

ped instead of holding it back, the bank would push it upon every body, and it would be mostly exported. And how, he asked, were it to be got back? Nobody had said any thing on this subject but the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Sewall). He said that doubloons, or four-pièce pieces, were imported at a loss of 25 per cent. a dollar, and that these would continue to be imported. He did not know but small fishing vessels might be in the habit of thus dealing; but merchants in any extensive business made remittances to London, where doubloons were at their full value, and drew bills upon London; or sent doubloons to the French West-Indies, where they were worth the full sixteen dollars, and got articles in return which afforded a good profit. They were in the habit of importing gold from Lisbon, when the exchange was against them, but there was a profit upon this gold of six grains upon a half-joe. This was one of the inducements; but it could no longer be an inducement, if they were to be no longer payable. Gold therefore would be no longer imported. If the mint were to be supported, the plan of making an appropriation for the purchase of bullion was the only one which was at all feasible. He should of course be against the committee's rising.

Mr. Sitgreaves wished to let the gentleman left up right as to matter of fact. He had said no deposits had been made from a distance; but if he attended to the report of the director, he would find, that he expected about 300,000 dollars from the banks of this city and New-York, and he was informed that 250,000 of them were to come from New-York, as soon as the mint was ready to receive them, and a guard was provided.

Mr. S. Smith said he supposed these were crowns whose circulation was stopped.

Mr. Swanwick observed, that it sometimes happened that legislatures passed improper laws; when they did so, they generally tended to correct themselves. What was the fact respecting the law in question? A law had been passed declaring that french crowns should not be a lawful tender after a certain period; that period was passed; but the Secretary of the Treasury, in contradiction to it, had directed the officers of the customs to receive them as usual. Was not this an acknowledgement that the law was improper and inconvenient? It would be well, he said, to take a view of the situation of our commerce, with respect to circulating medium. The main object in the institution of the bank of the United States was to give a general currency to its paper, that it might take place of coin in a great degree; but they had been told by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Nicholas) that though these notes were a lawful tender in all payments to the United States, they were not current in the interior of the country. The chief circulating medium of the country was, notwithstanding this, paper. Merchants, in paying their duties, generally gave a check upon their banker; therefore, though our revenue produced seven millions a year, but a small part of that sum is paid in cash. What, then, was the use of foreign coin? It was not wanted so much for a circulating medium at home, as for exportation. Much of it was sent to the East Indies and to Great Britain; and, though some gentlemen had said a gold coin of the United States was so scarce an article in the interior of the country, that when it was met with it was hoarded as a pocket piece, he had been lately informed by a gentleman from London, that he had seen a large quantity of our eagles in a goldsmith's shop there for the purpose of melting down, so rapidly, said he, does our eagles take their flight. Foreign coin being therefore necessary to pay the commercial balance due from us to foreign countries, it would certainly be imprudent to call it in. Mr. S. was opposed to the power being vested in the Executive to regulate the business of making foreign coin payable or not payable at his pleasure. If the mint establishment were to be supported it must be done he said, out of the revenue received. A small sum would do it. But why force individuals to bring their crowns into the mint? What advantage would there be in it? Could any one say this new money would stay at home? they could not, and therefore, where he could see no advantage, he was not for putting any class of people to inconvenience. It were best, he believed, to let the business of foreign coin remain without restraint.

(To be continued.)

THURSDAY—DECEMBER 19.

Mr. T. Claiborne moved that the report of the committee of claims on the petition of Any Dardin, be referred to a committee of the whole. The Speaker said, that the report having been negatived at a former session, and a bill brought in for her relief, but not decided upon, the proper motion would be, to appoint a committee to bring in a bill.

Mr. Claiborne made that motion, which Mr. Coit moved to be referred to the committee of claims, in order that they might report the facts relative to the case, which were not generally known. Mr. Claiborne objected to this; and Mr. Baldwin suggested the propriety of consisting it to the same committee of the whole to whom were referred the subject of considering the expediency of excepting certain claims from the operation of the Limitation Acts; this course was adopted.

The bill for the relief of North and Velay of Charleston, was read the third time and passed, as was also

The bill for suspending the second section of the act for regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes.

