The Gazette. PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMPER 22.

COMMUNICATION.

French Reofons for condemning an American Veffel and Cargo. That the Role d'Equipage, prefented by Cap-tain Laurence, neither contains the domicil, nor the place of birth of the individuals therein inferted; that the country is only mentioned of fever of them, out of twelve that are therein included; that neither the role or the engagements are dated, contraty to the express defire in the printed part at the top- That no docu-ment proves that Captain Laurence has been authorifed by the public officers appointed for that purpose, to take on board the Supercargo, or his fereant, which be terms Paffengers, and

or his ferrant, which we term Patiengers, and of which the role makes no mention. That the Directory decreed, that conformable torthe law of 14th February 1793, the disposi-tions of the regulations of 21ft October 1744, and of 26th July 1778, concerning the manner to prove the property of neutral flips, and pro-perty fhail he executed according to their form and renor; that, in confequence, every Ameri-eau well, that he made a good ever of, that thall not have on board a role d'equipage in due form, fuch as is preferibed by the model already ioned, of which the execution is ordered by the 25th and 27th articles of the aforefaid

treaty. That from theace it can no longer he doubt-ful, that the finip Fiato ought to be condemned a good prize -- I hat the certificate of the Conful of the United States, refiding at Leghorn, is upon a facet of paper annexed to the role d'equipage, and upon which alone he has put his confular feal, when it ought to have been placed equally upon the prine pal facet; does not do away the nullities referred to, as it contains nei-ther the canfes of the crew being changed, nor the place of bitth or of refidence of the individu-als, nor the names of the paffengers, nor the the place of birth or of refidence of the individu-als, nor the names of the paffengers, nor the acts of engagements and of thipments, nor, in thort, the proof that the original role d'equipage had been figned by the public officers of the place of his departure. That fince the thip Plato is found in the cafe of conducting is each to be confidered at

That fince the flup Plato is found in the call of condemnation, it ought to be confidered as enemy, and confequently according to the 7th article of 9th tille of the marine ordinances of 768t, which have not been abrogated, the car-go ought equally to be confidered. That it cannot be alledged that this article re-fers only to veffels taken under the enemy's flag,

because the fhippers ought to affore themfelves, by a *jentable* examination, whether the neutrali-ty of the velici amounced by its flog is otherwife

properly proved by the papers on hoard. Done in the French Conful's office, at Malaga, in September 1797.

REMARKS.

REMARKS. Here then is an inflance of a regular Ameri-ran veilel, bound from Leghorn (a neutral port) to Baltimore, being condemned, and her cargo alfo, under the molt frivolous pretences. This welfel had a role d'equipage, figned by the A-merican Gonful at Leghorn, but becaule the original role d'equipage from New-York, was not produced, and there had been a change of fome of the feamen either from death or defer-tion, and becaufe the American conful placed his leal on a fheet of paper annexed to the role of the principal, the vefiel was confidered a good prize, and by the fame logical reafoning, the cargo was alfo condemned. This is one featence of the Terrible Kepublic.

cargo was allo condemned. This is one fentence of the Terrible Republic. This role d'equipage is the bell fythera that could have been fallen on, to put our feamen into the hands of the British, as upon this evi-dence along they can take their feamen on heard our veffels.

The role d'equipage contains the name, birth, refidence and citizenfnip of the crew, and if born in Britain, and not in America before the peace, they are confidered British fubjects.

FROM A VIRGINIA PAPER.

Meffrs. Printers, The dialogue lately published in your Museum under the fignature of "Student," was well received by the public fo far as my observation has extended ; encouraged by his fuccefs, I beg leave to trouble you with another, which I over-heard the other day between a Frenchman and a Virginian:-By publishing which I doubt not but it will render equal fatisfaction to your readers. And oblige yours, &c. PHILO-STUDENT.

Frenchmen. V. Net mind imprifonment is a dungcon

for life ! if you did not mind that, what the levil did you mind ? F. We all minded what we all fit ; and

nothing elfe. V. And what did you all feel then ; or what could be worfe than the bailile?

