

Pennsylvania had said, he wished the question of...
to have an effect upon our negotiations with France; he was as anxious as any man that these should succeed; but he feared that their not agreeing this question at this time, might have a greater effect to hinder the success of the negotiations, than any thing else. It was generally understood, and it was his opinion, that every citizen had a right to arm his vessel for self-defence; but not to make depredations upon the vessels of foreign powers. If merchants arm their vessels, therefore, and commit the excesses which have been mentioned, they may have a greater effect upon the negotiation than any regulation which they might enter into.

Mr. Sewall (having obtained leave) said he rose rather to explain his proposition, than to support it. It had been changed, and had a formidable appearance given to it, that he feared he knew it for his own. It had been called a proposition which might commit the peace of the nation, that it only asked leave to report a bill. He did not consider all the objections which had been urged against the proposition, as originating in a distrust of the committee; it would grieve him to think to; but from what gentlemen believed to be the intention of the committee. It was said they meant to report a bill to provide an extraordinary army, to build vessels of war, &c. But was it not evident, he said, that the gentlemen who opposed this motion, were the same who opposed every offensive measure on a former occasion? He doubted not it was. Gentlemen who wished to defeat the proposition, said it proposed hostile preparations, which those who supported it, believed it to relate to a mere domestic regulation. The bill the committee wished to introduce was neither a power to arm, nor a restriction from arming; something to be done both—something which affects the power of custom house officers. Surely, then, it was not desiring of all the harsh epithets given to it. The reason for wishing to bring in a bill, Mr. S. again repeated, was the difficulty which the committee found in reporting satisfactorily in any other way.

The question was taken by Yeas and Nays as follows, 45 to 45; the Speaker voting in the affirmative, the question was carried.

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Baer, Brooks, Bartlett, Buckley, Champlin, Cochran, Craik, Dana, Dennis, Edmund, Evans, A. Foster, D. Foster, J. Freeman, Glen, Goodrich, Gordon, Griswold, Groves, Farrer, Hinckman, Holmes, Inlay, Lyman, Machin, Matthews, Morgan, Morris, Otis, Josiah Parker, Isaac Parker, Pinckney, Reed, Rutledge, Schute-man, Sewall, Shepard, Sigreeves, N. Smith, S. Smith, Thatcher, Tillinghast, Van Allen, Wadsworth—45.

NAYS—Messrs. Baldwin, Bard, Slout, Brent, Bryan, Burgess, Chapman, J. Claiborne, W. C. Claiborne, Clay, Clopton, Coit, Davis, Dawson, Dent, Emdendorf, Findley, Gallatin, Gillespie, Gregg, Hartens, Havens, Hillier, Holmes, Jones, Locke, Lyon, Mason, McClenahan, McDowell, New, Nicholas, Skinner, W. Smith, Sprigg, Stanford, Sumpter, Thompson, J. Trigg, A. Trigg, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, Venable, J. Williams, R. Williams—45.

For the GAZETTE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. FERRO.
The enclosed Translation of a Petition from the real Merchants of Nantesto the French Council of Five Hundred, relative to the capture of American vessels, may usefully fill a column in your paper.

THE UNDERSIGNED, MERCHANTS, MARINERS, and CITIZENS, of the Commune of Nantes, To the COUNCIL OF FIVE HUNDRED, Representatives of the People.

A petition has been presented to you entitled: "The Merchants, owners of Privateers, and Mariners of the Commune of Nantes, to the Council of Five Hundred, to pray you to fix in a positive manner the political and commercial relations which exist between France and the United States, and to put an end to the diversity of opinions manifested on this important object, either by the Executive Directory and judiciary authority, or even in the bosom of the Legislative Body."

If those who signed this petition had presented it only in their names, we should have been silent; but seeing they have taken the collective name of the merchants, owners of privateers and mariners of the Commune of Nantes, the undersigned who also form a part of those classes of citizens in the commune of Nantes, and who do not partake of the opinion of the petitioners in divers essential points, think it their duty to tell with that frankness which becomes republicans, in what they differ from them.

