

Island of Porto Rico. They have been committed there under the abusive issue of Spanish commissions. At an early period of the present year, remonstrances were made to the governor of that island, by an agent who was sent for the purpose, against those outrages on the peaceful commerce of the United States, of which many had occurred. That officer, professing his own want of authority to make satisfaction for our just complaints, answered only by a reference of them to the government of Spain. The minister of the United States to that court was specially instructed to urge the necessity, of the immediate and effectual interposition of that government, directing restitution and indemnity for wrongs already committed, and interdicting the repetition of them. The minister, as has been seen, was debarred access to the Spanish government, and in the meantime, several new cases of flagrant outrage have occurred, and citizens of the United States in the island of Porto Rico have suffered, and others have been threatened with, assassination, for asserting their unquestionable rights, even before the lawful tribunals of the country.

The usual orders have been given to all our public ships, to seize American vessels engaged in the slave trade, and bring them in for adjudication, and I have the gratification to state, that not one so employed has been discovered, and there is good reason to believe that our flag is now seldom, if at all, disgraced by that traffic.

It is a source of great satisfaction that we are always enabled to recur to the conduct of our navy with pride and commendation. As a means of national defence, it enjoys the public confidence, and is steadily assuming additional importance. It is submitted whether a more efficient and equally economical organization of it, might not in several respects, be effected. It is supposed that higher grades than now exist by law, would be useful. They would afford well-merited rewards to those who have long and faithfully served their country; present the best incentives to good conduct, and the best means of insuring a proper discipline, destroy the inequality in that respect, between military and naval services, and relieve our officers from many inconveniences and mortifications, which occur when our vessels meet those of other nations: ours being the only service in which such grades do not exist.

A report of the postmaster general, which accompanies this communication, will show the present state of the post-office department, and its general operations for some years past.

There is established, by law, eighty eight thousand six hundred miles of the post roads, on which the mail is now transported eighty five thousand seven hundred miles, and contracts have been made for its transportation on all the established routes, with one or two exceptions. There are five thousand two hundred and forty post offices in the union, and as many postmasters. The gross amount of postage which accrued from the 1st of July, 1822, to the 1st of July, 1823, was \$1,114,345 12 cents. During the same period, the expenditures of the post-office department amounted to \$1,169,885 51 cents; and consisted of the following items: Compensation to postmasters \$353,995 98 cents; incidental expenses \$30,866 37 cents; transportation of the mail \$784,600 8 cents; payments into the treasury, \$423 8 cents. On the first of July last, there was due to the department, from postmasters, \$135,245 28 cents; from late postmasters and contractors, \$256,749 31 cents; making a total amount of balances due to the department, of \$391,994 59 cents; these balances embrace all delinquencies of postmasters and contractors, which have taken place since the organization of the department. There was due by the department, to contractors on the first of July last, \$26,548 64 cents.

The transportation of the mail, within five years past, has been greatly extended, and the expenditures of the department proportionably increased. Although the postage which has accrued within the last three years, has fallen short of the expenditures, \$262,821 45 cents, it appears that collections have been made from outstanding balances to meet the principal part of the current demands.

It is estimated that not more than \$250,000 of the above balances can be collected, and that a considerable part of this sum can only be realized by a resort to legal process. Some improvement in the receipts for postage is expected. A prompt attention to the collection of monies received by postmasters, it is believed, will enable the department to continue its operations without aid from the treasury. Unless the expenditure shall be increased by the establishment of new mail routes.

A revision of some parts of the post office law may be necessary; and it is submitted, whether it would not be proper to provide for the appointment of postmasters, where the compensation exceeds a certain amount, by nomination to the senate, as other officers of the general government are appointed.

Having communicated my views to congress, at the commencement of the last session, respecting the encouragement which ought to be given to our manufactures, and the principle on which it should be founded, I have only to add that those views remain unchanged, and that the present state of those countries, with which we have the most immediate political relations and greatest commercial intercourse, tends to confirm them. Under this impression, I recommend a review of the tariff, for the purpose of affording such additional protection to those articles which we are prepared to manufacture, or which are more immediately connected with the defence and independence of the country.