F. Many things in France, my dear John Federal were a thoufand times worfe. We all felt our taxes ; we all felt the manner in which they were imposed ; and the manner in which they were levied.

V. Why, to be fure, taxes are very had things; but I am afraid there is no doing well without them."

F. It was not the taxes we minded but the abuse of them. In the first place the nobility and the tlergy, two very numerous and opulent bodies amongst us, paid no taxes at all.

V. Why, they could beft afford it ; the rich folks pay almost all the taxes with us. F. But not so in France ; the rich were entirely exempted. But we could have borne that, if that had been all. The worft was, that the intendants of the provinces and their deputies had the whole direction as to who fhould pay taxes, and who not. V. In America, however, it is very

different.

F. The intendant could exempt or charge any one as he pleafed. His relations, his friend, his deputies, their coufins, and dependents, ins deputies, then country and de-pendents, were favored or difcharged from taxes as he pleafed : and the whole bur-den was to fall on the poor, the friendlefs, and those who were the leaft able to bear it. V. And how long had that curfed work gone on in your country.

F. Some centuries.

V. Some centuries! It would not have lafted in America, fome hours. Why zounds, man, if a big man was to try to throw his taxes upon one it would not be enough to let him hear of it at the county court, I would make the whole continent ring with it.

F. But we did, and we bore other things as bad. What do you think of the *falt-tax-es*? Every poor family wastopay for fo much falt every year, whether they used it or no; and there were from 3000 to 4000 poor men, women and ehildren, fent to prilon every year (and a large number of them tra-velled on a miferable journey to the gallies,) for endeavouring to avoid the tax for the

falt which they could not afford to ufe. V. Bad ! very bad indeed Monfieur Fran-cois ! I fhan't like the name of France a-gain for fome time. But could you get no justice ?

F. No : for as our judges purchased their places, fo they carried on the market, and fold the law to the belt bidder. The fuiter who had the longest purfe, or the hand-fomeil wife, or a friend at court, cared very little for what his antagonist could fay ; he was fure of his cause let the law be what it would.

V. Well now and that's the difference betwixt you and us. If a rich man and a poor man have a caufe in our courts, and the law pretty equal between them, I'd lay

three to one the poor man carried it. F. Perhaps he might. But again : the game-laws ! you have no game laws here I

V. No. I have heard of fuch in Eng-land where no one must shoot on anothers ground unlefs he pleafes.

cured by all your fine freeches : for you know there is no preaching to the flomach, as it has no ears.

F. To be fure the manufadurers, tradefmen and farmers, have been dreadful fufferers, and that mult be expected at such a

time. But then the glopious equality of Federal what it is to have twenty four mil-

lions of people and all exactly equal. V. But how will you keep them exactly equal ? must not industry and economy al-ways acquire wealth ? and ought not a father to have a right, of leaving to his chil-dren what he has earned by his industry ? F. We have a temedy however for that; a remedy which will bring all French citizens to govern in their turns, fooner or la-ter, and for a florter of longer period. V. What can that be ?

F. Equality, my friend cannot be pre-ferved but by cutting down all that rife aove others-Thofe to whom France owed its liberty, were great men, and had great merit : but their existence was not to be put into competition with their country, or with our fyltem of equality. They h ve therefore all been either massacred or banifi-

V. I am very forry for it.

F. It could not be helped-There is no maintaining a complete fystem of equality without it. Some of their fucceffors have undergone, and others are now undergoing, the fame fate; and the last fet who have just come into power, must foon, in the fame manner more room for another crop: and fo we shall all *live free, and die* in our

V. A very enviable fituation indeed.-But what is all this to Americans whole birth right is an entry? — The abufes that you complain of do not exilt in America; and our free conflictution is juffly admired by every true hearted American.

F. A conflictution ! I laugh at your conflitution. What ; will you pretend to com-pare America with France in that refpect ?

