

friend from Massachusetts would not find him behind hand; if there was a necessity for repelling force by force, he believed there would not be much difference of opinion in the house on the subject, at least he should be found ready to determine. But he thought it would be well to postpone the farther consideration of this bill till the period proposed. If intelligence, in the mean time, were received from our negotiators, they could call it up sooner by a vote of the house. Mr. H. said, when he gave his vote, he understood the time to be the first Monday in January; but he was well satisfied to let the business stand as it was.

Mr. Rutledge did not think the reasons which his colleague had given for his vote were so weighty as those upon which he generally acted. He represented this as a hostile measure. For his part, he did not view it in that light, but merely as a measure of precaution. He believed the merchants had a right to arm, and he believed they would arm; and he thought it right for Congress to say they should arm, only under certain restrictions; and he did not think that a majority of that House, from hearing the bill once read, could be prepared to say the restrictions therein contained were improper or incompetent, and that the bill was incapable of being modified, in such a way as to effect the end proposed. All that was asked for was my discussion. If, when it came to be examined, the Bill could not be so modified as to answer the purpose—or, if it should be thought that war would be the probable consequence of its adoption, then let it be rejected. But why, exclaimed Mr. R. in the name of Civility, of Politeness, of Prudence, may it not be admitted to a discussion? He had not long had a seat in that House, but it was the first time he had seen a subject so disposed of by a silent vote. His colleague had said, the subject, notwithstanding the postponement, could at any time be called up by a vote of the House; he also knew, that if an earlier day were fixed upon, it could always be postponed, and this was a much more usual course of acting. The delay was proposed, it was said, that we might, in the mean time, hear from our Commissioners. He thought so long a delay unnecessary on this account. He expected to hear from them daily and hourly. The first easterly wind might wait their dispatches to hand. Besides, if they went on to mature the business, and the negotiation should terminate measures, no mischief would have been done; but if the negotiation should have a different termination, and they did not go on with the business, so much time would have been lost. He had little doubt from the very prompt mode of negotiation practised in France, that the issue of our negotiation would not be long unknown; he wished, however, their usual promptness might not take place, and that we might not receive quite so early intelligence. But exclaimed Mr. R. is this a declaration of war! No; though it might appear to be so, from the strong fears of some gentlemen. If the proposition were to go to war to-morrow, those fears could not be stronger; the reality, the question was no more than to arm merchants vessels against pirates; a measure quite as safe as arming persons for their defence, when going into a back country, against Indians or others who might attack them. The house had been told some days ago, by a Gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. S. Smith) whose opinions on commercial subjects had always great weight, that some of his constituents had insisted upon their right to arm, that they had armed, and they heard the consequence. It was the wish of the friends of this Bill to prevent these consequences in future. He hoped, therefore, the question would be reconsidered.

Mr. Brookes thought the day mentioned too distant. It was five full weeks from yesterday. He perfectly agreed in sentiment with the gentleman just sat down, and would not, therefore, repeat what he had said. He was sorry to find any alarm raised upon reading a bill, purporting to be a supplement to a former act, as to the manner of arming private vessels against lawless buccaners. Why postpone the consideration of this subject, until we hear from our negotiators; since, if a peace in Europe were to take place to-morrow, some such measure would be necessary, as our seas would continue to be infested with marauders? He was under no apprehension of a hasty decision on this subject. If the question was whether the bill should pass, there might be some ground for alarm; but to be alarmed in the present stage of the business, appeared as if they were afraid of doing any thing left they should offend the powers at war. He should be the last man to do any thing which should have a tendency to involve the country in war; but he would not, from this fear, postpone a business with which no foreign nation had any thing to do. He was, therefore, for reconsidering the question.