Two and three years were proposed for filling the blank for the duration of the suspension; the latter moved by Mr. Gallatin was carried.

Mr. D. Foster, from the committee of claims, made an unfavorable report on the petition of George Turner which was carried in the house.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the report of the committee of claims on the petition of John Carr; but some doubts arising as to certain facts, the committee rose and the report was recommitted.

The Speaker informed the house he had received a communication from the treasury department, enclosing the accounts of the treasury for the quar-

ter ending the 30th of September, which was ordered to be printed.

Mr. Allen proposed a resolution to the following effect, which was agreed to:

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any, and if any, what alterations are necessary to be made in the act establishing the judiciary department, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Coit called for the order of the day, on the bill for the relief of Capt. Hunt; which being agreed to, the house went into a committee of the whole on the subject, and reported the bill without amendments. The house took it up, when

Mr. Nicholas hoped the bill would not be engrossed, but recommitted to a select committee, in order that a bill might be reported on the subject generally, as if relief were to be afforded at all, he hoped it would not be confined to one case.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Coit said, as there was no probability that there could be many cases of this kind, he saw no reason for passing a general law on the subject. He had only heard of one other case.

Mr. Nicholas said, that though gentlemen might amongst themselves have concluded that the revolutionary war ended in January 1783, yet he believed the rebel natives of persons who served during all the actual war till the year 1784, and died before 1783, would suppose they had ground for making application, except the house came to some express declaration on the subject. For his part, he saw no difference between the case of a man who died at one time or the other, he thought the war continued, so long as the enemy's armies remained in the country.

Mr. Brookes was in favor of the motion; for though there might be but few instances of this kind, he wished them all to be put upon the same footing. The enemy evacuated New-York, he said, on the 23rd of November; he was present at the time; but the army had been generally discharged on the 1st of December. He supposed a variety of considerations had induced congress to determine the war as closed at the time they had fixed.

Mr. Gordon was in favor of the motion. The gentleman from Connecticut had founded the claim of Capt. Hartline, on his contract, and had therefore had recourse to fixing the period of the termination of the war at a different time than that fixed by congress. When they were about to declare the determination of a former congress wrong, he thought they should do it expressly, and not by implication; and he trusted the gentleman from Connecticut was not afraid of being called upon to do justice in other cases, which stood upon the ground with the present.

Mr. A. Foster said, this construction of the termination of the war, would embrace more cases than was imagined; he supposed it would extend to soldiers as well as officers, who died after that period.

Mr. M's motion was put and carried.

Mr. Varnum moved to amend the motion, by including soldiers who had died after the signing the preliminary articles of peace, as entitled to the gratuity of eight dollars, which was allowed to those who served to the close of the war.—Agreed.

Mr. Gallatin presented a petition from Gatzam, Taylor and Jones, of this city, praying for the allowance of a debenture for goods which they had loaded on board a vessel for St. Thomas, in December last, which, after it set sail, was found to be leaky, and stopped at Reedy-Island to repair; but the frost setting in, the goods were afterwards laden on board another vessel, and exported to St. Croix: certificates of the landing whereof were delivered to the collector of this port. Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Coit moved for the order of the day on the report of the committee of commerce and manufactures on the petition of Pierre Joseph Flament in behalf of Louis Le Guen; which being agreed to, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the subject.

The petitioner states that on the 16th of September, 1795, William Macarty, esq. the consul of the United States, at the Isle of France, there shipped on board the brigantine Mary, captain Robertson of Philadelphia, twelve chests of indigo consigned to George Latimer, esq. of Philadelphia, owner of the said brigantine, who was desired to deliver the same to the bearer of the shipper's orders—that the said indigo arrived here in January 1796; was duly entered at the Custom-house, and the duties paid by George Latimer, esq. who stored the same, waiting for orders to whom to deliver the same—and that these orders were delayed by accidents of the sea, from arriving till within the last fortnight, when Louis Le Guen received the same, and applied for the indigo to Mr. Latimer, who delivered the same, and confirmed on oath all the facts above stated, as far as relate to him—but by the delay of the arrival of the letters of advice and bills of lading, the time had elapsed in which the indigo might be exported and be entitled to drawback—wherefore the petitioner prays for an extension of time to export the said indigo, with the usual allowance of drawback on exportation. The committee of commerce and manufactures were of opinion that as the loss of France, and accidents to letters, and not by any fault in the petitioner, and as there was no probability of any precedent of this kind, frequently occurring, they thought it but just and reasonable, the prayer of the petitioner should be granted; and therefore recommend the house to come to the following resolution—

RESOLVED.—That a committee be appointed to bring in a bill in pursuance of the prayer of the petitioner.