V. Read your own dreadful accounts of the torrents of blood which have flained the French revolution ; and then turn to the American hiltory and fee our federal gov-ernment formed without one drop of blood, without interruption to the ordinary courfe of juffice, and without violation even of the

forms of civil harmony. F. But mr. Federal confider the natural

rights of map. V When we enter into fociety, we ex-change our natural rights for civil rights. The first are the rights of a favage to prey upon the weak and helplefs; the latter are the rights of fociety, uniting us for our ge-neral happines and mutual affiltance and protection.

F. But why not have both ?

F. But why not have both? V. Becaufe they are incompatible. Your Equality leads to nothing but confusion, plunder and maffacres : the refult of which unlefs your wild notions of liberty are cur-ed, will be a relapfe into flavery, as the leffer evil.

F. Ah ! Sir dou't be feduced by your prefent peace and profperity ; why will you perfuade yourfelf that you are free and happy, or truft to appearances, however favor-

V. Why now to reafon about it Monfieur Francois ; would you ferioufly infift on my taking physic because you have been fick ? or because you have the French diforder is it + I thould undergo a Salir F. It might be very good for you by way of prevention. V. And then perhaps my hiltory might be the fame as the man's who was well ;--took phyfic to be better ;-and died. F. Ah my good friend, be affured that the French nation interefts herfelf in your following her in this as in other fashions, and that fhe earnestly wilhes that America was at this moment exactly in the fame fituation as V. In truth I believe fhe does ; and fo do Il the natural enemies of America. Envy Monfieur Francois gnvy will be bufy. What! when we enjoy all the trade and commerce of the world tin the full tide of fue cefs ; our liberties feoured, our manufacturers em-ployed ; our refources encreafing ; shall we emove the bleffings of peace, order, liberty and national profperity (fuch as neither the annals of hiftory, nor the circuit of the globe can equal) for ______what? for anar-chy, confusion and wretchedness. God forid ! Adicu-

put us all in at once ; and those who were flatefman, none are left to till the ground out would dance and fing as if nothing had or get in the harvelt. happened ; or, believe me, they were not V. That's a bad huffnels, and not to be have farther, and even here flones come from the banks; and the director inwere carried, measuring 12 feet in length, formed them that, in the banks of New York and three fect on each fide. From the | and this city, there were the value of 300,000 circumstance, you may form some faint i- dollars in crowns, ready to be fent into the dea of the amazing force; which the eruption had here.

From inspection, the cause of this phen menon, is eafily investigated. During the violent rains, the mountain became full of water, and not only the water which ran down on the top of the folid rock, but likewife the whole body, with which the nountain was impregnated, burfling thro' the crannics and apertures of the folid rock, a torrent was formed, which fpread devalla-tion before, it.- The warter to appearance was 12 feet higher than where the rubbish was thrown up, and even after you came fome diftance into the level land, from the bottom of the mountain, the trees are brailed with ftones, 10 feet above the ground: One tone I measured 21 feet in length and 3 feet on each lide, was carried and landed 19 feet above the natural furface of the ground. Hanover, Oct. 10, 1797. S. B.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

CONGRESS.

WEDNSSDAY, DECEMBER 20. Mr: Macon was perfuaded that it would be of advantage to the revenue, as well as greeable to citizens in the habit of diffilling, f perfons were allowed to take out licenfes for a fingle week. He therefore propoled a refolution directing the committee of ways and mean to report on the expediency of fuch a measure, by bill or otherwise. Agreed.

The house again refolved itfelf into a committee of the whole, on the bill for the relief of North and Veley of Charleston, and the pelition having been read, the amend-ment propoled yesterday by Mr. Cbit, to leave it to the collector of the Port to afcertain the quantity of fugar deftroyed, was agreed to 48 to 12; the committee role, the houfe concurred, and the bill was or-dered to be engroffed for a third reading to-

Mr. D. Foster reported a bill for the re-lief of the representatives of captain George Hurlbut, which was twice read and com-

mitted for to-morrow. Mr. Harper moved a refolution to the ollowing effect :

" Refolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and, if any, what amendments are neceffary to be made in the act relative to invalid penfioners, and to report by bill or otherwife."