Mr. M'Dowell was not a little surprised to hear gentlemen so warm on the present question, attributing fear to others, and bestowing all patriotism upon themselves. He did not know how it could have happened that fear could have so immediately got possession of a majority of the house on this occasion; nor did he know how the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Otis) had come by this information, that fear was the impelling motive. Had he been as anxious to be heard, and as capable of speaking as that gentleman, he probably should not have given a silent vote on the occasion; but he would inform that gentleman that many who voted in the majority on this occasion, were incapable of acting from fear. This question had been discussed at the last session; it was then determined not to authorize any arming which should endanger the peace of the country. Negotiators had been appointed; this negotiation was now pending, and taking up a subject of this sort might have an unfavourable effect upon it. It was, therefore, clear to him, that they

had better postpone the discussion, until they heard from France, which he did not expect to do, so soon as the gentleman from S. Carolina, (Mr. Rutledge) expected.

Mr. Isaac Parker said, it was not the usual course of business, to postpone the discussion of a bill to a distant day, except it were with a view of defeating it. A question, then arose, what could be reason of this postponement. The gentleman from N. Carolina last up, had condescended to answer this question, by saying that it was from the wish not to affect our present negotiation. This could not possibly be the case; and he thought, on the contrary, that this was the best possible time for taking up this, or any other step which had relation to the defence of our country. If they were not to pass a law for the defence of our citizens, because a negotiation was pending with a foreign country, the honour and independence of the country were gone, and they might as well cease to make laws at all. The pending negotiation would be successful or unsuccessful. If successful, a law of this kind would be necessary, as it was not intended for the protection of our commerce against any particular nation, but as a system of defence against the pirates of all nations. But suppose the negotiation prove unsuccessful; when we know this, said he, it would be too late to take the measure proposed; and our commerce will be wholly unprotected, and exposed to the depredations of the French, or any other country. He hoped, therefore, the question would be re-considered.

Mr. Hartley was not for precipitating a measure of so much importance as this was; but he thought the proposed postponement too distant. He agreed with the gentleman last up that they had a right to make the proposed regulation, without having respect to any foreign nation. The commercial interests of this country seemed to call for some measure of the kind. He hoped, therefore, the question would be reconsidered, and that they should make the bill the order of the day for the second Monday in January.

Mr. Nicholas said, it was easy to discover, by the manner in which gentlemen took up this business, that there was more in it, than they were ready to acknowledge. He understood it to be neither more nor less than the question which was argued at the last session, and then negatived. If he were not mistaken in this, it was for him to invoke the Genius of America—to call down the Guardian Angel of Peace—to invoke its aid against the designs which gentlemen seemed to have on the present occasion. It was his opinion, that a business of this sort, moved at the present day, was ten times as objectionable, and had an appearance ten times as suspicious, as when formerly rejected. Were he not justified, then, in wishing this question not to be agitated, when our situation was no way more suited to such a measure than when formerly discussed? To go into a measure of this kind, at this time, would reflect upon the instability of our councils, and be disgraceful to them. What was to be inferred, he asked, from a desire to go into the business of arming at present? He hoped, and trusted, and believed, that there was no disposition in that house to throw obstacles in the way of the negotiation, so as to defeat it; if he could conceive such intention to exist, he should think such a measure as was now proposed, calculated to produce the effect. To discuss this subject, and authorizing the arming of our vessels, would be to set adrift the passions of society, and the consequence could not fail to be mischief. The details of the bill confirmed him in this opinion; the regulations were mere cobwebs, and would, by no means, be equal to the preventing of abuses. It would be placing the peace of the country in the hands of every man who owned a ship. If, then, there were nothing new in our situation; nothing which made a change of policy necessary, why go into this subject? Did not gentlemen recollect the heat which had been produced by the discussion on a former occasion? If they did, why did they wish to anticipate the question? It could only tend to destroy that harmony which would be so desirable in case of this country being obliged to have recourse to the *divine resort*. But they had been told, that if regulations were not entered into, great mischief might be expected from merchants arming without restriction, and a single instance of abuse had been mentioned. This was all, he believed, which could be produced, and he did not think, therefore, the peace of the country would be much hazarded from this source. He could see no evil that could arise from letting the business remain upon its present footing for a month or two longer. He believed the necessity spoken of for going into this measure as merely *ideal*, and that it would have no effect, but that of inflaming the minds of the people for war. As to what had fallen from the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Otis) in his appeal to the Genius of the Country, &c. he considered merely as a touch of the *Admet Heros*. He thought the milder Genii should only be referred to. The only Genii which he wished to appeal to was the Genius of Peace. We were not, he said, ripe for War. Our plans had hitherto been pacific, and he did not wish at present to change them. He hoped, therefore, the vote taken would not be revoked.