We as well as they desire peace; but we think it a strange way of accelerating it by provoking a war against a friendly nation.

They make a long and eloquent enumeration of atrocities and crimes, committed by individual Americans against French citizens, and they would wish to render the American government responsible for them; afterwards they think it very just that other innocent individuals should be punished for the injuries which they have wrongfully imputed to the government.

The thirst for gold has without doubt at all times caused many crimes to be committed; every nation has its villains: all that a government can do, is to have them punished according to the law, when it furnishes the means of overtaking them.

Declamations are not proofs. It is not sufficient to speak when one is not afraid of being contradicted. The two parties must be heard, and impartial justice ought to preside at the discussion of facts often exaggerated and perverted by interested accusers.

The petitioners confounding, as they perceived it useful to their cause, some Americans, with the Americans, that is to say, individuals with the government, reproaches the latter with having fed us with bad meals at exorbitant prices.

Nevertheless, we know how these meals were furnished. The French government had them brought by its own agents, who gave mandates on the treasury of the United States, eager in our distresses to reimburse us a debt not yet due: the American government had no other part in these purchases than that of paying for them, and if the meals were bad of which we are ignorant, certainly the government was not to blame.

As to those which the Americans brought into our ports, we likewise know that they were almost all taken or bought by the functionaries of the government. These functionaries did not buy on samples; the commodities themselves were under their eyes; they could refuse the bad—and they constantly did so here; or all that was found

damaged on inferior, was valued by arbitrators.

We are not less ignorant that at St. Domingo, the prices of meals from the United States, were fixed by the commissioners of our government.

If the sellers have endeavored to obtain high prices, they have only done what every merchant and the petitioners themselves would have done in their place. Every captain chooses the market which he thinks the most favorable for the sale of his cargo. They deceived themselves in this respect the last year, and lost more than they had gained the preceding years. (1)

Here we see what this heavy charge concerning meals amount to.

Not being able to speak with infirmation on the cause of the other accusations, which have also for their basis only the ill conduct of individuals, transformed into complaints against the government, we will leave it to the accused to refute them; but not to be unjust we must hear them. They will say without doubt (and they will prove it) that at New-York and at Philadelphia, the inhabitants made considerable subscriptions to succour the poor refugees of our colonies; that congress voted them succours, and that in general they were received with humanity and benevolence. These proceedings as well of the government as of individuals will hold the counterpoise in the balance of equity, against accusations of hard headedness and injustice, which after some isolated examples they would cast upon them. (2)

We shall not discuss their treaty with England. We must examine whether, deprived of a naval force, and having no succours to hope from ours, they could have refused it: we must likewise examine, whether it agreed with their liberty and their political situation, even with respect to us, to maintain a naval force. This research is foreign to our present object. What we shall permit ourselves to say on the subject of this treaty, is, that if, in the place of a frank and friendly explanation, or of an open rupture, it had only provoked the decree of the Directory of the 11 Ventore (3); that measure appears to us partial, precipitate, contradictory and insufficient.

It is partial; inasmuch as it affects individuals for the most part innocent, whose property it confiscates to the profit of those of our privateers which have the easy advantage of taking people who did not mis-trust us.

It is precipitate; inasmuch as it orders the sudden and immediate execution of a regulation which ought to have been signified to the American navigators, before subjecting them to the penalty of contravening it. It is certain none of them suspected they should have need of a role d' equipage in the formalities prescribed in that decree. The treaty of 1778 says nothing of the role; it only mentions a passport, and the formule to which the article XXVII of the treaty refers, seem to have required no more than the same passport, by means of which all the previous formalities are supposed to have been fulfilled.

It is true our most celebrated lawyers have different opinions on the sense of this formule; this proves at least that it is not clear; and if they do not agree in this respect, how can we require that the Americans, who but imperfectly understand our language, be better informed? finally, why did we not give them notice that they did not conform to the rule, at the time when they brought provisions, and performed our coasting service? Ought men then so well received, to expect, all at once, in us to find enemies, without a declaration of war?