The actual state of the public accounts furnishes additional evidence of the present system of accountability, in relation to the public expenditure. Of the moneys drawn from the treasury since the 4th of March, 1817, the sum remaining accounted for on the thirtieth of September last, is more than a million and a half of dollars, less than on the thirtieth of September preceding, and, during the same period, a reduction of nearly a million of dollars has been made in the amount of the unsettled accounts for moneys advanced previously to the 4th of March, 1817. It will be obvious, that in proportion as the mass of accounts of the latter description is diminished, by settlement, the difficulty of settling the residue is increased, from the consideration that in many instances, it can be obtained only by legal process. For more precise details on this subject, I refer to a report from the first comptroller of the treasury.

The sum which was appropriated at the last session, for the repairs of the Cumberland road, has been applied with good effect to that object. A final report has not yet been received from the agent who was appointed to superintend it. As soon as it is received, it shall be communicated to congress.

Many patriotic and enlightened citizens, who have made the subject an object of particular investigation, have suggested an improvement of still greater importance. They are of opinion the waters of the Chesapeake and Ohio may be connected together by one continued canal, and at an expense far short of the value and importance of the object to be obtained. If this could be accomplished, it is impossible to calculate the beneficial consequences which would result from it. A great portion of the produce of the very fertile country through which it would pass, would find a market through that channel. Troops might be moved with great facility in war, with cannon, and every kind of munition, and in either direction. Connecting the Atlantic with the western country, in a line passing through the seat of the national government, it would contribute essentially to strengthen the bond of union itself. Believing as I do, that congress possess the right to appropriate money for such a national object, the jurisdiction remaining to the state through which the canal would pass, I submit it to your consideration whether it may not be advisable to authorize, by an adequate appropriation the employment of a suitable number of officers of the corps of engineers, to examine the unexplored ground, during the next season, and to report their opinion thereon. It will likewise be proper to extend their examination to the several routes through which the waters of the Ohio may be connected, by canals, with those of Lake Erie.

As the Cumberland road will need annual repairs, and Congress have not thought it expedient to recommend to the states an amendment to the constitution, for the purpose of vesting in the United States a power to adopt and execute a system of internal improvement, it is also submitted to your consideration, whether it may not be expedient to authorize the Executive to enter into an arrangement with the several states through which the road passes, to establish tolls, each within its limits, for the purpose of defraying the expense of future repairs, and of providing also, by suitable penalties, for its protection against future injuries.

The act of Congress of 7th of May 1822, appropriated the sum of 22,700 dollars for the purpose of erecting two piers as a shelter for vessels from ice, near Cape Henlopen, Delaware Bay. To effect the object of the act, the officers of the board of Engineers, with commodore Bainbridge were directed to prepare plans and estimates of piers sufficient to answer

the purpose intended by the act. It appears by their report which accompanies the documents from the War Department, that the appropriation is not adequate, to the purpose intended, and as the piers would be of great service, both to the navigation of the Delaware Bay, and the protection of vessels on the adjacent parts of the coast, I submit for the consideration of Congress whether additional and sufficient appropriations should not be made.

The board of Engineers were also directed to examine and survey the entrance of the harbor of the Port of Presque in Pennsylvania, in order to make an estimate of the expense of removing the obstructions to the entrance, with a plan of the best mode of effecting the same under the appropriation for that purpose, by act of Congress passed the 3d of March last. The report of the board accompanies the papers from the War Department, and is submitted for the consideration of Congress.

