the slavery of our fellow-citizens, the national disgrace resulting from it, to be taken into the account? These were in his mind, considerations, beyond all calculation. Who could, after reading the affecting narratives of Captain Penrose and the other unfortunates, sit down contented with cold calculations, and dry syllogisms? These narratives ought to excite every possible exertion, not only to procure the release of the captured, but to prevent an encrease of the number of these unhappy victims. This could only be effected by the proposed measure; it was the only practicable mode of obtaining a peace, which would ensure the release of the captives, and of preventing the capture of others. Were the expense thereof double the sum proposed, he, for one, would not hesitate to vote for it.

5th. It had been alleged, that depriving our merchant vessels of the seamen requisite to man the frigates, would be a serious injury to our trade. No further answer was necessary to this objection, than barely to remark, that the injury was not to be put in competition with the loss of seamen, by slavery in Algiers, or by desertion from merchant ships, so unprotected and so exposed.

6th. The lateness of the season, had furnished another objection. Mr. Smith asked, whose fault it was, that this measure had not been adopted sooner? The members whose opinions coincided with his, and himself had urged the necessity of it, near three months ago, but the persevering opposition it had encountered, and the intervention and discussion of the commercial regulations, had protracted it to the present period. Late as it was, it was however highly necessary, and the best expedient which had been suggested. The very circumstance of preparation for naval defence, would facilitate our negotiation for peace, and would encourage our seamen to remain in our service.

He wished it always to be understood, that he did not rely solely on the efficacy of this armament; he still looked forward to a negotiation, and was ready to provide the most ample means for that purpose, but he was at the same time satisfied, that the first measure must accompany the latter, as the one would be nugatory, without the other.

7th. The dangers resulting from a large navy establishment, and the immense debts they have created in other countries, had been depicted and the House had been warned against such evils. How a bill, providing six frigates, which were to exist only during the war with Algiers, could excite an apprehension of a large and permanent navy, and an enormous debt, Mr. Smith said he was at a loss to discover. The clause which authorized the President, in the event of a peace with the Regency of Algiers, to discontinue the armament, was a complete answer to all reasoning which had been indulged on the subject of navies and debts. Admitting there had been no such clause, he did not feel the weight or applicability of the reasoning. This country was peculiarly fitted for a navy; abounding in all kinds of naval resources, we had within ourselves those means which other maritime nations were obliged to obtain from abroad. The nature of our situation, and the navigating disposition of a considerable proportion of our citizens, evinced still more the propriety of some naval establishment. Perhaps the country was not yet mature for such an establishment, to any great extent, but he believed the period was not far distant when it would. Sweden, with a population not greater than that of the United States, and with more slender resources, maintained a large navy; he saw no reason why the United States with an increasing population, much individual wealth, and considerable national resources, might not without ruin, do as much, or why the equipment of a Squadron, inferior to that of any of the petty nations of Italy, should involve us in an insupportable expense.

Having replied to the principal objections against the bill, Mr. Smith said, though he did not suppose that any arguments of that day, would change a single vote, yet as a formal and lengthy opposition had been made, he wished to shew, that he did not rely upon a majority, and that he would never give his assent to a measure, which did not in his opinion, rest on the basis of good policy and propriety.

He viewed this measure as resting on that basis; he trusted it would produce the good effects which its friends anticipated, and that as he was confident it would be supported by a majority of that House, he had little doubt, that it would be sanctioned by the approbation of their constituents; but that even were he persuaded it would be attended with some of the mischiefs which its opponents had predicted, he should still deem himself warranted, in supporting it as a thing irresistibly and loudly called for by the urgency of existing circumstances.

April 4.

The following message was received from the President.

United States, 4th April, 1794.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives.

I lay before you three letters from our Minister in London; advices concerning the Algerine mission, from our Minister at Lisbon and others, and a letter from the Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic, to the Secretary of State, with his answer.

Go. WASHINGTON.

Mr. PINCKNEY'S CORRESPONDENCE.

LONDON, 26th December, 1794.

DEAR SIR,

This serves to cover an additional * instruction, which, though dated the 6th of November, was made public at the Admiralty, but a few days ago. I only received it from our proctor last evening.

I am, with sincere respect, dear Sir,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

THOMAS PINCKNEY.

Secretary of State.

I mention the circumstance of dates, because it appears to me of some importance.

[* This we have already printed.]

LONDON, 2d January, 1794.

DEAR SIR,

At the moment when I was preparing to go to the conference with Lord Grenville, this morning, I received a note from him, excusing himself from the meeting. I then endeavored to see Mr. Burges, but without success; and as this is the last hour for writing by the Packet, I must send the enclosed additional instruction, without explanation obtain from the ministry. The Danish Minister is sick, and at Bath; but the Swedish Minister appears to be alarmed at this measure, as I am informed, the mercantile interest, connected with America appear to be, from a committee of theirs having waited on Mr. Pitt. Upon this instruction, as it stands, it is unnecessary for me to make any comment. If a repeal or modification of it should take place, or if I can obtain the principles, upon which this government has issued it, I will immediately communicate.

Toulon is again possessed by the French Republic: We have not the particulars.

I remain, with sincere respect,

Dear Sir,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

THOMAS PINCKNEY.

The Secretary of State.

(Duplicate.)

LONDON, January 9, 1794.

My Dear Sir,

You will receive herewith the copy of an instruction to the commanders of his Britannic Majesty's ships of war, &c. dated the 8th of this month, concerning which I had another conversation this morning with the minister of the foreign department. On his saying in the introduction of the subject, that he hoped I saw in it a manifestation of the good will of this government towards the United States; I observed, that it was certainly much less injurious to us than the instruction which it revoked, and might be as favorable as the principles upon which this government acts would admit; but I reminded him that our ideas differed materially from theirs on this subject, and without repeating the arguments I had before addressed to him, both verbally and in writing in support of our position, it was only necessary to say that we did not admit the right of the belligerent powers to interfere farther in the commerce between neutral nations and their adversaries, than to prevent their carrying to them articles which by common usage were established as contraband, and any articles to a place fairly blockaded; that consequently the two first articles, though founded upon their principles of not suffering in war, a traffic which was not admitted by the same nations in the time of peace, and of taking their enemies property when found on