ships of war, now it consisted of 207. At the breaking out of this last war, the peace establishment consisted of 15,000 men, but now it comprised 46,000; at that time we had but 23 sail of the line in commission; now we had 55. As to our finances, we find that the amount of British exports in 1801 was 23 millions, whereas in 1802, it would amount to 27,500,000l. and the revenue in one year has increased upwards of 4,400,000l. Of the floating debt, which at the beginning of the year exceeded 38,000,000l. the two first quarters already reduced it to 23,000,000l. and he had every reasonable hope that, by the year ending the 5th January, 1803, it would be reduced to 14,000,000l. including 3,000,000l. due the bank, 1,500,000l. exchequer bills, and 100,000l. due on navy bills outstanding for the last year. Thus stating the situation of this country, he had little to fear from the fate of Europe; but whatever might be the fate of Europe, he desired to know how much better Europe would be balanced by a war than it would be by a peace, or whether the dignity of man in any part of the world could be maintained by blood and ruin. He believed not—yet, much as he abhorred war, he desired it might be as well known and understood, that sooner than the nation should lose an atom of her honor, he would himself resort to the expedient stated by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Windham). It was the policy of ministers to maintain and uphold, by every possible means, the sources of the national prosperity. They were watchful and prepared to resist every unjust demand. They were determined to preserve peace, whilst it could be done with due respect to the national dignity. A moral revolution had taken place in Europe, the effects of which they could not redress, but had most deeply to regret. They did not mean to hurry the country into war, but should at the same time regard, with a careful and vigilant eye, the interest of the nation.

Several other members delivered their opinions, after which the question on the address was put and carried unanimously.

LONDON, Nov. 19.

Mr. and Mrs. Fox arrived on Tuesday morning, at Dover, from France, in the Countess of Elgen packet. Mr. King, the American Ambassador, came in the same packet. An embargo is said to have been laid on vessels in Calais harbour for a few hours on Monday, owing, it is stated, to a banker of Paris having absconded.

On Tuesday evening, in consequence of a search warrant, issued by the magistrates at Union Hall, Mr. Stafford, the chief clerk, attended by a numerous body of police officers, went to the Oakley Arms, Oakley-street, Lambeth, where they apprehended col. Despard, and near forty labouring men and soldiers; the major part of them Irish. They were all taken immediately to Union Hall. The whole of the party, on Wednesday morning, underwent a long private examination before R. C. Smith, T. Evance, and P. Broadley, Esqrs. when Mr. Despard was committed to the county goal of Surry, on suspicion of having been concerned in treasonable practices. Twenty were committed to Tothill-fields Bridewell, several to New-Prison, Clerkenwell, and some others, who were in a room below were discharged.

November 20.

Yesterday morning, at ten o'clock, a privy council was held at Lord Pelham's office, for the purpose of investigating the charges brought against colonel Despard and his associates, who were apprehended in Oakley-street, on Tuesday evening. Besides the Lord chancellor, Lord Pelham, the attorney and solicitor general, Mr. White, the treasury solicitor, Sir Richard Ford, Mr. King, and two borough magistrates, attended. At eleven o'clock col. Despard was brought in custody to the office; but was asked very few questions by the privy council. The greatest part of the day was taken up in examining other persons who were privy to the proceeding of the meeting, when a great deal of useful information touching the business transpired. At three o'clock, colonel Despard was ordered to be conveyed to Newgate. His wife attended him, but was not suffered to communicate with him, except in the presence of a third person. The privy council will meet again this morning, for the further investigation of this very serious affair.

We understand that it was the object of the conspirators to make an attempt upon the life of his majesty, on his way to the Parliament House on Tuesday. In this horrid undertaking, they were to be joined by 2000 of the poor of Spitalfields, and about the same number from St. George's Fields, &c. amounting in the whole to 10,000 men. The attempt on his majesty was only intended as the first scene in the frightful tragedy; and, it is said, that having succeeded in that, it was their farther plan to seize the Tower, where having armed themselves, they meant to return and take possession of the Bank. From thence they were to proceed to Buckingham House, and seize the rest of the Royal Family resident there. These latter circumstances were mentioned by the soldier, who gave the information at Union Hall. This business is likely to engross the whole attention of government for some days, and will be prosecuted with all the zeal and energy which a case of such great magnitude ought to excite. It is expected that a special commission will immediately issue for the trial of the offenders. It is almost unnecessary to add, that he is the col. Despard who was so long confined in Coldbath-Fields prison.