(Remainder of this debate in our next.)

WEDNESDAY—DEC. 27.

Mr. S. J. Cabell, from Virginia, appeared for the first time this session.

Mr. A. Foster presented a petition from Daniel Cutler, praying a remission of duties paid on goods, which, owing to a variety of misfortunes, were re-imported into the United States. Referred to the committee of commerce and manufactures.

Mr. Dawson presented the petition of Robert Leonard, a soldier, who was wounded at the battles of Brandywine and Monmouth, and who, in the year 1791, re-entered into the service of the United States, and served in the expedition against the Western Insurgents, and who was afterwards wounded in an engagement with the Indians, praying for further compensation. Referred to the committee of claims.

Mr. Coit, from the committee appointed to prepare and report a bill for the relief of such officers and soldiers as served during the war, and died between March and November, 1793, made a report, which was twice read, and committed for Monday.

Mr. Dwight Foster, from the committee of Claims, made a report on the petitions of Simon Dunbar, Jacob Holbrook and Robert Hyllop, who prayed to have certain certificates funded, which were barred by the statute of limitation; they stated, that as the subject was generally under the consideration of the committee of the whole, on a reference of the subject for determining the expediency or inexpediency of accepting certain claims from the operation of the acts of limitation, they wished to be discharged from a further consideration of those cases, that they might be referred to that committee.

Agreed.

Mr. Gordon obtained leave of absence for Mr. Champlin for three weeks.

On motion, the house again resolved itself in-

to a committee of the whole, Mr. Killen in the chair, on the bill prescribing the mode of taking evidence in cases of contested elections; and after a desultory debate, and agreeing to several amendments, the committee rose, and reported the bill with amendments. The house took them up, and after agreeing to them, and making some others, the bill was re-committed to the select committee who reported it.

The Speaker informed the house that he had received the following letter:

"SIR,

"Though I am not certain of obtaining the object of the respectful request which I have the honor to submit to the House of Representatives, yet I am unable to resist the weighty considerations which impel me to the measure.

"The President has thought proper to inform me, that my services as Commissioner of the Revenue are no longer required. He has exercised a power committed to him by law, and I am therefore no longer in the service of the United States.

"Whatever may be my sensibilities and impressions in regard to the proceedings, of the nature of an investigation and hearing, which the case demanded, I have no desire to present myself to the house on the ground of complaint.

"It is however my earnest desire, that some arrangement may be found practicable, by which my official conduct may undergo a thorough scrutiny.

"Should it be found on consideration, that a form of procedure is proper and practicable, which will bring into view all the transactions of the several years, during which I administered my late office of Commissioner of the Revenue, in the department of the Treasury of the United States, I beg leave to assure the house, that I shall be prepared to enter immediately upon such measures as the form and nature of the business shall be thought by them to require.

With great respect,
I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
TENCH COXE.

Walnut Street, December 26.
To the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Livingston, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of the daughters of the late Count de Grasse, made a report, which stated, that the sum heretofore allowed by Congress was intended only as a temporary provision until the events of the war should permit them to take possession of an estate in St. Domingo; that the facts formerly stated showed, that the most important services were rendered to the United States by their father, from motives the most honourable, under the greatest responsibility, and at a risk the most hazardous that could be encountered by an officer of rank and reputation; that with the recollection of these services, it would consist neither with the honor or justice of the United States, to refuse an adequate provision for the orphan children of the man who rendered them; the committee therefore, recommended that a certain sum should be granted to each of them annually, for their lives. The report was twice read, and committed for Monday.