Mr. Swanwick moved that the committee concur with the report.

This motion called forth a considerable debate. It was opposed by Messrs. Coit, Gallatin, J. Williams, Allen, Gordon, and Edmond, on the ground of its proving a dangerous precedent, as many cases might occur that would induce merchants to keep their goods past the twelve months allowed by law, before they exported them; that no accident had occurred in the business; that Mr. Le Guen, at the time of shipping the goods, knew the risk he would run of losing the drawback; that he chose between two evils, and rather than risk the landing advice in the same vessel with his goods (which would have proved them to be French property) he chose the lesser evil of risking the loss of the drawback; that if persons chose to run these risks, the government had nothing to do with it, and it ought to have no operation upon our laws; but if subjects of the belligerent powers chose to put their property on board our vessels under the American Mantle, they ought not to expect the additional advantage of a suspension of our laws in their favor. Mr. Allen, in particular, cast a severe censure upon our consul at the Isle of France for having connived at this deception, and that to grant the prayer of the petitioner, would be a scandalous partiality in favor of one of the belligerent powers.

The motion was supported by Messrs. Swanwick, Livingston, S. Smith, J. Parker, Pinckney and Brookes, on the ground that there had been no omission on the part of Mr. Le Guen; that it had been owing to the accidents of the

sea, that advice was not received in due time; that it was never intended that goods not consumed in this country should pay the duty; that in England, whose practices in this respect, we have copied, a business of this kind would have been rectified by their board of trade, without bringing the matter before the legislature; that it would have been a mark of great folly to have sent any papers by the vessel which conveyed the property, which would have proved it to have been French, knowing, as the petitioner did, that French property on board our vessels was liable to be taken by the English; that so far from there being any moral turpitude in thus carrying the property of persons subjects of any of the belligerent powers, it was a very profitable branch of our trade, and that the consul at the Isle of France was perfectly justifiable in consigning the goods; he had done so.

Mr. Pinckney was of a different opinion as to the conduct of the consul; he thought it decidedly wrong that he should have any thing to do in the business, though he justified our thus carrying the property of the subjects of the belligerent powers; that no American vessel should receive property on board belonging to any belligerent power, which should be entered as such; that in allowing the prayer of the petition, government would show no more partiality to any belligerent power, than was shown daily in allowing foreigners a drawback on goods exported; and that to deny the prayer of the petition would be such a dereliction of justice as it was trusted that house would never consent to.

The committee rose without taking a vote on the subject, and had leave to sit again.

### Latest Foreign Intelligence.

LONDON, October 16.

At the close of the Comedy on Saturday evening the curtain rose again immediately, and exhibited, in honor of admiral Duncan's victory, the spectacle of a sea fight, accompanied by the songs of "Rule Britannia," and "God save the King," in full chorus and followed by a fire work. The songs of course were encored.

The audience of the evening was one of the most noisy we have yet with for some time past. The whole neighbourhood of the Theatre was illuminated, as indeed was the greater part of the town, with the city lights.

It is with great & peculiar satisfaction we understand, his majesty has most graciously expressed his intention to honor admiral Duncan and his fleet with a visit. This circumstance, we conceive, will be of the utmost national utility. It will present to Europe the proud spectacle of a British monarch twice, in the same way, visiting in person a victorious fleet; and we apprehend it will have the most beneficial consequences with respect to our domestic feelings, and the perfect re-union of British seamen to the warm wishes of their country.