The measure is contradictory; the American captain who is fortunate enough to enter our ports, without meeting our corsairs, is received there like a friend; but if he has the misfortune to meet them, he is captured and condemned; thus it is sometimes the interval of an hour and chance which decides his treatment!

Finally it is insufficient; it ought to hinder fraud, and it will only serve the better to cover it. The truly guilty will have been the first to shelter themselves; and even the innocent will not have been exposed to it much longer. The decree is so generally known now, that every one takes care to conform to it; it will soon have only the bad success of having carried ruin and desolation into a great number of American families; of having finished the losses of some of our own colonists who had laden the wrecks of their fortunes on board the captured vessels; of having mutilated the fortunes of many merchants of Holland, Hamburg, Bremen and others of our allies, to whom these vessels were carrying the returns of their debtors who will have no more means of paying them; in fine of alienating and restoring to our enemies, perhaps for a generation, all the affection of a nation, a great part of which was sincerely devoted to us.

Ah! our brave corsairs have no need of this fatal encouragement to search our real enemies with ardour and intrepidity, and well may the captains, as well as their owners and Stockholders, lament a regulation so contrary to their way of thinking, but to which they cannot refuse to conform.

Such are, Citizens Representatives, our sentiments on the object of the petition which has been presented to you; they differ too much from those of the petitioners not to be manifested.

Finally, we join our prayer to theirs, that you will weigh in your wisdom the measures to be taken to prevent a rupture between two people made to be strictly united, and

(1) The French merchants experienced precisely the same fate in America, at the close of the American Revolution. Many complaints were likewise made there of bad supplies; but never did an American think of accusing the government of the faults or bad faith of individuals.

(2) The Congress, by an act of 15th of February 1794 voted them 15,000 dollars. The subscriptions of the inhabitants of New-York, amounted to 50,000 dollars; those of Philadelphia surpassed it, it is said, that sum, but we are not certain of it, and we would affirm only established facts; Baltimore and Charleot likewise contributed considerable sums.

(3) arch 2. 1797.

to re-establish a system of uniform conduct, which may terminate, with the complaints of the two Governments, the inquietudes and uncertainties of the governed.
Nantes, 30 Thermidor, (August 17, 1797.) 5 year of the Republic.

The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 12.

On Tuesday last General JAMES LLOYD was elected by the Legislature of Maryland Senator of the United States, in the place of JOHN HENRY Esq. elected Governor of that State.

PRICE OF STOCKS.

Philadelphia, 12th Dec. 1797.

6 per Cent.	107 1/2
1 per Cent.	107 1/2
Deferred 6 per Cent.	107 1/2
BANK United States,	26 per cent. advance.
— Pennsylvania,	27 to 28 do.
— North America,	50 do.
Insurance Co. Pennsylvania, shares 2 per cent.	50 do.
— N. A. shares	50 do.

LONDON, October 2.

DUEL.

Yesterday morning a meeting took place in Hyde-Park between Col. Fitzgerald, and the Hon. Col. King, brother to the young lady whose elopement has been for some days the principal topic of conversation in the metropolis.—After discharging three cases of pistols each without effect, Col. F. very quietly put on his great-coat, and left the field: neither party, we understand, had any more ammunition, which was the occasion of their parting in the above manner; we may therefore expect to hear something more of it.

Relative to this event, a morning paper gives the following particulars:—The unhappy cause of this meeting is recent in the public mind. Col. R. R. came to town from Ireland on Friday last, to demand satisfaction for an irreparable injury to his family.

Major W. his second, with much difficulty, obtained an interview with Col. F. to whom he delivered a message from Col. K. intimating that he came to punish him for the greatest violation of the principles of honor and decorum; that his sister, the Hon. Miss K. and family, had sustained the greatest outrage and perfidy; and that although the aggressor was not entitled to the honorable claims of society, yet that he should have an opportunity of making a defence in the field. Col. F. without the smallest hesitation, accepted the challenge, and the contest terminated as we have already described.