Mr. Livingston also reported a bill for the relief of refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova-Scotia, which was twice read and committed for Tuesday—Adjourned.

* The new road proposed the other day by Mr. Harper, was to go through Campbellton and not Charleston.

By this day's Mail.

NAVAL ACTION,
BETWEEN THE ENGLISH AND DUTCH.

HAGUE, October 13.

At the sitting of this day, the committee of marine communicated a letter addressed to them by Vice-Admiral De Winter, written yesterday, on board the British Admiral Duncan, and received at 10 o'clock this morning by express. Of this affecting letter, the following is a summary—it caused the liveliest sensations of grief among the members of the assembly.

"It is with the deepest regret that I address to you the present dispatch. Yesterday morning at 11 o'clock we discovered the English. We ranged in order of battle. I made the signal for forming the line as compact as possible, which however was very imperfectly obeyed.

"At 12 o'clock the enemy attacked the extremity of our line. They soon afterwards undertook to force it. The action became general, and I found myself engaged with three of their ships. The Hercules took fire, and driving towards mine I was under the necessity of changing my position, to avoid her, which obliged me to approach a fourth of the enemy's vessels, that of the Admiral. I very soon lost all my rigging, and it became impracticable to continue my signals. Meanwhile the enemy took possession of the Wassenaar, Harlow, Frissar, Delft and Jupiter.

"The smoke prevented me from distinctly observing the fate of our affairs. The action was one of the briefest I have witnessed. After losing a considerable part of my crew, I endeavoured by a vigorous push, to force the five English ships which surrounded me, to gain the coast, or join the remains of my fleet. At two o'clock all three of my masts went by the board—After this I continued fighting half an hour, when my flag was carried away and the crew, reduced to half its number ceased to fire. At 3 I was boarded by an English frigate, and conducted on board Admiral Duncan. The Equality was not far from me—I observed her to cease firing, having lost all her rigging. Why she, as well as the Frissar, Delft and Harlow struck, I cannot determine. The Hercules were obliged to cut away her masts—she was on fire, but it was soon put out—she, however, drove into the British fleet, and was taken.

"I am perfectly satisfied with my officers and crew, they fought with infinite bravery, as did also the enemy. The loss of men on both sides has been very great.

"The British fleet which had put into Yarmouth, set sail again immediately on receiving news that we were at sea. It was joined by several vessels from Portsmouth and the Downs. Their force consisted of sixteen ships of the line, principally 74's.

"This is the most unhappy day of my life—all our best manœuvres, and all our courage were fruitless. The enemy effects us on account of our vigorous resistance. No action could have been more desperate and bloody.

"I shall do myself the honor of transmitting you a more accurate detail by the next opportunity. I now only avail myself of the permission granted by admiral Duncan, to forward this sketch.

"I cannot give you any precise information, respecting the other ships—I am told Vice Admiral Reinter is slightly wounded, and a prisoner on board Vice Admiral Onslow.

"I cannot say how many English ships are damaged, but count only ten in view. I hope to be permitted to repair to Holland for my justification.

I am,
Your unfortunate Admiral
"DE WINTER."

The marine committee has this afternoon received official information that seventeen of our ships have entered the Texel, and Helvoetsluys.

BOSTON, Dec. 21.
Extract of a letter from capt. Wilds, on board the seh. Mermaid, dated Nov. 1, off Arquin Bay.

"A vessel was taken and brought into St. Domingo, from America, bound to Jamaica, was tried, cleared, and proceeded on her voyage. She departed but a few days before my arrival; this may be depended upon.