It is remarkable, that the three most brilliant naval victories this war have been gained, the one by Lord Howe, an Englishman; the other by Lord St. Vincent, an Irishman; and the third by admiral Duncan a Scotchman. And what still makes it more remarkable is, that these gallant officers have each beaten the enemy to which, relatively, their nations are nearest.—England is nearer France nor either Scotland or Ireland, Ireland is nearer Spain than either England or Scotland; and Holland is nearer Scotland than any other of our enemies.

October 17.

A neutral ship on Sunday morning undertook the kind office of conveying the above important intelligence to Calais. By this time it has reached the Directorial Palace!

The illumination of last night was general, and equally brilliant with that displayed in honor of lord Howe's victory of the first of June. Most of the public, and private buildings, exhibited fanciful devices in coloured lamps, mottoes, &c. The admiralty in the West, and in the mansion house in the city, were splended in the extreme.

Admiral Duncan, who is now 63 years of age, is nearly related to lady Mary Duncan. He is six feet three inches high, his fortune is about 10,000l. half of which he got as prize money at the Havannah, the war before last. We believe he is married to a relation of Mr. Secretary Dundas, by whom he has three or four children.

Admiral de Winter was born in Demarara, when very young he served in the Dutch navy, but changed shortly to their army, which he afterwards quitted for the Russian service, where he remained until 1786 or 1787, during the troubles at Holland, where he returned and sided against the Orange party, on whose success he went to the French, with whom and his old friends he returned when they conquered Holland.

October 18.

Advice was yesterday received of the loss of the Dutch ship the Delft, of 56 guns, in the Downs: very few of the hands, it is said, were saved.

Admiral Duncan states, in his second letter, that the Erdymion had, in the course of the night, fallen in with a Dutch ship of the line off the Texel, and had engaged her, but that he had not heard the particulars. The engagement took place in the night; and it is said, that owing to the heavy fire of the enemy, the Erdymion was obliged to desist the contest.

Admiral Duncan's flag, with three other ships was seen from Harwich on their way to the Nore on Monday.

"This moment" says a letter from Yarmouth, received yesterday, "I have returned on shore from on board the Hercules, of 66 guns, whose captain lies with his hand shot off above his wrist, and wounded in the body; her mizen mast is gone, and the is torn to pieces. The second is the Alkmaar of 54 guns. Her main mast went in the action; her mizen mast was so wounded that they were forced to cut it away after we got possession of her; and her foremast went over in a gale of wind yesterday; she is shot to pieces, and was brought in by the Monmouth with extreme difficulty.—The Monmouth has also taken a 64. A rascal on board the Alkmaar yesterday attempted to blow her up, and had got one of the locks off the magazine.

The Hercules was on fire in the action, and the after part of her is very much dam-

aged; the fire broke out afresh after we had taken possession.

Admirals Duncan and Onslow behaved nobly; the former had four on him at one time; the latter three.

A brig, armed with 18 pounders, had the audacity to get under admiral Onslow's stern; he got six guns to bear upon her, and sunk her with every man on board."

The circumstances which gave the first turn to this glorious victory, which will ever be distinguished in the annals of Great-Britain, arose from the Jupiter of 74 guns, with two admirals on board, being dismasted, and almost shattered to pieces, before she could bring a gun to bear on the Monarch of 74 guns, which raked her. This was the first ship that struck. Admiral De Winter's ship did not fare much better from the fire of the venerable. Both ships were so unprepared for action at the moment, that they could scarcely bring a gun to bear until they had received the fire of our ships repeatedly.

The obstinate bravery of the Dutch in the battle was so great, that when admiral Winter surrendered, he was the only person on the quarter deck of the Vryheid, and he is said to have been so for half an hour; every other officer having been killed or wounded.—Having performed his duty in the most gallant manner, he appears, since his capture to be in very good spirits, and has passed great part of his time in admiral Duncan's cabin.

The circumstance of two admirals being found on board the Vice-Admiral's ship is owing to the senior, who is infirm, having wished to retire, which the Dutch government opposed, on account of his popularity with the seamen. A junior admiral was, therefore, appointed to assist him in the duties of his office.

When admiral Duncan made the signal to break the enemy's line, the Dutch admiral, immediately perceiving his purpose, made the signal for his fleet to close, which was very alertly obeyed, particularly by the Vice-admiral. It was under the stern of his ship that admiral Duncan passed, and immediately ranged up alongside. It was seven or eight minutes before a gun was returned on that side—a proof that they were not ready.