Mr. H. faid, it must be recollected that frequent application had been made to that house by perfons who had been wounded in the war, for a penfion, who would have been duly entitled to it, and to whom the houfe wifhed to have granted it, had not their claims been barred by the law of 28th Feb. 1795, with which the petitioners were genrally unacquainted. Some of these cafes had appeared to be fo hard, that in one or two inflances the house had been induced o dispense with the law. He tho't, therefore, it was proper the law should be recon-fidered.

Mr. J. Parker feconded the motion-He enew of feveral inftances where perfons were uftly entitled to penfions, who had never heard of the act of 1795 until their claims were rejected, whilt others, perhaps less

dollars in crowns, ready to be fent into the Mint. Thefe fittaements furnished great reafon for doubting the justness of the in-ferences drawn by gentlemen in the former debate, and gave additional weight to all the arguments in fupport of the report of the felect committee. It appeared by the re-ports, that there had been iffued from the Mint of the United States, coins to the va-lue of 774.000 dollars. He had never feen lue of 774,000 dollars. He had never feen any effimate of the whole amount of the cir-culating medium which would be necessary in this country for all its commercial con-cerns, nor did he know upon what data fuch an eilimate ought to be made: but when they faw the amount of the coin illued, and recollected the immenfe quantity of Spanish dollars in circulation, as well as bank paper bottomed upon actual specie in the coffers of the Banks, there could be little doubt of the Banks, there could be little doubt that there was a fufficient quantity of circu-lating medium for all the purpoles of com-merce, though the act of 1793 were now to go fully into operation, without even the partial fufpenfion recommended by the felect committee. The only evil which would re-fult, would be, the lofs which might be fuf-tained by the holders of this fpecies of coin; but even if the law were fufpended for two years, as propoled, the fame evil would in a great degree, then recur. Gentlemen greaty mifcalculated, he faid, when they fuppofed, that, in the mean time, the foreign coin would, by degrees be brought into the Mint. Indeed they fay, it cannot be fpar-ed from diftant parts of the country; and if fo, it cannot be expected to come into the Mint, without a legitimate force to bring it there. A partial fufpention would produce this effect; and whilk this coin was received ed by the collectors, as ufual, it could not diminifh greatly in its value. Indeed, he was of opinion that it would be beft to keep the law as it flood, and leave any regulation which might be necefiary, to the Executive of the United States, who had already orof the United States, who had already or-dered it to be received in the way propoled by the felect committee, and who would be the belt judge of the regulation from time to time neceflary.—With refpect to the fo-reign gold coin, as the law prohibiting that as a tender, did not take place for fome months, the holders of it might get it out of their hands, before its value was dimin-ilied, and as to filver he believed the inju-

of their hands, before its value was dimin-ifhed; and as to filver, he believed the inju-ry was already done. If the æft of 1793, were therefore, fufpended, it would give the crowns a new value, and, at the end of two years, the fame objection would be again urged, and the Mint, in the mean time would be without fupport. He thought it was proper, on this oceasion, that those who withed to fu pend the law, should come out with respect to the Mint. He thought it beft to go to the whole fubject now, and let the act of 1793 fland, or fall with the Mint. He moved that the committee rife for the

He moved that the committee rife for the purpose he had mentioned.

