the argument of the gentleman is altogether

The centleman 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, notwith-standing the decrees of the Directory, and he introduced the proclamation of Hedouville to shew that this was the intention of the will. Whatever the proclamation of Hedouville may have been, this bill was certainly not meant to meet any fuch cafe; if it had, it would have been differently expressed. This section says, that when any persons claiming and exercising command, &c. shall elearly disavow—what? the aggressions, depredations and hostilities of the government under whose authority they act. What does this amount to? certainly to an official disavoral of all the acts of the government of yowal of all the acts of the government of the mother country, which have violated our national rights and fovereignty. Both the gentleman from South Carolina and the gentleman from Maffachusetts proceeded to fay, that the effects produced by this clause would be beneficial to the United States. Suppose this should, in some degree be the case, if other effects of a serious and mischievous nature may proceed from it, the measures ought not to be adopted.

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 sorbear from privateering. Suppose this effect is produced, will it not also be considered as a ure thrown out to encourage those agents to negotiate in their private capacity? certainly one effect will not prevent the other, and the whole of the subject ought therefore to be considered together.

It is faid, that any kind of negociation which might be entered into with any agent of the executive Directory, whatever may be the fituation of that agent, ought to be confidered 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. This doctrine, said Mr. G. will not apply to the commanding officer of any island; it will apply only to the government of a nation, and not to a part or fection of a nation. No one could suppose it right to treat with a town or any foreign nation, which was in a state of infurrection, from whatever fource the per-fon proposing to treat might have received his power. The case is different with re-spect to a nation. Whoever exercises the government of a nation, is supposed to do it by confent of the nation. This rule will not apply to colonies; an agent in an island under the government of France, must be considered as an agent of the French government. So long as he remains an agent of France, it is no matter to us, whether he obtains his fituation by transporting his pre-decessor in office, or by any other improper act; whilst he remains an agent of the French government he must be considered as such. But this section has nothing to do with a case of this kind; it contemplates a period when these agents shall have ceased to consider themselves as such; when they shall have thrown off their allegiance to their go vernment, then this fection favs, we shall be ready to negociate with them.

Mr. G. conceived, therefore, that the uestion comes to this. It is proper to give ower 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 inter-course with you. No man, said Mr. G. will deny, that a trade of this kind would be advantageous to the United States; he be-lieved it to be one of the most lucrative branches of our commerce; but it was nevertheches of our commerce; but it was nevertheless thought proper, at the last session, to suspend it, in order, as then supposed, to effect a greater good. Therefore this commerce being advantageous to the United States, is not a sufficient reason why this measure should be taken, if it be wrong in itself, and may produce greater mischiefs, than the trade can do us good.

What, faid Mr. G. are the inconveniencies 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 attempts of other countries to divide the people of a nation from their government; for we here, faid he affume the ground, that it is proper to negociate 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. We abandon the general ground of treature with a serious round. ground of treating with a foreign government, and determine to treat with any indiwidual who may either have, or claim to have authority. Mr. G. believed a principle of this kind at all times improper; and it would be peculiarly improper for us to act upon it, with respect to a nation, against whom we have so many grounds of com-plaint of this kind. He had already stated, that it could only be justified in a state of war, if then, to hold out encouragement to infur-rection and rebellion to the colonies of ano-

ther country. But, provided the act bejustifiable, would it be our interest to do it ; and what would be the probable effect of fuch a measure ? To be able to speak upon this point with perspi-cuity, it would be necessary to investigate the real object of this section a little more closely. Mr G. wished gentlemen had been fo good as to have given the house all the information they possess on this subject; he wished Congress had received whatever official information in the state of the state cial 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. Deprived of this information, fild Mr. G. we can only fireak of what we have heard, but which, he believed, insceptible, in some degree, of

Mr. C. believed he might go so far as to say, that this section was not inserted to meet the case spoken of by the gentleman gerous neighbours to the Southern States,

from Maryland; but for the admission of and an asylum for renegadoes from thosone which had been a subject of discussion in the newspapers for some time past. He meant what was generally understood by the mission of Toussaint, a black general, of St. Domingo. It had been afferted, from the fident, and that good effects may be expect ed to flow from this million" So far on the authority of the public newspapers, and none of these affertions have been denied. Should I be doing right, faid Mr. G. to fay, that I believe that this fection of the

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 nd extraordinary evacuation of St. Domingo by general Maitland was to promote fomething 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 soupe or dinner, at which these gentlemen may have been parties? If any such information could be obtained, it might tend to throw fome light upon the subject. If he should be mistaken in his views of it, it would be wholly owing to his being deprived of that information, which he believed either the Executive, or fome of the members on this floor possess.

