

bargo, on the vessels in the ports of the United States, and

Resolved, That they do concur therein with the following amendment.

Line seventh, after the word "States" insert "Whether cleared or not."

Ordered, That the Secretary desire the concurrence of the House of Representatives in the amendment.

Mr. Bradley reported from the committee of elections, to whom was referred the credentials of the Hon. Kenley Johns, appointed by the executive of the state of Delaware, a Senator of Congress in place of the Hon. George Read, resigned.

Ordered, That the report lie for consideration.

The bill to make provision for the widow and orphan children of Robert Forsyth, who was killed in the service of the United States, was read the second time.

On motion,  
Ordered, That this bill be referred to Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Langdon and Mr. Strong, to consider and report thereon.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their clerk:

"Mr. President—The House of Representatives concur in the amendment of the Senate to "The resolution, laying an embargo on the vessels in the ports of the United States."—And he withdrew.

Mr. Vining from the committee on enrolled bills, reported that they had examined "The resolution, laying an embargo on the vessels in the ports of the United States," and that it was duly enrolled.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their clerk:

"Mr. President—The Speaker of the House of Representatives having signed an enrolled resolution, I am directed to bring it to the Senate for the signature of the Vice-President"—And he withdrew.

The Vice-President signed "The enrolled resolution laying an embargo on the vessels in the ports of the United States," and it was delivered to the committee on enrolled bills to be laid before the President of the United States for his approbation.

Mr. Vining from the committee last mentioned, reported, that they had this day, laid the said enrolled resolution before the President of the United States.

A message from the House of Representatives by Mr. Beckley their clerk:

"Mr. President—The House of Representatives have passed the bill, sent from the Senate for concurrence, entitled, "an act to authorize the President of the United States in certain cases, to alter the place for holding a session of Congress."—And he withdrew.

Mr. Cabot from the committee to whom was referred the bill, sent from the House of Representatives for concurrence, entitled, "an act to provide for placing buoys on certain rocks off the harbor of New-London, and in Providence river," reported amendments, which were read.

Ordered, That they lie for consideration.

On motion,

Ordered, That the Senate be at present under an injunction of secrecy, in respect to the amendment to the resolution laying an embargo on the vessels in the ports of the United States.

The Senate adjourned until 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### A BRIEF REVIEW

#### Of the last PROCEEDINGS of the POLISH DIET.

The close of the Diet was worthy of an assembly, from which epoch Poland may date her political annihilation, the remembrance of which will remain deeply engraven on the hearts of the friends of humanity and justice. The last sittings were remarkable for the turbulent and precipitate manner in which they hastened to finish or murder the greatest concerns which were yet upon the carpet. Among these may be ranked the new constitution. However essential such an object was for the trunk of the republic which yet preserves the name of Poland and Lithuania, no detailed discussion was had upon the different articles which compose it. The project which had been previously formed, was adopted with little variation. It was accepted in the whole; and its acceptance was inscribed on the registers, adding, "that it had been read in the presence of the States, in consolidated Diet assembled."

About twenty Nuncios wanted to enter a protest, it is true, against some of the articles; but no attention was paid either to their opinion or opposition; and this new form passed into a law, at least for the present; but it cannot be said how long it may last, for it is not guaranteed, even by Russia. It is remarked, that the 15th article of the treaty of alliance between Russia and Poland expressly provides, that no change shall be made by the king and the Republic, in the form of government to be established, but in concert with the Empress of Russia or her successors.

Thus, though she has not guaranteed the perpetuity of the new constitution, it is provided, that if it shall require any alteration, such shall not be made without her consent. It has been published in the Polish tongue, and contains four parts, the first, the fundamental laws; the others prescribe rules for the Dietines, the different tribunals, the clergy, &c. Another act passed at the end of the sitting, confirms the dismemberment of the Republic; in establishing three commissions for fixing the limits; one for the confines between Russia and Little Poland; another for those between Russia and the Polish Lithuania; the third for regulating the frontiers with Prussian Poland—the whole according to the treaty of Cession signed in the name of the Diet.

The treaty of commerce with Berlin met with many difficulties, particularly with regard to the duties on staple commodities which the city of Dantzic enjoyed, when under the sovereignty of Poland. However, the close of the Diet was not deferred on that account, and the further consideration was referred to the new permanent council, and the commissioners of the treasury. It has since been concluded, one article excepted, which is probably that of the commercial rights of Dantzic, which M. Buckholtz would not determine of himself, but dispatched a courier to Berlin for instructions, which may authorize him to sign the treaty.—Count de Sievers supported, during the treaty, as much as possible the commercial privileges of Poland; but in a manner which in no way interrupted the good understanding that subsisted between him and the Prussian minister who tho't it his duty, at the moment the Diet was about to break up, to testify how amicable the concert between him and the Russian minister had been.—He therefore felicitated the Diet, by a note on the alliance it had concluded with the court of Petersburg; and he assured it, that the treaty was so much the more agreeable to the king his master, as the empress was his friend and ally.