At the examination on Tuesday, at Union Hall, there was strong evidences that they engaged in treasonable practices. Among other proofs, a printed form of an oath was found in the room where they were sitting. It is said to be something in the nature of the United Irishmens' oath, and that they were in the act of administering it to each other. In performing this ceremony they were sworn only one at a time, privately, in order that there might be no witness; from which, and other circumstances of precaution, the principals appear to be well versed in the business, although the majority are poor ignorant people, of the lowest condition.

November 25.

The *Courier de Londres* of Tuesday night, under the head Paris, Nov. 18, states, that the Consul, conceiving himself secure on the part of the continental powers, is directing the whole of his attention towards Great Britain. He does not presume to openly attack the United Empire, nor even so to displease it as to provoke it to hostilities; but he aims his most deadly blows at the colonial commerce of the British people; it is in the ascendancy which he assumes over the Spanish and Dutch colonies, as well as over North America, that his ambition and his revenge seek, if not the ruin, at least the counterpoise of a power whose success teazes, and whose native honest pride makes him uneasy and unhappy. His best troops, those most inured to war, are either already in his colonies, or are on the eve of sailing thither, for the purpose of forming immense military establishments. He regrets very much the sacrifices he has been compelled to make for the conquest of St. Domingo.

If the English (says the same paper) be aware of what is actually going forward, and of what is machinating, their *inaction* is highly astonishing. It is pretty well known, that in order to induce the French soldiers to go on board ships, the conquest of the British colonies has been held out to them, as also the contributions which are intended to be levied on the United States as a remuneration for their labours and their services. Such promises, considered in every point of view, wear a truly hostile aspect. The French government have already emphatically solicited the court of Madrid to allow French ships to enter Vera Cruz. It is even said that the Consul has turned his ambitious eye towards Florida, and that a considerable establishment in Italy has been offered to Spain, if she consent to surrender it. General Brune, who is a more expert negociator than he is a general, is commissioned to *influence* the Ottoman Porte in favour of Bonaparte. An offer of all the blacks which Leclerc and Richepanse have sent over to France, has been made by the Consul to the Dey of Algiers.

A private letter from Barcelona speaks in terms of admiration of their Catholic Majesties entry into that city. This journey excited the attention of the kingdom, and attracted a vast concourse of people from every part. The king's suite comprised about 4000 persons, and was preceded by 500 light waggons, drawn by mules, carrying their clothes, &c. The triumphal car, in which the Royal Pair entered the town, was covered with sheets of gold, sustaining at top a crown of diamonds of immense value. The car was drawn by knights richly dressed, and followed by the guards richly attired. The procession lasted upwards of two hours, and the enthusiasm of the people on the occasion was excessive. On the day following, their Majesties went to hear mass, when the crowd was so great, that several persons were crushed to death. Eight thousand persons dine daily at the king's tables, and the expences are discharged in specie, a frigate having been sent round with several millions of piastres for the purpose.

Paris papers, to the date of Nov. 20, inclusive, have been received. The principal article they furnish is, a proclamation by the Gallo-Helvetic Senate, and a curious *morceau* it is. It serves to explain the policy of the first consul as effectually as if it had been intended for the purpose. "The citizens of Helvetia are to be required to furnish, by extraordinary contribution, *supplies for the maintenance of those troops whom their errors have made to enter their territories.*" Thus France contrives to maintain large armies at the expence of her neighbours, in Holland, Italy and Switzerland, ready at her call to scourge the rest of Europe, whenever the policy of her government may find it for her interest.

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George-Town, Jan. 19, 1803. tf.

National Intelligencer.

Congress of the United States.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday, January 18, 1803.

View of the grounds on which the new section to the bill for the relief of insolvent debtors within the district of Columbia, offered by Mr. Bayard—providing that no discharge of an insolvent debtor should have a greater effect in any particular state to discharge the debtor, then under the insolvent law of another state—was adopted.