Capt. Tremels, arrived at New-York from St. Thomas, informs, that 17 sail of American vessels have recently been liberated at Porto-Rico, in consequence of orders from France.

THE GAZETTE.

PHILADELPHIA,
THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 28.

A letter from a gentleman in New-York to a Member of Congress, informs of the arrival of Mr. David Meredith of this city, from Bourdeaux.

The letter further states that our envoys on their arrival at Paris, presented their credentials to the ruling power. At the time of Mr. Meredith's departure, three weeks had elapsed, without any recognition or other notice of them.

For the Gazette of the United States.

LETTER II.

DEAR SIR,
IT is not necessary to call in the aid of written authorities to assist or confirm the principles on which it is now found so evidently to be the interest of every nation to endeavour as much as possible to cultivate the invaluable blessings of peace, if it was there is not one on the subject of the laws or interest of nations, or even a modern English writer of political eminence to whom I could not recur for proof of what has been observed in my last. If then it is a general interest, it is most particular to the United States.

In my letters of 1794 (of which I have not any notes by me) I think it was observed on this subject "that possessing a sufficiency of territory at home it is not her interest, nor can it therefore be the calm inclination of the United States for time beyond ours to attempt conquest, the only reward that could attend even a successful warfare" this it is her interest to shun, consequently to avoid every cause that can possibly tend to involve her in a contest with any of the nations of Europe, from whom thank Heaven she is so widely separated.

The wisdom and firmness which canvassed and calmed the storm just over, which steered the ship of state over all the quick sands of clamour, the rocks of rashness, the shallows and shoals of self-created societies and "defeated the arts of false and selfish popularity addressed to the feelings of avarice" (6) will remain recorded in the admiring memory of mankind while gratitude retains a name amongst the virtues of a patriotic people! The important precedent is a legacy to the whole human race, all the nations of the earth may derive advantage from it! the unshaken loftiness (forgive the expression) ye societies of reformers by which one man was enabled to listen, to examine, to enquire and search, to deliberate and coolly determine the best path to pursue in a point of so much importance, amidst the anger of a justly incensed and dearly beloved society of friends and fellow-citizens, and fellow sufferer too) when all the passions, a warring world, a popular and favorite subject invited or seduced to offer redress or at least revenge! (which the inconsiderate too generally because hastily consider the same) is a theme for future ages to celebrate and annually observe as a day of thanksgiving, and for every patriot statesman and legislator to imitate.

Accustomed to the care and caution which conveyed us clear of this important difficulty, we are apt to think and speak of it, with all the indifference of the slightest danger! but throughout the rest of the world, how is it extolled? the character of a man, already raised beyond the steady height which fame had ever reached and kept, (7) is exalted to the highest pitch of magnanimity. His country's character is benefited by the reputation of policy and firmness which his conduct on this occasion has obtained it; the republican form of government is recommended by the demonstrated proof of his administration on so trying an occasion, that it is equally capable of energy with monarchy, and superior to it in moderation.

Such are the comments heard throughout Europe, every where I passed from Denmark through the free cities, Germany, Holland and the whole republic of France; even where the ruling powers practice and wish to have seen us display a different system, as individuals they admire that moderation and temper which an attentive world must with

(6) Armie's address to General Washington, Nov. 1783.

(7) For 22 years successively the chosen champion and ruler of five millions of men, unrewarded but by their love and praise!

had been accompanied with the bravery and spirit of a people contending in the glorious cause of liberty, elsewhere; we may indeed with propriety apply Mr. Addison's eulogy on Marlborough's feats; to our Fabius's actions.

"Rais'd of themselves, their genuine charms they boast,
And those that praise them trust praise them most."

The politicians of those countries just mentioned whose observations I remark as applicable to our own, not only admit and praise the propriety of that conduct which has preserved our peace but have frequently expressed opinions "that nothing could have pleased the government which raised our resentment better, than to have forced us to acts of hostility, and that she was disappointed to find her youthful children so deliberately wise, being able, prepared as she was at a very little expense to have retarded the prosperity or put the United States back near half a century."