We have stated that the king intends to visit the victorious fleet as soon as they shall be joined by the ships that still remain out. Earl Spencer, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Dundas set off yesterday morning to congratulate admiral Duncan, and prepare the fleet for the reception of his majesty, who will fall from Greenwich in the Princess Augusta yacht, captain Riou.

All the first lieutenants of admiral Duncan's fleet are immediately to be promoted to the rank of masters and commanders.

Captain Fairfax left town yesterday in the afternoon, with dispatches containing the patent for creating the brave old admiral a Peer of Great-Britain.

### By yesterday's Mail.

NEWYORK, December 20.

OUR ENVOYS AT PARIS.

The "Annales Politiques," of the 11th of October, says, "On the 7th of October, the Three American Negotiators were presented to the Minister for foreign affairs. They are—Mr. Pinckney, of South Carolina, who served with distinction during the whole of the war for American Independence—Mr. Marshall, of the State of Virginia, who also bore arms during the same period, but who has applied since the peace to the study of law, and now occupies the situation of Advocate General of that state—and Mr. Gerry, of Massachusetts, member for that state in Congress, where he is equally distinguished by his talents and his moderation. These three men, who reside more than three hundred miles from each other, are scarcely acquainted! The first time they ever met was at more than a thousand leagues from their country, to fulfil an important mission! This confidence of the American government, in citizens who never were employed in diplomatic affairs, for renewing the political and commercial relations of the United States with France, gives us reason to presume that the government wishes rather to rely on the fidelity and candour of the French government; than to seek a support from the intrigue or the finess of men skilled in the Machiavelism of Cabinets.—This nomination, therefore, augurs the fortunate issue of the negotiation which is about to commence."

It is anxiously to be hoped that this Editor may not be mistaken in his conjectures respecting the issue of the negotiation—we could wish we had a foundation on which to build similar expectations.

### NOBLE INVENTION.

A gentleman of Rotterdam, says our last London paper, has invented a new Floating Machine, which, though small, is capable of holding four men commodiously; and such is its astonishing construction, as to defy the utmost fury of the seas, or the resistance of the most boisterous winds. It can neither overlet nor sink, and may in all weathers and gales be steered whatever course those within shall deem necessary. The philanthropic views of the inventor are to save the lives of those unfortunate mariners who incur the danger of shipwreck. It may be made, on the same construction large enough to hold upwards of fifty persons.

### GAZETTE MARINE LIST.

New-York, December 21.

ARRIVED. DAYS.  
Brig Enterprize, Mallery, Havana 45  
Nanny, ——— do. 55  
Captain Geerman, of the sloop Fanny, from Newbern to this port, on the 19th ult. spoke the sloop Lydia, Jones, from Brandywine to this port, ditted, in a gale on the 15th, off Cramberry Inlet, short of water and provisions, the latter of which

Capt. Geerman supplied him with, in a small degree, but 37 7/8. Capt. Geerman's fearful the Lydia has been blown off the coast.

From the Log Book of the brig Enterprize, Thomas Mallery, master, from Havana, Dec. 8th, in lat. 33, long. 72, at night, spoke the schooner Sally, Capt. Montague, of Philadelphia, from Jaquemel, bound to Philadelphia, out 35 days, then laying to, with most of her hands sick, and had lost all his sails, being then nearly in a similar situation, could not assist him.

Messrs. M-Lean & Lang,  
Having understood, on my arrival this day from the Havana, that it has been reported during my absence, that the ship Andromache had been captured on her passage to Jamaica, by the French privateer (sbr. L'Espeigle, Captain Le Barron, or Barry, in consequence of information received from me, of her destination, &c.—In order therefore, to contradict so great a falsehood, and to do away the unfavourable impression such a report must have made of my character, I hereby declare, that until my arrival, I never knew there was such a ship as the one above-mentioned, of course totally ignorant of any particulars respecting her; that so far from being desirous of rendering any service to the said privateer, I had every reason to possess a different disposition towards her; for they came on board of me on the 7th of September, then 2 days out, bound to Havana, and after overhauling all my papers, plundering me of a quantity of apples, potatoes, onions, 1 cask of water, flours, with which they loading their boat, and a great many small articles from the cabin.—When I demanded payment from them for the property thus taken, they threatened to put me in irons, observing I might think myself well off, in being allowed to keep possession of the vessel. They took from me also, all my newspapers, from which they must have obtained the information respecting the said ship.