Mr. G. believed the object of this fection 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 had him to believe that he had fair to be the said on the said him to believe the had fair to be the said him to be the s ed him to believe that he had some information which he ought to communicate. He faid, " if St. Domingo should finally be independent, it was proper to cultivate a good understanding with that island at present, and not refuse" tainencouragement to them in such an event" When? Now; so that we are not only to cultivate a good understanding with St. Do-mingo, if it should become independent, but in the expectation of and before it takes derstanding with that island, by holding out the encouragement proposed by this bill. This was nothing less than to confess, that this section is inserted in the bill to encourage Toussaint to declare the island indepen-dent. Nay, his views, if he is a man of fense, must go further; he must not only secure a temporary trade, but he would also desire to know whether it be the wish of this country that St. Domingo should become independent; because he should suppose that if the government of the United States was opposed to such an event, a temporary trade would not be a sufficient inducement to him to throw off his prefent allegiance.

To me, however, faid 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 popuation? it is known to confift almost altogether, of flaves 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 feries of rapine, pillage and maffacre that have laid waste and delu ed that island in blood; of men who, if eft to themselves, if altogether independent, are by no means likely to apply them-felves to the peaceable cultivation of the country, but will try to continue to live as heretofore, by plunder and depredations. No man, faid Mr. G. wifhes more than I do to fee an abolition of slavery, when it can be properly effected; but no man would be more unwilling than I to conflitute a whole nation of freed flaves, who had arrived to the age of 30 years, and thus to throw fo many wild tygers on fociety. If the population of St. Domingo can remain free in that island, he had no objection; but however free, he did not wish to have them independent, and he would rather fee them under a government that would be likely to keep them where they are, and prevent them from committing depredations out of the island. But if they were left to govern themselves, they might become more troublefome to us, in our commerce to the West Indies, than the Algerines ever were in the

This being the cafe, Mr. G. faid, he must deprecate every encouragement which may be held out to produce such an event. Did Domingo. It had been afferted, from the not gentlemen recollect what an alarm was moment of the arrival of a supposed agent, sounded last year, with respect to the prothat he came here with the late consul of bability of an invasion of the Southern States the United States at that port; that he from the West Indies, an alarm upon which brought disastely from The Consultation of the States and States at the state of the late of the lat brought dispatches from Toussaint to our some of the Hrongest measures of the last government. Farther than this we have feen in fome of the newspapers printed at the eastward, that this mission is likely to have fome effect; we have feen it there stated, dy fo dangerous a description of men in that the President is neither rash nor difference of the trongest measures of the last feeling we e grounded. Mr. G. could not help hoping, there would be a general wish out to take any measure which may embody the dangerous a description of men in unneighbourhood, whose object may be plunder, and who might vifit the States of South Carolina and Georgia, and spread their views amongst the negro people there, and excite dangerous insurrections amongst them. He did not wish, therefore, to see fay, that I believe that this fection of the this bl ck population independent; and bill is an effect of that negoc ation? It is that the interest will be wholly black is clear. true I only deduce this from probability, but the probability is strong. Mr. G. said he is married to a black woman in this city. knew that the independence of St. Domin-Mr. G. did not mean by this to throw any go had been a favorite theme with gentlemen reflection upon the general. He believed and they had made an appeal upon it to the avarice of the people of the United States, remarks were general, and were only intend-that in case of war, this independence would ded to shew that it would be with a black

population we must treat.