Poland, reduced to one third of its former extent and strength, has lost a proportional part of its revenues. The regulation of the finances has therefore become more difficult. In the last sitting, two loans were projected under the guarantee of her Russian majesty; one of 27,000,000 of Polish florins, for the payment of the particular debts of the King, the other of 100,000,000 for the necessities of the Republic.—The revenues of the King's domains are particularly destined to extinguish his debts.

The finances of the republic for the future, by this dismemberment, will not exceed 16,000,000 are produced by the Polish provinces, and 6,000,000 by the remains of Lithuania. As these must support the army and the other expences of the civil list, and the revenues of the King, they have been reduced a third; and his Majesty will only hereafter draw 3,000,000 from the treasury. The two last sittings of the diet were exceedingly turbulent. The discontent with the proceedings of the Russian Ambassador broke out with great violence; and the effervescence of the opposing party had no other consequence than what a momentary agitation usually produces. A military order had been abolished on the representation of the Empress. The re-establishment of the order was demanded and decreed. No sooner had the decree passed, than an officer appeared in the middle of the hall with these distinctive marks: he thanked the King for having restored to the brave Polish army a decoration which it had so well merited, in bravely defending its country. The Nuncios all rose, and advanced in a tumultuous manner towards the throne, to kiss his Majesty's hands, and expressed their gratitude to him. The decree, which could not fail to displease the Russian Minister, passed unexpectedly and in a hurry. The wife and virtuous Sta-

nislaus endeavored to repress the disorder of these deliberations, and to decline the thanks offered him. His eloquence ever temperate and magnanimous.

Such was the end of that famous Diet of Grodno, which terminated on the 24th Nov. As it was resolved to dissolve it, the last sittings were so hurried, that many articles, which were to receive its final sanction, were not read. The number to be passed on the 23d and 24th were 112, which were divided into three classes; of which the Secretary read only the title: the first class contained 40 projects relative to the New Constitution: the second, 32 Dispositions of the last Diet held at Warsaw, which were not revoked nor abrogated, as were the other laws made by that Assembly; but which appeared to require the confirmation of the present Diet: the third class contained forms of decrees on affairs. After the reading of the titles, the first 40 forms of decrees received the sanction of the State, and were made formal laws.

The Marshal of the Diet received for his trouble and good offices during the sittings, a recompence of 100,000 Polish florins; the Secretary, 20,000; and the Chancellor, 15,000. Counts Branicky and Rzewulski, who were, with the Count Stanislaus Potocki, the first to propose the confederation of Tergovica, resigned their place of Grand and Little General of the Crown: the first succeeded by the chamberlain Ozarowski, the second by general Pulawski, who discharged latterly the office of Marshal of the General Confederation.

Thus closed the functions of an Assembly, which, from the unfortunate circumstances of the times, was forced to seal the dismemberment of a once powerful kingdom. The historian of the passing period will be at a loss to make his election in the variety of important events that will press upon his notice, and claim his serious regard; he will at once have to record the most flagitious crimes that ever disgraced humanity, and the highest excellence that ever adorned it. From the atrocities of French Legislators, he will turn with rapture, with renovated enthusiasm, to dwell upon the mild, and at the same manly virtues of a Stanislaus of Poland.

#### For the GAZETTE of the UNITED STATES.

Well said, Mr. Honellus, stick at nothing; shew us, you know how, to misrepresent as well as to calumniate; where pray did you find from Mr. Z. that the Orator assumed to himself the merit of the financier—all he laid claim to was, merely the merit of lending an helping hand, and this no body can with truth deny him; documents, of the most unanswerable kind, are ready to prove if necessary, from the financier himself, and other officers of the treasury department of that time, that in the public station filled by the Orator, he acquitted himself with zeal and fidelity towards the United States in their struggle for independence, and this was all that was contended for. The services of the financier himself are too well known, and too generally and too justly acknowledged, to suffer any diminution from the claim of faithful assistance rendered by any or by all of those who had the honor and the happiness to be employed in the public business of that day.