Mr. S. Smith was not much imprifed at what had fallen from the gentleman from Pennfylvania, as he was defirous of car-rying bis point. It would be a very convenient thing, at this time, for the city of Philadelphia to get as much of the money of the United States as possible into it. It would do away that fearcity of money to heavily complained of. But he did not think the gentleman had fucceded in his attrmpt to correct the frate-ment formerly made by him. He did not fend coin to the mint, but that no bank at diftance; for inftance, at New-York or Baltimore would do it, as they always flood in need of their coin for the fupply of their cuftomers. And he was warranted in this opinion by the report before them, as not a fingle bank out of Philadelphia had deposited a fhilling in the mint. And what, he afked, had the banks in Philadelphis done? He had merely doubted whether they would be able to fpare their coin to fend to the mint. This was a different thing from banks is general. They had always from 103 to 300,000 dollars of government de-polits, ready for the exigencies of govern-ment; and he thought it judicious in the Secretary of the Treafury always to have luch a fum of money at command ; but they might furely fpare a part of this money to be recoined. With refpect to the filver, when they found the French crowns called out of circulation, they deposited them in the mint, because they might as well be in the mint as to lie dead in their vaults. Not one of the other banks had deposited one fhilling in gold; but the banks of North-America and Pennfylvania had feut in fome filver ; becaufe it was as well there as in their coffers. But what has been the confequence of this floppage of foreign coin? It has brought French crowns from all parts of the Union. The gentleman had faid that the Executive had given orders for French crowns to be received by our for French crowns to be received by our collectors at 1 to cents; but how, he afked, were they to be got to Philad-lphia? Were they to be transported at the public ex-pence? If they were, and he knew of no o-ther way, it would not amount to a triffing fum. But would it not be doing an effential injury to the citizens to take away from them their cash, without fending any other in its place? It certainly would. If it were to be called in, new coin thould be previous ly iffued to take its place. If what he advanced bore hard upon the mint of the U-nited States, he could not help it he tho't other Bullion was very infail; whereas, by filted States, he could not help it—he tho't the prefent report, it would appear that three-fourths of the whole amount of the de-pofits in Gold, had been made in coin, and two-thirds of the filver. This report would. Rate to fupport the mint, but he did not alfo fhew that the gentleman from Maryland think it was the intereft of the Union. Mr. (Mr. S. Smith) was not correct in his re-mark, when he faid, no bank in the United refpecting gold coin was not fulpended.--States would part with their foreign coin Merchants were as defrows of exporting

Frenchman. So now my good friend John Federal, we are now all citizens of the world ; and I am come over to advife you what you should do.

Virginian. Advice ! Monfieur Francois ; do you pretend to give advice ?-And what advice have you brought with you ?

F. My advice is that you fhould not think to highly of your American liberty, or suppose it worth keeping ; but that you should give it up and become as free and

as happy as we are. V. As happy ! if you call your prefent fituation happinels, what must you have been ufed to ?

F. Oh begar, it was fo very bad it could not be worfe.

V. What !- Did you begin to diflike your black bread ?

F. No :-Black bread is a one very good thing : and we are now glad enough to get it. Do but join us and I think you will foon learn to like it.

V. No that won't do : black bread would foots turn four on an American Romach .--We are used to corn bread, good homany,

firong leather floors, and good floirts. F. Leather floors and good floirts ! Oh, my friend, that's luxury. Wooden floors are very comfortable : and as to fhirts, they are no more neceffary than breeches.

V. If the French think fo that may be all very well for them : but if you are fo eafily fatisfied, what could go wrong with you!

F. Pethaps you have heard of the Baflile; and that the noblesse could fans ceremonie, have any one he chose fent to a dungeon there for life.

V. Aye by Jove ; but if one was to try thefe tricks here we should have our Habeas Corpus and fwingeing damages for falle im-prifonment : our juries would not be very-merciful to those kind of gentry.

F. Perhaps you might : but the basile, Lord ! that was nothing ; we did not mind that. It was a flea bite. We were twen-

he pleafes ! What will prevent them. V. The law.

F. That was not fo in France. And, i truth, if it had been only coming on ones land to kill the game, there would not have been much in it : but it was what was called the prefervation of the game that was our definition ; and if their game had been on-ly a few innocent partridges or cowardly hares, or here and there a roguifh fox, we fhould not have cared much for that : but the wolves, wild bears, and herds of wild deer, that were quartered on us, laid wafte.

the whole country : and if we attempted to defend ourfelves against them, and to fave. part of our crops, our herds and flocks, from heir ravages, the gallies for life was the certain punishment.