A few evenings ago this subject being warmly canvassed in a society of sensible men of different countries, and (then) of different ways of thinking, I was much entertained and not a little improved by the discussion; some American gentlemen being present, one of them proposed in the true mercantile file of exchange, or profit and loss reasoning, to explain his sentiments by arithmetical rules of demonstration, that is, by account current, the formation of which gave rise to some very amusing and friendly sort of disputes, for sitting down with pen, ink and paper, he began a very formal statement by debt and credit, to give you a just idea of which I have procured a copy, to which explanatory notes are affixed, by which the prevailing opinions &c. can be seen, which I hope will divert you as much as it has

Yours, &c.
A FRIEND TO LAWS & FREEDOM.

New-York, December 27.
ARRIVED. 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 RESPUBLICA!

Mrs. GRATTAN, RESPECTFULLY informs her friends and the public in general, that necessity obliges her to make this effort for the maintenance of her family; for them Mrs. G. solicits the support and patronage of a generous public, at her

SECOND CONCERT, which will be on Tuesday next, at Mr. Richardeta's. Subscribers Tickets Six dollars, which admit all the unmarried ladies of her family.

No tickets transferable. Non subscribers Tickets Two Dollars.

The Concert to begin at half past seven, and the Band to attend for the Ball at eight.

The Subscribers will please to send for their tickets, at No. 194 High Street.

Dec. 28. 4at

Tin Plates, FOR SALE BY SIMON WALKER, Pine, near Fifth Street.

December 28. 1W

Salisbury Estate. THE Subscriber, proposing to contract his business, offers this Estate for sale, on moderate terms. On it are one Blast and three Air Furnaces, a complete Boring Machine, and a very good grist Mill, with two pair of stones; also a good Forge, all in perfect repair, as are all the Water Works connected with these various branches. The Air Furnaces were lately built for the purpose of casting Cannon for this State.—There are about two thousand acres of Land, one half of which is under wood, the other very fine arable Land, producing the best Hay and Pasture. The Cannon lately manufactured there, fully proves the excellency of the metal, which is superior to any in this country, and probably equal to any in the world; for not one of sixty-nine guns lately made, although some of the 24 were bored into 32 pounders, have failed on proving. The situation is very eligible, particularly for this branch of manufacture, and a piece of arms lying in the state of Connecticut, and only 30 miles from several landings on the Hudson's river, and having every advantage that can result from a plenty of water falling from a large natural pond, very near the Furnace, and which may be converted into a variety of other useful purposes. The purchaser can be accommodated with all the stock and utensils, and have possession on or before the first of June next, and preparation may be made in the mean time for going into Blast immediately thereafter, for every part will be delivered in good order, with some coal, Ore, &c. &c. For terms, apply to Mr. Joseph Anthony, in Philadelphia; David Brooks, Esq. one of the Representatives in Congress for this State; Mr. David Waterman, on the premises, or to the proprietor in New-York.

WILLIAM NEILSON, Dec. 1. 3W1F

Imported in the ship MANCHESTER, BENJAMIN SHEWELL, Master, From Bourdeaux, and for sale by the subscriber, No. 11, Walnut Street.

Bordeaux Brandy } Entitled to
Irish market claret in cases } Drawback.
Medoc wine, in do. }
Sauterne, do. do. }

Thomas Murgatroyd, WHO HAS FOR SALE.

Sherry Wine in pipes and quarter casks
Rota do. do.
Pimento in bags
4000 bushels Liverpool salt.

Aug. 24. tut&sf.

URIAH SMITH, No. 20, north Third Street—HAS FOR SALE, A neat and general assortment of

Broad Cloths, Kerlieymeres, Napt and Drab Coatings. ALSO, A variety of Gentlemen's fashionable fancy Waist-costings, silk Hosiery, &c.

December 5. *624W