But pray Mr. Honellus, who told you that the Orator is so violently anxious for war? his interest and his inclination are as much at least as your's can possibly be for the preservation of peace and tranquility; nor does he believe that these will be disturbed; no nation can get any thing by attempting it: and doubtless the firmness of our government, and the success of its allies, will effectually ward off the storm.

Be if you can, a little more good tempered Mr. Honellus, and believe that the Orator can feel as well as you can, for his country by birth: To the former, every consideration binds him, for the latter, he feels the most poignant regret at seeing it so wretchedly governed; governed in a manner to involve it and its friends every where in misery and disgrace—his father was once a victim of this kind; and notwithstanding all the generosity hinted at, would be so still, but for the Orator's having provided an home for him, as well as an handsome annual allowance, on which his chief support has been founded ever since.

\* \* \* We submit, whether the controversy be not better close with this publication.

## Congress of the United States.

### House of Representatives.

March 28.

Mr. Swift's observations upon Mr. Dayton's proposition, to sequester British debts.

Mr. Swift remarked, that on the first view of the subject, he had been inclined to favor the proposition, not having attended minutely to the distinction made by the laws of nations, respecting the property of an enemy liable to reprisal—but on a full investigation, of the subject, and mature deliberation, he was convinced that the proposition under consideration would be a direct and manifest violation of the laws of nations—he was therefore clearly and decidedly opposed to its adoption—Gentlemen have said much respecting the insults and the injuries which we have received from the British nation—but Mr. S. conceived it to be unnecessary that gentlemen should describe their insults and injuries in the highest colours to inflame our passions, and to animate our resentment—He believed that every gentleman in the committee deeply felt the indignity which had been offered to their country, and was convinced that Great Britain had been guilty of a violation of the laws of nations—but under such circumstances, it was our duty to conduct with coolness, candor, and moderation—He thought that the heat and passion which had been manifested in the course of the debate, were inconsistent with that dignity and propriety which ought to mark the deliberations of the Legislature.

Mr. S. observed, that the conduct of the British Court in regard to their concealing in such a singular manner, the order of the 6th of November, and the equivocal terms in which it was expressed, was greatly to their dishonor. But he thought that the words, legal adjudication, would fairly admit of a construction that no American vessel that should be taken pursuant to that order, could be liable to be condemned, unless warranted by the laws of nations—There was reason to apprehend that such was the intention of the British Cabinet—and that the Courts of Admiralty in the West-Indies, in their condemnations, had exceeded their jurisdiction, and contradicted the design of the Court of London, recent intelligence confirmed the idea—No information of these illegal transactions had yet been communicated to them—It was possible that when that Court were made acquainted with the business, we had sustained, that they would award restitution or compensation.—Mr. S. remarked, that by the laws of nations, no nation had a right to make reprisal for any injury till all other means of obtaining justice had failed—that it was our duty in the first place, to represent to the Court of Great Britain, the spoliations that had been made on our commerce by the illegal condemnation of our vessels—that till we had done this, the laws of nations would not warrant us to make reprisals on the goods and effects of the British nation—That there was a possibility of obtaining a satisfactory explanation of their conduct and reparation for the injuries we had suffered—It was therefore a proper subject of negotiation—But he said if that nation will not do us justice, then we are authorized to make reprisals.

Mr. S. then observed, that when we had taken such steps as would authorize reprisal—we should be precluded by the laws of nations from adopting the proposition under consideration. He said that a gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Mercer) had yesterday asserted, that Burlamaqui was the only authority among the writers on the laws of nations against the measure; and that the opinion of Vattel was in favor of it. Another gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. Smith) had read a passage from Vattel, which he considered as an authority in point, to justify the seizing of private debts—but not debts due from the public—But if these gentlemen had thoroughly examined Vattel, they would have found instead of his being an authority in their favor, he had in the most direct terms maintained a contrary opinion—He then read a passage from Vattel, that shewed that the effects of an enemy in a country at the time of a declaration of war cannot be seized, but that the owner is entitled to a reasonable time to remove them—and another passage which expressly declared, that by the usage and custom of modern nations, public and private debts are not the subject of reprisal. Mr. S. conceived that these rules were founded in the highest wisdom—that all debts were contracted under a sanction of public faith, and an understanding that a war should not render them liable to seizure or confiscation—that a moral obligation existed between the contracting parties for the payment of the debts—and that no government could ever have a right to violate a moral obligation—That therefore by the law of nations in all instances where property comes into the possession of a nation by a confidence reposed in their honor and faith—as in case of public or private debts, such property can never be the subject of reprisal, because this would be to authorize a breach of public faith—but reprisals are always to be made on property in possession of the nation who has done the injury and which may be taken without any violation of those principles which