A strong hope has long been entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks, that they would succeed in their contest, and resume their equal station among the nations of the earth. It is believed that the whole civilized world takes a deep interest in their welfare. Although no power has declared in their favor, yet none, according to our information, has taken part against them. Their cause and their name have protected them from dangers, which might ere this have overwhelmed any other people. The ordinary calculations of interest, and of acquisition, with a view to aggrandizement, which mingle so much in the transactions of nations, seem to have had no effect in regard to them. From the facts which have come to our knowledge, there is good cause to believe that their enemy has lost forever all dominion over them; that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes.

It was stated at the commencement of the last session, that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries; and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation.—It need scarcely be remarked, that the result has been, so far very different from what was anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the globe with which we have so much intercourse, and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly, in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded, or seriously menaced, that we resent injuries, or make preparation for our defence. With the movements in this hemisphere, we are of necessity, more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The effect is felt. It is manifest that, by political system of the allied powers enlarging the basis of our system, and increasing the number of States, the system itself has been greatly strengthened in both its branches. Our Consolidation and disunion have therefore to the defence of our own, which has been rendered equally impracticable achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this action, is rendered more efficient for all the purposes for which it was instituted. It is unnecessary to treat here, of the vast improvement made in the system itself, by the adoption of this constitution, and of its happy effect of elevating the character, and protecting the right of the nation, as well as of individuals. To what safety. With the existing colonies then do we owe these blessings? If our dependencies of any European power, we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States.

In the war between those new governments and Spain, we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur, which in the judgment of the competent authorities of this government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the United States indispensable to their security.

The late events in Spain and Portugal show that Europe is still unsettled. Of this important fact no stronger proof can be adduced, than that the

allied powers should have thought it proper, on any principles satisfactory to themselves, to have interposed, by force, in the internal concerns of Spain. To what extent such interposition may be carried, on the same principle, is a question in which all independent powers, whose governments differ from theirs, are interested; even those most remote, and surely none more so than the United States. Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at an early stage of the wars which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, which nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government *de facto* as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm and manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power; submitting to injuries from none. But in regard to these continents, are eminently and conspicuously different. It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system to any portion of either continent, without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can any one believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition, in any form, with indifference. If we look to the comparative strength and resources of Spain and those new governments, and their distance from each other, it must be obvious that she can never subdue them. It is still the true policy of the United States to leave the parties to themselves, in the hope that other powers will pursue the same course.

If we compare the present condition of our Union, with its actual state at the close of the revolution, the history of the world furnishes no example of a progress in improvement, in all the important circumstances which constitute the happiness of a nation, which bears any resemblance to it.—At the first epoch our population did not exceed three millions. But by the last census it amounted to ten millions, and what is more extraordinary, it is almost altogether native, for the emigration from other countries has been inconsiderable. At the first epoch, half the territory within our acknowledged limits was uninhabited and a wilderness. Since then new territory has been acquired, of vast extent, comprising within it many rivers, particularly the Mississippi, the navigation of which to the ocean was of the highest importance to the original states. Over this territory our population has expanded in every direction, and new States have been established, almost equal, in number, to those which formed the first bond of our Union. This Expansion of our population, and accession of new States to our Union, have had the happiest effect on all its highest interests. That it has diminished our strength and respectability, as a power, is admitted by all. But, it is not in these important circumstances only, that this happy enlargement of the basis of our system, and increasing the number of States, the system itself has been greatly strengthened in both its branches. Each government confiding in its own strength, has less to apprehend from the other; and in consequence of this, each enjoying a greater freedom of action, is rendered more efficient for all the purposes for which it was instituted. It is unnecessary to treat here, of the vast improvement made in the system itself, by the adoption of this constitution, and of its happy effect of elevating the character, and protecting the right of the nation, as well as of individuals. To what extent do we owe these blessings? If our dependencies of any European power, we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States.

JAMES MONROE.  
Washington, December 2, 1823.