THOMAS MALLERY,  
Master of the brig Enterprize, of N. York.

### The Gazette.

PHILADELPHIA,

FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 22.

MARRIED]—On Tuesday evening last, by the Rev. Mr. Abercrombie, WASHINGTON L. FINNEY, Esq. to Miss CHRISTIANA BICKHAM, daughter of George Bickham, Esq. of this City.

There are several letters in town from Norfolk, which inform that Commodore BARNEY is appointed Judge of the Admiralty Court at Cape Francois—and that American vessels bound to British ports (such as were before the war) with neutral property on board, are no longer condemned.

### PRICE OF STOCKS.

Philadelphia, 21st Dec. 1797.

6 per Cent.	16 3/4	Interest
3 per Cent.	10 3/4	off.
Deferred 6 per Cent.	17 1/2	
BANK	22	dividend
— Pennsylvania,	24	off.
— North America,	50	do.
Insurance Co. Pennsylvania,	flour 3	percent.
— N. A. shares	50	do.

A Friend to Laws and Freedom, will appear to-morrow.  
CIVIS, will be attended to.

### NEW THEATRE.

THIS EVENING,

DECEMBER 22,

Will be presented a favorite COMEDY, called EVERY ONE HAS HIS FAULT.  
Lord Norland, Mr. Warren—Sir Robert Rumble, (with the Epilogue) Mr. Bernard—Mr. Soles, Mr. Morris—Mr. Hammony, Mr. Harwood—Captain Irwin, Mr. Cooper—Mr. Phid, Mr. Moreton—Hammond, Mr. Warrell, jun.—Porter, Mr. Warrell—Edward, Miss Hardinge (being her first appearance on this stage)  
Lady Eleanor Irwin, (for that night only) Mrs. Hardinge, (being her first appearance on this stage)—Mrs. Phid, Mrs. Oldmixon—Miss Spindler, Mrs. L'Estrange—Miss Woburn, Mrs. M-ris.

To which will be added, a Comedy in 2 acts, called THREE WEEKS AFTER MARRIAGE  
Or, What we must all come to.  
Sir Charles Racket, Mr. Moreron—Deugget, Mr. Warren—Woodley, Mr. Fox—Servant, Mr. T. Warrell.  
Lady Racket, Mrs. Hardinge—Mrs. Druggert, Mrs. L'Estrange—Natey, Miss L'Estrange—Dignity, Mrs. Francis.

On Saturday, The Mountaineers—Océanin, (first time on this stage) by Mr. TAYLOR, from the Theatre, Bolton:—with Entertainments.  
\* \* \* \* \* On account of Monday being Christmas day, there will be a performance on Tu. Day—particulars in future bills.

### Marshals Sales,

United States, Pennsylvania District. }  
By virtue of a Writ of vendition exponas, issued out of the Circuit Court of the United States, in and for the Pennsylvania District of the Middle Circuit, and to me directed will be sold at public sale at the Marshals Office in Race Street No. 117 on Saturday the 30th day of December inst. at 12 o'clock at noon, two elegant engraved Copper plates of Shakespeare, one plate of Plamony, Bartolozzi, one plate of prudence, do. one plate of mechanics, do. one plate of beauty, do. and one plate of Harvelthome do.—Seized and taken in execution as the property of William Humphreys Freeman, and John Nicholson, Merchant, trading under the firm of Freeman and Company,  
And to be sold by  
William Nichols, Marshal.

Marshals Office  
December 18th 1797. } dcf

### THE SUBSCRIBER,

ONE of the late firm of FREEMAN & Co. thinks it a duty he owes to himself, to declare, that he is no wise concerned in the property above advertised by the Marshal, nor ought he to be held to the said action, which will be directed by the party whose interest it is.  
Tristram Emory's Freeman.  
December 22  
d13 7th