As soon as the affair had transpired, Col. Stephens ordered Col. F. to be put under arrest.

Col. K. is the brother of the unfortunate young lady who was wretchedly seduced from her mother's, and about whose story the public has for some weeks been so conversant.

Lord Kingsborough, and his brother George King, arrived on Thursday in town from Ireland. The latter attended at the Mount Coffee-house on Friday evening, and part of Saturday, in hopes of meeting with Col. F.

The Nobleman alluded to, when a school-boy, married the only daughter of a Col. Fitzgerald, by whom he obtained an estate of 20,000l. a year. His lordship has a numerous family, and his eldest daughter is Countess of Mountcashel. Col. K. served the greater part of the last war in America.

The relatives of the young lady, as may be naturally supposed, are in the most deplorable state of mind. They have experienced an unpardonable breach of hospitality.—The character of a very amiable daughter has been left to the bitter aggravation of misfortune—and the family name, always high in the records of honor, exposed to the tongue of wanton calumny.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

PLYMOUTH-DOCK, Octob. 2.—Arrived L'Indien French privateer, prize to his majesty's ships Pheton, L'Unité, and Stag: She is pierced for 20 guns, but has only 18 mounted; she was commanded by citizen Fourie, and had 150 men: she was captured in the Bay of Biscay on the 26th of last month, was fitted out from Granville, and sails well; she was formerly called the Ned, a Guineaman, belonging to Liverpool.

Arrived L'Unité of 36 guns, captain Rowley, with the prisoners taken out of the above privateer; and Adamant, a re-captured West-Indiaman, which had been captured by L'Indien, with two others, viz. the Albion and Antigua; and it is thought they are re-captured, as an English man of war was seen chasing them; they were separated from the last convoy which arrived, by a heavy gale of wind.

L'Unité came through Lord Bridport's fleet yesterday, which was cruising between Ushant and Scilly, all well.

Admiral Duncan's fleet arrived at Yarmouth Roads on Monday last, from a cruise off the Texel. Several of the ships have sustained much damage by the late heavy gales; but the crews are all in good health, and in the most perfect state of subordination. The Dutch fleet still remains in the Texel, and it is the opinion of admiral Duncan that they are not at present put to sea.

The master of an American vessel arrived at Cowes from Amsterdam, states, that when he left the Texel on the 23d ult. 16 full of ships, from 50 to 74 guns, were laying in the Texel, with four brigs and 12 frigates and 44 gun ships; and in the Deep a new 74 gun ship, the Washington, with a frigate and one other vessel; that they were all manned and ready for sea; but that the Dutch admiral, on being ordered out, much about the time the late disturbances in

France broke out, refused to go to sea without some reinforcement; alleging that the English fleet carried five guns to his three. The troops, except about 4000, had disembarked from the transports about the 20th ult. but the transports remained there.

The master of a Danish ship which left the Texel on the 26th ult. states, that in consequence of some serious misunderstanding between the Dutch and French, the Dutch sailors had refused to go to sea when the Admiral made the signal to weigh; upon which most of the officers had their baggage sent on shore, and very soon after they followed it themselves. Their transports have been removed from the outward to the inner road, and the troops are disembarked.

Vice-Admiral Sir John Orde left town for Portsmouth, to take command of the reinforcement destined for the fleet of Lord St. Vincent.

On the 29th ult. Rear-Admiral Sir Hugh Christian, who is about to sail for the Cape of Good Hope, to succeed Admiral Pingle, hoisted his flag in Cowes Road on board La Virginia frigate, capt. Hunt.

In the note which the Ottoman Porte has presented to the French Directory, they state that the Emperor, supported by his alliance with England and Russia, will afford the most formidable means for depriving them of their European provinces; that the Black Sea will be covered with Russian fleets, and the White Sea, with the trading vessels of the Emperor; that Albania and Bosnia, which are without fortified places, will be exposed to the first attempt against them; that the republic of Ragusa must unite with the Emperor, and that Epirus, Macedonia, Thessaly, &c. as far as the Morea, will be exposed to the same danger; and, lastly, that the French commerce will be materially injured by the facility of exports from Hungary and Dalmatia, rather than from the Mediterranean.

