

the argument of the gentleman is altogether groundless.

The gentleman told the house, that this clause was meant to apply to certain acts of the acknowledged agents of France who may open a trade with us, notwithstanding the decrees of the Directory, and he introduced the proclamation of Hedouville to show that this was the intention of the bill.

The effect expected to be produced is to operate not upon France, but upon certain agents, or commanding officers in the West India Islands, by inducing them to forbear from privateering.

It is said, that any kind of negotiation which might be entered into with any agent of the executive Directory, whatever may be the situation of that agent, ought to be considered as lawful, because we ought not to enquire into the right which a person has to exercise a power; that it is enough for our purpose, if he does exercise it.

Mr. G. conceived, therefore, that the question comes to this. It is proper to give power to the President under our present circumstances, to stipulate with certain agents, that in case they will disobey their government by declaring themselves independent, or by throwing themselves into other hands, we will renew our commercial intercourse with you.

What, said Mr. G. are the inconveniences which would arise from a measure of this kind? It must be allowed, in the first place, that it would give the lie to all our foreign declarations of abhorrence against the attempts of other countries to divide the people of a nation from their government; for we here, said he assume the ground, that it is proper to negotiate and stipulate with a part of the people, with a certain district of a country, with any person who shall chuse to say that he claims the right of governing in any place.

But, provided the act be justifiable, would it be our interest to do it; and what would be the probable effect of such a measure? To be able to speak upon this point with perspicuity, it would be necessary to investigate the real object of this section a little more closely. Mr. G. wished gentlemen had been so good as to have given the house all the information they possess on this subject; he wished Congress had received whatever official information there may be on this subject in the archives of the Secretary of State, or all the information which may exist with some gentlemen on this floor.

Mr. G. believed he might go so far as to say, that this section was not inserted to meet the case spoken of by the gentleman from Maryland; but for the admission of one which had been a subject of discussion in the newspapers for some time past.

Should I be doing right, said Mr. G. to say, that I believe that this section of the bill is an effect of that negotiation? It is true I only deduce this from probability, but the probability is strong. Mr. G. said he knew that the independence of St. Domingo had been a favorite theme with gentlemen and they had made an appeal upon it to the avarice of the people of the United States, that in case of war, this independence would be of advantage to the United States, and that during a time of peace, the minds of the people ought to be prepared for this event.

But gentlemen seem to think that the public mind is not yet ready for this change, or they do not chuse to avow the object of this mission. Which, he could not tell; but he would advise those gentlemen who have received information on this subject to communicate it. Mr. G. said he should be happy to know the subject of the dispatches of Gen. Toussaint. What is his offer to our government. Whether his ideas go to independence or not? Whether he is any way connected with the British government, or not? Whether the sudden and extraordinary evacuation of St. Domingo by general Maitland was to promote something of this kind, or to support the force of General Toussaint? He should wish to know what is the disposition of the Executive with respect to this business, so far as it shall have come to the knowledge of any of these gentlemen? He would also be glad to know the disposition of this agent, or the nature of his object, at least so much of it as may have escaped at any petit souper or dinner, at which these gentlemen may have been parties? If any such information could be obtained, it might tend to throw some light upon the subject.

Mr. G. believed the object of this section is to give encouragement to the Black General in his present views. A single sentiment had dropped from the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Otis) in the course of the debate, which had given rise to part of what he had said on this subject, and which led him to believe that he had some information which he ought to communicate. He said, "if St. Domingo should finally be independent, it was proper to cultivate a good understanding with that island at present, and not refuse to give encouragement to them in such an event."

To me, however, said Mr. G. if it be the intention of the General to declare it, the independence of St. Domingo is a very problematical event. It would certainly be the interest of Great Britain to oppose an attempt of this kind since it could not be her interest to have a black government there. But supposing the event possible, he should consider it as extremely injurious to the interests of the United States. Suppose that island, with its present population under present circumstances, should become an independent state. What is this population? it is known to consist almost altogether, of slaves just emancipated, of men who received their first education under the lash of the whip, and who have been initiated to liberty only by that series of rapine, pillage and massacre that have laid waste and deluged that island in blood; of men who, if left to themselves, if altogether independent, are by no means likely to apply themselves to the peaceable cultivation of the country, but will try to continue to live as heretofore, by plunder and deceptions.

Mr. D. Foster moved to refer this resolution to a committee of the whole, but this being objected to by Mr. McDowell, it was ordered to lie on the table. The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill for amending the law providing for the sale of land north-west of the river Ohio; when after some discussion, and several amendments, a motion was made by Mr. Craik for the committee to rise, with a view of postponing the further consideration of it, till the next session. This motion was carried, and the bill was postponed accordingly.

and an asylum for renegades from thofe parts.