### Trial of the Mail robbers.

BALTIMORE, Nov 26.  
CIRCUIT COURT.—This Court convened at ten o'clock yesterday morning, and proceeded with the trial of John Emmonhiser, arraigned for robbing the U. S. mail and putting in jeopardy the life of the mail carrier, the Reverdy Johnson, Esq. addressed the Jury on the part of the prisoner, and was followed on the same side by U. S. Heath, Esq. When Mr. Heath concluded, at three o'clock, the court adjourned and convened again at five. The pleadings were then closed by Elias Glenn Esq. District Attorney. At eight o'clock, Judges Duval and Bland delivered separate charges to the

Jury, who then retired to their room. It is here proper to remark that the indictment consisted of four distinct counts, viz.

The first count charged the prisoner with the robbery of the mail by the use of dangerous weapons, and putting the driver's life in jeopardy.

The second count charged the prisoner with the robbery of the mail, containing letters, packages, &c. by putting the drivers life in jeopardy.

The third count charged the prisoner with the robbery of the mail, by putting the life of the mail guard in jeopardy.

The fourth count charged the prisoner with the robbery of the mail, by putting the life of the mail guard in jeopardy.

The jury were absent about an hour, when they returned a verdict of guilty of the third count, and not guilty of the first, second and fourth counts of the indictment.

The verdict thus subjects the prisoner to the punishment of imprisonment only.

November 28.  
MAIL ROBBERS.—At ten o'clock yesterday morning the Circuit Court of the United States resumed the trial of Thomas Ward, arraigned for robbing the mail, &c. DAVID SLWART, esq. addressed the Jury, in continuation of the defence of the prisoner, and was followed on the same side by REVERDY JOHNSON, esq. The case was closed by the District Attorney. Judges DUVAL and BLAND severally charged the Jury, the latter at considerable length—after which the Jury retired for about one hour, and delivered a verdict of guilty on the third count in the indictment, and not guilty on the first, second and fourth counts. The third count, it will be recollected embraced only a charge of simple robbery, as in the case of Emmonhiser, and renders the prisoner liable to imprisonment only. The other counts, in which he was found not guilty, were capital counts.—American.

## THE PATRIOT

Not for himself, but for his country.  
WEDNESDAY, December 17

The length of the President's Message has compelled us to exclude the greater part of the proceedings of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, together with a variety of other important matter which we had on hands for this week's paper. We have, however, inserted as much of the proceedings of the legislature, as immediately concerns our own county.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, DEC'R. 4  
PETITIONS, for aid to erect a bridge over Bald Eagle creek, in Centre county: for authority to Charles Trezuly to make copies of drafts in the public offices at Harrisburg, without paying fees: for a law to make a certain record of assessments in Centre county, evidence in courts of justice:—were read and referred.

SATURDAY, DEC. 6.  
REPORT. An act for the relief of Charles Trezuly of Centre county.

WEDNE DAY, DEC. 10.  
A bill was reported, viz.

By Mr. Mitchell, An act declaring part of Fishing Creek a public highway.

### NEW YORK, Nov. 24. MURDER.

An aggravated case of murder has been committed in this city. The exposition of the body for the purpose of identification, and the publicity of an event so horrid, has produced more excitement in the community than any occurrence since what is called the "Doctor's Mob," that took place thirty years since. But, "murder will out," and from certain disclosures in the course of yesterday, there is reason to believe, that the perpetrator of the foul deed will soon be brought before offended justice.

In the course of Saturday forenoon the murdered man was identified by the Rev. Mr. Power, of the Roman Catholic Church, and proves to be that of James Murray.

We have seen Mr. P. and have obtained from him the following statement:—

Mr. Murray arrived here in the Fulton Packet from Boston on Tuesday last, in the neighborhood of which place he had been working in a foundry near five years. He had saved by his hard earnings over four hundred and fifty dollars, which he had with him; and came to this city with an intention to proceed to Buenos Ayres; and, on Thursday visited Mr. Power to ask his advice as to his determination. Mr. P. however dissuaded him from it on account of his not knowing the language, and advised him to go to New Orleans, where (Mr. Murray) had a brother; and Mr. P. offered to give him a letter to his cousin, who also resided at that place.