On the 1st inst. his majesty's ship Brilliant, capt. Blackwood, chased and ran on shore on Jedderland, between North Bergen and the Maze of Norway, L'Intrepid brig, mounting 20 guns, nine and six pounders, and 150 men, where she bilged, and was deserted by the crew; also the Chasseur lugger, mounting 12 four pounders and 50 men, ran on shore on the rocks, and was deserted by the crew.

The bouncing Cook at the West End of the Town, who lately studied so much the gratification of the amorous palate of her titled majesty, has lost her place, in consequence of her giving too much way to the luxuriant desires of the gallant Baronet.

By this day's Mail.

NEW-YORK, December 11.
The British packet, Carteret, captain Taylor sailed from this port for Falmouth, with the mail, on Friday last.

The son and son-in-law of Sir John Temple viz. Greenville Temple, and William Palmer, Esquires, two British officers went passengers in this vessel, to join their respective regiments in England.

ARRIVED.

Brig Prosper	Hispaniola
Cleopatra	Havannah
Schr. Swift	Jamaica

Extract of a letter from an American in France dated Havre, the 22th of Sept.

About 3 days ago, the council of five hundred declared the arrival of the 12th Ventose, against American vessels, a good one; and the reporter took upon himself to say two thirds of our ships and cargoes were English property and that the passports of the President were publicly sold in England for English ships: How he got the information, or how well founded, you, at the distance you are from French power, can conjecture as well as myself—for my own part, as respects French affairs I never give an opinion, yet, upon our own country is concerned, I see no reason to be so very delicate—it is thus that I venture to say that I much doubt whether the reception of the commissioners will be more favorable than that of Mr. Pinckney. Had they arrived two months ago, perhaps matters respecting America, might have gone right—but I now fear they have passed the Rubicon. The cargo of the Juliana was publicly sold here a few days ago; all her papers were signed by the French consul at Baltimore, before her departure, but the want of a Role d'Equipage was judged sufficient to condemn her: the captain and crew were committed to close prison for many days. Many American vessels have been condemned towards Nantz and Brest, for the same reason—those who have been acquitted will all be lost on the appeal."

BOSTON, December 5.

Extra from the Answer of the Senate of New-Hampshire, to the Governor's Speech. "Convinced that our national government is formed on the surest basis of liberty; that the majority ought to rule, that we have an opportunity as often as we can rationally wish to change and elect our rulers, we view it as the palladium of our rights and entitled to our firmest support.

Although jealousy is a lively trait in a political character, yet when very scrupulously exercised towards the administrators of government, it may tend to lesson the confidence of a people in their rulers—and we view with regret and indignation the factious clamour for the destruction of our peace and government, and conceive its only source to be the dregs of successive foreign anarchy, operating on the weak and vicious.

We must sensibly feel the private injury and national indignity suffered in the depre-

dation on our navigation and commerce, but shall cheerfully acquiesce in the mode of indemnity our national government may adopt.

"The promotion of literature, the redressing public grievances, and the enacting such laws as the public good may require, together with the other subjects contained in your Excellency's communications will meet our zealous attention."

Extra from the Answer of the House.

"As the constitution of that government was framed by our wisest and best men, was adopted after a candid discussion, and upon mature deliberation, without violence or tumult; it belongs to us to repose proper confidence in the officers of our own choice, and willingly afford effective aid to that government which we have instituted for the common good; the beneficial effects of the constitution of the United States has been generally felt, and acknowledged to be far greater than was at first expected. A spirit of enquiry into the principles of a government and the mode of its administration pertains to a free people: But when that spirit becomes intemperate, and its design is to promote opposition, to divide and weaken the government, it may embolden foreign powers to invade our rights, and embarrass the measures necessary to obtain redress—whatever such a restless and uneasy temper appears, we will lend our firmest aid to discourage and correct it."