V. By Pharoah, Monfieur Francois, this was Egyptian bondage- more bricks and no ftraw

no ftraw. F. Worfe than Egyptian bondage.— Not content with fending in upon us those favage animals, to defiroy part of our har-veft, they were prevented the ground being properly tilled. There were laws for purfu-ing the game, which prohibited weeding and hoeing the crops, left the young par-tridges should be difurbed : using manure there eight have the favor of the game. hat might hurt the flavor of the game .--Mowing hay before a certain time, or taking away the flubble, left we fhould hart the

V. Well thank God, we know nothing of all that.

F. The feudal law continued in full vig or, quite to the time of the revolution : if, we had time I could give you fuch a hiftory of the opprefiion of the lards of the feign-

tories within my own little neighborhood, and enumerate fuch acts of tyranny, as

would make your heart bleed to hear them. V. Much obliged to you Monfieur Fran-cois : but I don't like to have my heart bleed. I feel a little too much of that at what you have faid already .- Under fuch oppreffion I do not wonder you were defirous of a revolution. I only with you had obtained it with lefs *blood* and *cruelly*, and fettled your government a little better. But

now are you going on ? F. Weare not much afraid of foreign enemies! nor have we any thing to apprehend except anarchy, confusion and famine. V. Three companions bad enough.

From the EAGLE, printed at Hanover, New Hamp/bine. Hearing much of an extraordinary cir-cumflance which took place on Moofe-moun-tain, in this town, during the late visient rains, my curiofity was invited to make a wifit to that mountain, on the call-fide of

which a rupture has taken place.

The elevation of the mountain forms an angle of 45 deg. confequently it is very fteep in this place. About forty rods above the foot of the.

mountain, the eruption began. Here the foil, loole flones and rubbilh appeared to be about three feet deep, lying upon a folid rock which compoles the mountain. The depth of foil encreafes as you defeed the mountain until it becomes 15 feet deep at the bottom. b. The earth, loofe flones and trees, begin to decend the mountain about 40 rods from its bafe. forming a channel of about fix rods wille at its beginning, and nereafing to about twelve, fweeping every thing to the bottom, tearing up trees and rocks of an enormous fize, the direction was immediately down the mountain, until the heavy rubbush formed a little mountain of itfelf at the bottom: the light rubbifh, fuch as trees, fmall rocks, &c. took another di-1. I chaps you might the laft is rather an unpleafant vifitor. It is I cord 1 that was nothing; we did not mind that. It was a flea bite. We were twen-that. It was a flea bite. We were twen-ty-four millions of people : they could not when every one is to be either a foldier or a foldier o rection, forming an angle of 30 deg. with its original direction, and about 19 rols.

deferving, were in possession of pensions. He hoped they flould not longer deny the justice which was due to the veteran wounled foldier.

Mr. Macon believed that as all fubjects of this kind were constantly referred to the committee of claims, they were of courfe better acquainted with the business than ay other committee would be likely to be ; e therefore moved to have this refolution referred to that committee.

This motion was fupported by Meff. Coit and Nicholas, and opposed by Meff. S. Smith, Parker. Harper, Brookes and Swanwick. t was, however, finally carried, there be-

It was, however, many carried, there be-ing 51 votes in favor of it. Mr. Nicholas called for the order of the day on the bill fufpending the fecond fection of the act regulating foreign coins; which motion being agreed to, the houfe went into a committee of the whole on the fubject;

Mr. Sitgreaves wilhed to propofe an a-mendment to the bill, fo as to make it con-formable to the report of the Select Com-mittee; but, as he believed it would be difficult to incorporate fuch an amendment in-to the bill, without re-committing it, he fhould move for the committee to rife, with a view of afterwards moving a re-committal of the bill. He would not recur to the arruments used on a former occasion in fupport of his motion. He wished to give the Foreign coin in question a partial currency, which should give it a natural current to wards the mint. A number of calculations had been made on this fubject, when fornerly under discussion, drawn from an old report from the Mint, which were very in-applicable to the prefent flate of that eftab-liftment. By the report of 1796, it appeared that a greater proportion of Silver than of Gold Coin had been iffued; but by this report, the Gold coin was nearly doubled fince that time. It appeared also by the report of 1796, that the proportion of coins depatited, compared with Ingots and other Bullion was very fmall ; whereas, by