But Mr. G. believed a conduct of this the people ought to be prepared for this kind would have the effect to remove to an event. But gentlemen feem to think that immense distance any expectation of an ache public mind is not yet ready for this commodation of our disputes with France. change, or they do not chuse to avow the object of this mission. Which, he could not es laid on our table from Mr. Gerry, one tell; but he would advise those gentlemen of our late commissioners to the French rewho have received information on this fub-ject to communicate it. Mr. G. faid he there exists in that government a fincere dewho have received information on this fubject to communicate it. Mr. G. faid he
should be happy to know the fubject of the
dispatches of Gen. Toussaint. What is
his offer to our gov rument. Whether his
ideas go to independence or not? Whether
he is any way connected with the British
government, or not? Whether the fudden
government of the dispatches or the Se an examination of the dispatches, or the Secretary of State's reasoning upon them, it must be a lowed that appearances are more favorable at present than they were nine months ago. The disasters which had hap-pened to the sleets of Frauce, her want of fuccefs in other parts, the determined tone affumed 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. So that the prospect is rather better of an honorable accommodati-on of our differences. Whilst things are thus fituated, and after we have made a decharation, by echoing the fentiment con-taining in the President's speech respecting the rights of embassy, that we are still rea-dy to treat on honourable terms; it would in his opinion, be highly impolitie to change our ground, and take the most offensive, a ground that would shew our desire for war and not only for war but a war of extermi-nation: for no measure could be taken which nation; for no measure could be taken which could affect a Nation in a more lively manner, than an attempt to detach from it its colonies, by giving an encouragement to in-furrection. Even, faid Mr. G. if we were obliged to go to war with France, it would be impolitic to take a step of this kind. Every war must be terminated by a treaty; and we shall be able to obtain better condiand, in case the attempt at independence by the island was not to exceed, we should cut up at the root a branch of the most advantageous part of our commerce for ever. In the expectation of and before it takes his opinion, we ought neither to recede from the ground taken, nor take new ground, ut let our measures, whatever they are, be such as are calculated to affect the nation altogether, and not any particular part of it. He hoped therefore the festion would be fruck out.

The committee role, and had leave to fit

Monday, Rebruary 18.

The bill authorifing the discharge of Ro-The bill providing for the compensation of Marshals, Clerks, Attornies, Jurors and Witnesses, in the courts of the United States, for repealing such parts of the for-mer law as are therein mentioned, and for other purposes, were read the third time and

A bill from the Senate making an appropriation for defraying the expences which may arise in carrying into effect certain treaties with tribes or nations of Indians, was

read and committed. Mr. Allen believed, from what appeared on the discussion of the bill on Saturday, for augmenting the falaries of certain officers of the United States, that there is a majority of this house in favor of advancing the salaries of fome of the principal officers of the gov-ernment; he believed the chief difference in opinion was as to the rate of this advance. In order to bring the fubject again before the house, he proposed a resolution, for augmenting the salaries of the following officers, dollars, viz. the Secretary of State, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, and the Affiftant Post-master General.

Mr. D. Foster moved to refer this resolu-tion to a committee of the whole, but this being objected to by Mr. M'Dowell, it was ordered to lie on the table.

The house went into a committee of the whole on the bill for amending the law proiver Ohio; when after fomediscussion, and everal amendments, a motion was made by Mr. Craik for the committee to rife, with a view of pollponing the further confideration of it, till the next fession. This motion vas carried, and the bill was postponed ac-

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house vent into a committee of the whole, on the oill to regulate and fix the compensation of clerks; and after introducing some amend-ments, the two principal of which were to allow the Post-master General 4250 dollars for clerk hire, and an additional clerk of 800 dollars falary to the war office, the bill was agreed to, and ordered to be engroffed for a third reading.

A bill from the Senate making compenfaion to James Mathers, for his fervices and expences as fergeant at arms of the Senate, uring the recess, was read and committed,

A bill from the Senate giving eventual authority to the Prefident 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 to organize and raise 24 regiments of infantry, one regiment of riflemen, and three regiments of cavalry. The Prefident 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

On the question for reading this bill a fe-

ond 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 thips 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 fizes, having been read,
Mr. M'Dowell moved to firike 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 forms. carried, after fome convertation 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

The bill was then gone through, and the committee having rifen;
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 recived information which led him to bel eve there will be no occasion for it, which was, "That the President of the U. States had this day no minated a Minister to go to France."

Mr. Rutledge moved an adjournment, which was negatived 48 to 42.

After fome 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.

PETER BLIGHT,

At his Store—South-fireet wharf,
A quantity of Jamaica Rum,
do Brandy, 8th proof,
Red Port Wine, in pipes, hhds and qr. casks
Madeira, in pipes fit for use,
Catalonia White Wine in pipes,
Hazlenuts in facks
Castile Soar Old Arrack-in casks and cases of 3 dozen each.