This being the case, Mr. G. said, he must deprecate every encouragement which may be held out to produce such an event. Did not gentlemen recollect what an alarm was founded last year, with respect to the probability of an invasion of the Southern States from the West Indies, an alarm upon which some of the strongest measures of the last session were grounded. Mr. G. could not help hoping, there would be a general wish not to take any measure which may embody so dangerous a description of men in our neighbourhood, whose object may be plunder, and who might visit the States of South Carolina and Georgia, and spread their views amongst the negro people there, and excite dangerous insurrections amongst them.

But Mr. G. believed a conduct of this kind would have the effect to remove to an immense distance any expectation of an accommodation of our disputes with France. We have, continued he, just had dispatches laid on our table from Mr. Gerry, one of our late commissioners to the French republic, by which we are told that he believes there exists in that government a sincere desire to treat with us. Since these dispatches were communicated, it is true, that the Secretary of State has sent us a report in which he endeavours to prove the deduction of Mr. Gerry unfounded. Be it so. At least, he believed, without entering into an examination of the dispatches, or the Secretary of State's reasoning upon them, it must be allowed that appearances are more favorable at present than they were nine months ago. The disasters which had happened to the fleets of France, her want of success in other parts, the determined tone assumed by all the neutral powers, and other occurrences, have rendered it more the interest of France to treat with us than it was nine months ago.

The bill was then gone through, and the committee having risen, Mr. Nicholas called the Yeas and Nays upon it. Mr. S. Smith asked for information as to the object of this bill, and was answered by Messrs. Champlin and Otis; when Mr. J. Parker said, he should have voted for this bill; but he had just received information which led him to believe there will be no occasion for it, which was, "that the President of the U. States had this day nominated a Minister to go to France."

Mr. Rutledge moved an adjournment, which was negatived 48 to 42. After some observations from Messrs. Rutledge, Goodrich and Otis, in favour of the bill, and of Mr. S. Smith against it, the motion for an adjournment was renewed by Mr. Otis, and carried 49 to 47. TUESDAY, Feb. 19. The Speaker being indisposed, this day, the House of Representatives adjourned without proceeding to business.

For sale by, PETER BLIGHT, At his Store—South-street wharf, A quantity of Jamaica Rum, do Brandy, 8th proof, Red Port Wine, in pipes, hhd. and gr. casks, Madeira, in pipes fit for use, Catalonia White Wine in pipes, Hazelnuts in sacks, Castile Soap, Old Arrack—in casks and cases of 3 dozen each.

IMPORTED, By late arrivals from HAMBURG, 9-8 wide Brown Russia Sheetings, generally German 6-4 wide Dowlais, entitled to foreign export drawback. Brown Silesias, Bregtagnes, Tickenburgs.

FOR SALE BY GEORGE PENNOCK, feb. 19. TO BE LET, And immediate possession given, THE Stores and Wharf lately occupied by Robert Thomas, between Chestnut and Walnut-street, for terms apply to WILLIAM SHEAFF, No. 168, High-street, feb. 19.

Advertisement, THE Creditors of WILLIAM FURNELL, (C. N.) late of Worcester county, Maryland, deceased, are hereby notified to appear at the court house in Snow Hill, in the said county, on the 8th day of March next, with their respective claims against the said deceased, properly authenticated, at which time, or as soon thereafter as can be, a portable division of the assets in the hands of the subscriber will be made between them, agreeably to the directions of the act of assembly, entitled "An act to alter and amend the law in certain cases."

Edward Henry, executor, feb. 19.

FOR SALE, By the Subscribers, 15 pipes Old Madeira Wine, 1 pair of 9 pound Cannon, 3 packages of Gum Guaiacum, 2 bales of St. Domingo Cotton, 100 boxes of Wax Candles, of 24 lbs each.

Willings & Francis, Penn-street, feb. 19.

RICKETTS'S CIRCUS, MRS. McDONALD, Begs leave to acquaint her Friends and the Public in general, that in consequence of the BALL (in honor of our beloved GENERAL WASHINGTON'S Birth Day) at the Circus, precludes a possibility of her having her Benefit at the time appointed, she assures them that on TUESDAY the 26th inst. there will be a great variety of NEW ENTERTAINMENTS, amongst which two COMIC SONGS by a Young Gentleman, a native of England, who has kindly offered his services, being his first attempt in public. She humbly solicits their patronage and protection, it being her first Benefit in this City.—Particulars will be expressed in the Bills.

Tickets to be had at Mr. O'Her's Hotel, at No. 10, South Fifth Street, and at Mr. Bryson's, No. 1, Greenleaf-Court, Feb. 19.

A bill from the Senate making compensation to James Mathers, for his services and expences as sergeant at arms of the Senate, during the recess, was read and committed, as was also

A bill from the Senate giving eventual authority to the President of the United States to augment the army. This bill gives the President authority, in case a war shall break out between the United States and any foreign power, or in case of imminent danger of such war in his opinion to exist, to organize and raise 24 regiments of infantry, one regiment of riflemen, and three regiments of cavalry. The President is also authorized to call out the volunteer corps, on all occasions in which he is at present authorized to call out the militia, provided that he does not call a greater proportion from any one state; than he is authorized to call out of the militia, by the law which directs the 80,000 militia to be held in readiness. If it be necessary to carry this law into effect, two millions of dollars are appropriated for the purpose.