COLUMBIA, (S. C.) Nov. 24.

A gentleman from Greenville, who left there the 18th inst. informs us, that Robert Maxwell, Esq. Sheriff of Washington district, died on Friday the 17th inst. of the wounds he received on the 9th; and that Josiah Andrew, Maxfield, and Joseph Kennedy, were taken up and committed to Washington goal on the same day, on suspicion of having been concerned in assassinating Mr. Maxwell, since which they have been removed to Cambridge.

NEW THEATRE.

TO-MORROW EVENING,

DECEMBER 13,

Will be presented a New COMEDY, (never performed in this city) called,

WIVES AS THEY WERE.

AND,

MAIDS AS THEY ARE.

(Written by Mrs. Inchbald, authoress of Every One Has His Fault, Such Things Are, &c.)

Sir William Dorrillon Mr. Harwood

Lord Priory Mr. Warren

Sir George Evelyn Mr. Moreton

Mr. Norberry Mr. Taylor

Mr. Bronzely Mr. Bernard

Nabson Mr. Warrell

Oliver Mr. Bliffet

Goaler Mr. Sully

John Mr. T. Warrell, jr.

James Mr. Warrell, jr.

Servants—Messrs. Lavancy, Lafferty, &c.

Miss Dorrillon Mrs. Merry

Lady Mary Raffle Mrs. Oldmixon

Lady Priory Mrs. Morris

House-keeper Mrs. Dozier

To which will be added, a MUSICAL DRAMA, in two acts, called,

THE ADOPTED CHILD.

Sir Michael Mr. Warren

Record Mr. Cooper

Spruce Mr. Francis

Le Sage Mr. Warrell, jun.

Boy Mr. Darley

Clara Mrs. Warren

Nelly Mrs. Oldmixon

Lucy Mrs. Francis

On Friday, the celebrated Comic Opera of the HIGHLAND REEL—with entertainments, Box, one Dollar; Pit, three quarters of a Dollar; and Gallery, half a Dollar.

The doors of the Theatre will open at five, and the curtain rise precisely at six o'clock.

Places for the Boxes to be taken at the Office in the front of the Theatre, from 10 till 2 o'clock, and from 10 till 4 on the days of performance.

Tickets to be had at H. and Rice's book-store, No. 50 Market-street, and at the Office adjoining the Theatre. VIVAT REPUBLICA!

Just Imported,

And for Sale at WILLIAM PRIESTMAN'S,

No. 129, South Front Street,

Next door to the Custom House, a large assortment of low priced Silver Watches—containing of plain, cap and jewell'd, stone and seconds; Gold Watches by Mudge, Elliot, Holmes, Trent, &c. A time-keeper by Arnold—Diamond and Pearl rings and lockets, some plated candlesticks, elegant double barrel'd guns by Mortimer, do. by Parker, duelling pistols by Trimby, a reflecting telescope, by Rehrigt, a box of patent medicine, 60 lbs of Scotch thread, 2 dozen of travelling caps, and a small collection of scarce valuable books.

December 12 d2w

Public Sales of India Goods

AT NEW-YORK,

Will commence on Monday the 18th inst.

by A. L. Bleeker & Sons;

The cargo of the ship Swift, Pierre de Puyfleur, Commander, just arrived from Calcutta, on a credit of 3, 4, and 6 months—

Consisting of 279 bales of the following articles:

Mauikpocce	} Baftas.
Kirabod	
Guzzena	
Addee	
Emertie	}
Patna	
Jellepocce	
Ouddee Coffees	
Tigery Guzzenas	
Beeboom Currahs	
Blue Guineas	
Cuillaudinary Handks.	
Doreas	
Dana Mulmul	
Tanda Coffees	}
Santipore Mullins	
Kermichee Romals	
Chauderconah Nayanfook & Chandanoe Handkerchiefs	
The above Goods to be sold without the smallest reserve.	
Philadelphia, Dec. 12. *d5t	