IMPORTED. By late arrivals from HAMBURGH,
9-8 wide Brown Ruffia Sheetings
German 6-4 wide Dowlaffes
Brown Silefias

foreign Bregtagnes Ticklenburgs

GEORGE PENNOCK.

TO BE LET,

And immediate possession given, THE Stores and Wharf lately occupied by Ro-cert Thomas, between Chefout and Walnut-street, for terms apply to
WILLIAM SHEAFF,
No. 168, High-firect.

Advertisement.

THE Creditors of WILLIAM PURNELL, (C. N.) late of Worcester county, Maryland, deceased, are hereby notified to appear at the court house in Snow Hil, 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 portionable division of the affets 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.

By the Subject to 15 pipes Old Madeira Wine, 1 pair of 9 pound Caenon. 5 packages of Gum Guiaccum 2 bales of St. Domingo Cotton 100 boxes of Wax Candles, of 24lbs each.

Willings & Francis.

Penn-fireet, }

w&f tf RICKETTS'S CIRCUS.

MRS. M'DONALD

MRS. MIDONALD

Begs leave to asquaint her Friends and the Public in general, that in consequence of the BALL (in honor of our beloved GENERAL WASH-INGTON'S Birth Day) at the Gircus, precludes a possibility of her having her Benesit at the time appointed, but assure them that on TUESDAT the 26th inst. there will be a great variety of NEW ENTERTAINMENTS, amongst which two COMIC SONGS by a Toung Gentleman, a native of England, who has kindly offered his services, being his first attempt in public. She humbly solicits their patronage and protestion, it heing her first Benefit in this City.—Particulans will be expressed in the Bills.

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

Feb. 19.

The Gazette:

PHILADELPHIA,

TUESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 19.

The following memorandum politely handany foreign power, or in case of imminent ed me by Capt. BAINBRIDGE, of the Retalia-danger of such war, in his opinion to exist, tion, will shew the degree of credit which tion, will shew the degree of credit which ought to he attached to the letter of Def-

"On the 5th January I waited on Gen. Desformeaux; during the convertation I then had with him, he informed me, that affairs had been amicably fettled between America and France. On enquiring the grounds of this information, he faid 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 authorifed by our Government to act in any official capacity in France, He faid no, he was not from the Government, but was a deputy from the People.—
A fufficient evidence of his belief that our Government and People are divided.

"He mentions in his letter to the Prefi-

dent, that he has fent home the Americans made prisoners previous to his arrival. 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.

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 cor-dial politeness with which you treated each ndividual, and the dignified deportment which you at all times maintained, are enti-led to and receive our most grateful applause; but organized as we were under your au-fpices, and disciplined by your instructions, it cannot but be a source of severe mortifica-tion that we are debarred from the prospect of acting under your command. It is how-ever, a confolatory reflection that in a higher fphere your fervices will be still more neful o our country, and more glorious to your-ielf, 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 affured, 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, Jun. 2d Lieutenan

Gentlemen of the Philadelabia Voluntees Company of Grenadiers, PERMIT me to offer you my thanks for

this flattering mark of your approbation and effecm: It is received by me with every fentiment of gratitude and affection.

It was with pleafure 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 satisfac-

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

Go on, Gentlemen, in your glorious pur-fuit: and may you, as heretofore, be ever ready to protect our country, from the atacks of an infidious and inveterate foe, as well as to crush every effort of domestic fac-

I beg leave, gentlemen, to prefent you my fincere wishes for your happiness, individually, and for the honor and reputation of

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

UNITED STATES, Pennsylvania District,

Pennsylvania District,

NOTICE is kereby 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 100'clock in the forenoon
of the same day, for the trial of an information
filed by William Rawl, esq. Attorney of the Unitad States in and for the said district, against the

BRIGANTINE EXPRESS. With her tackle, apparel, and appurtenances and the Cargo on board of her, confilling of 103 Hhds.

1 Tierce, SUGAR.
6 Bbls
45 Hhds.
108 Bbls. COFFE

COFFEE. 16 half bbls.

The faid 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 Diffria Course Philadelphobia, 19th Feb. 1799. ewof sthmar.