On the question for reading this bill a second time, it was carried 45 to 37.

On motion of Mr. Otis, the house went into a committee of the whole, Mr. Rutledge in the chair, on the bill encouraging the capture of French armed vessels, by armed ships or vessels, owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States, and for allowing salvage on certain cases. The bill, which proposes a bounty on guns, according to their sizes, having been read,

Mr. McDowell moved to strike out the first section; which, being put, it appeared there were for the motion 43, against it 42, and the chairman said, "It is carried," but immediately recollecting that by his negative vote, he might have tied the question, he declared himself in the negative. Having, however, previously declared the question carried, after some conversation on the point of order, the decision was declared binding.

A motion was then made for the committee to rise, which was negatived 48 to 25.

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The following memorandum politely handed me by Capt. BAINBRIDGE, of the Retaliation, will shew the degree of credit which ought to be attached to the letter of Desfourneaux.

"On the 6th January I waited on Gen. Desfourneaux: during the conversation I then had with him, he informed me, that affairs had been amicably settled between America and France. On enquiring the grounds of this information, he said Dr. Logan had arrived in America, and had terminated the dispute between the two countries. I observed to Desfourneaux that I did not believe Dr. Logan was authorized by our Government to act in any official capacity in France. He said no, he was not from the Government, but he was a deputy from the People. A sufficient evidence of his belief that our Government and People are divided.

"He mentions in his letter to the President, that he has sent home the Americans made prisoners previous to his arrival. I declare that great numbers of them continued to be made prisoners after his arrival, and that every vessel that was brought into the island of Guadaloupe previous to my departure, on the 18th January, was condemned, vessel and cargo, except one from New-Bedford, bound to Surinam, the trial of which was not decided.

"WM. BAINBRIDGE." Philadelphia, Feb. 18, 1799.

To COLONEL THOMAS L. MOORE, LATE CAPTAIN OF THE VOLUNTEER GRENADIERS.

SIR, THE Philadelphia Volunteer Company of Grenadiers, approach you with hearts at once animated with gratitude, and filled with regret. The active attention which you gave to the duties of your station, the cordial politeness with which you treated each individual, and the dignified deportment which you at all times maintained, are entitled to and receive our most grateful applause; but organized as we were under your auspices, and disciplined by your instructions, it cannot but be a source of severe mortification that we are debarred from the prospect of acting under your command. It is however, a consolatory reflection that in a higher sphere your services will be still more useful to our country, and more glorious to yourself, and that, in repelling the attacks of our inveterate foe, or in defeating the attempts of domestic traitors, you will continue to be guided by the same spirit, and that your efforts will be still directed to the same end.

Accept our most ardent wishes for the continuance of your health and happiness, and be assured, Sir, that this tribute of gratitude is dictated by the sincerest affection for your person, and the most respectful esteem for your character.

Signed, on behalf of the Corps, JOSEPH HIGBEE, Captain. JOSHUA M. WALLACE, Junior Lieutenant.

Gentlemen of the Philadelphia Volunteer Company of Grenadiers,

PERMIT me to offer you my thanks for this flattering mark of your approbation and esteem: It is received by me with every sentiment of gratitude and affection.

It was with pleasure I accepted from you the honor of commanding this respectable corps; and the politeness with which I have been treated by every one of you, and the promptness with which my commands were always obeyed, gave me the highest satisfaction.

In my exertions to perfect you in military discipline, I have been so happy as to merit your applause, my labors have been well rewarded.

Go on, Gentlemen, in your glorious pursuit; and may you, as heretofore, be ever ready to protect our country, from the attacks of an insidious and inveterate foe, as well as to crush every effort of domestic faction.

I beg leave, gentlemen, to present you my sincere wishes for your happiness, individually, and for the honor and reputation of the corps.

THOMAS L. MOORE. Philadelphia, Feb. 14, 1799.

UNITED STATES, } Pennsylvania District, } NOTICE is hereby given, That a special district Court of the United States, will be holden at the City Hall in the City of Philadelphia in and for the Pennsylvania district, on Friday the 8th day of March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for the trial of an information filed by William Rawl, esq. Attorney of the United States in and for the said district, against the

BRIGANTINE EXPRESS, With her tackle, apparel, and appurtenances and the Cargo on board of her, consisting of 103 Hds. } SUGAR. 1 Tierce, } 6 Bbls. } 45 Hds. } COFFEE. 108 Bbls. } 16 half bbls. } 17 tons Logwood.

The said Brigantine Express, being a vessel owned by persons resident within the United States, and employed in traffic with a person resident within the jurisdiction of the French Republic, contrary to the form of the act of the Congress of the United States in such case made and provided, and seized therefor, &c.

By order of the Court, DAVID CALDWELL, Clerk of the District Court. Philadelphia, Feb. 17, 1799.

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