This section was supported by Messrs. Bayard, Hemphill, Randolph, Hastings, and Bacon; who observed that Congress possessed two descriptions of power; the one applicable to and absolute over the ten miles square; the other universal in its operation, but limited by the federative powers conferred by the constitution. In exercising the first power, Congress stood precisely in respect to the district of Columbia, in the relation of a state legislature to a section of a state. They could not pass any law operating upon the district, in virtue of the first description of power, that could, in its effects, apply to other portions of the United States, without mingling with it power derived from the federative character of the government. The bill as it stood without this section was calculated to give a general discharge to debtors by freeing them from future arrest in any of the states. The constitutionality of such a provision was denied, and it was questioned whether the state courts would consider themselves bound by it. All that could be rationally asked in this district was that the situation of the debtor should be the same as though he were the citizen of a state; and this would be the effect of adopting the section. Should the section not be adopted, this district would become the asylum of fraudulent debtors, who would flock hither to obtain a release from their debts, so far as the liberation of their persons throughout the United States could affect it.

Mr. Nicholson, on the other hand, opposed the section. He thought that the passage of a law that should be uniform in its operation in all the states, would be preferable to an act partial and of various effect in different states. Should the section be adopted, the debtor, after giving up his all, would only have to go into a state where his person might be again seized by a vindictive creditor. He did not think this right. There was a peculiar hardship in confining a man to a narrow district of ten miles square, where, instead of changing his situation, improving his circumstances, and comfortably supporting his family, he might be obliged to pine and die at last. Under such circumstances an insolvent law would be almost useless.

Wednesday, Jan. 19, 1803.

Three engrossed bills: for the relief of the sufferers by fire in the town of Portsmouth; for the relief of Henry Messonier; and for the relief of Insolvent Debtors within the district of Columbia; were read a third time, and passed.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing an annual report of the application of 20,000 dollars, appropriated as a contingent fund for the executive, stating that but one expenditure had been made from the fund, viz. 1,440 dollars, for bringing home American seamen, and that the remaining sum of 18,560 remained unexpended.

Mr. John C. Smith from the committee of Claims reported on the petition of Francis Mentges,

The report rejects the prayer of the petitioner.

Consideration postponed until Monday next.

Mr. *Rutledge* reported a bill for the importation of arms, ordnance, &c. which was read once; and on its going to a second reading, the House divided—Ayes 43—Noes 26.

It was then referred to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

Mr. *Hill* called up his resolution respecting state balances.

On the question whether the House would then take the resolution into consideration, the House divided—Ayes 34—Noes 20.

Mr. *Mitchill* reported a bill for the encouragement of learning and the promotion of the useful arts,

Mr. Mitchill, on offering the report, stated that the bill comprised the respective provisions of four existing acts on the same subject, with some new amendments.

Mr. *S. Smith* observed that he had some days since given notice that he would this day call up the report of the committee of Commerce and Manufactures on countervailing duties; but that at the desire of some gentlemen who wished to hear from home before they entered upon a discussion of the subject, he would wave his call till Monday.

Mr. *Mitchill* called for the order of the day on the report of the committee on so much of the President's message as relates to NAVY YARDS & DOCKS.

The House accordingly went into a committee of the whole—Mr. *John C. Smith* in the chair.

The report was read; the first resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That for securing from waste and loss the timber and other public property on the different navy yards, and towards improving the same for the greater dispatch of business, the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the President of the United States, shall cause the requisite buildings and sheds to be erected, and other needful repairs and improvements to be made; and that for accomplishing the same dollars are hereby appropriated, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mr. *Mitchill* rose, stated concisely the grounds on which the committee had recommended the adoption of this resolution, and moved that the blank be filled with 50,000 dollars; which was agreed to without a division; when the question was taken on the resolution, which was also agreed to without a division.

The second resolution was then read, as follows:

Resolved, That for preventing rottenness and decay in the ships of the navy, the President of the United States be, and hereby is authorised, to cause a dry dock, with convenient canals, locks, machinery, and water courses, to be constructed, at or near the public navy yard in the city of Washington; which dock shall be capable of containing twelve frigates, or ships of war, and of preserving them dry and safely sheltered from sunshine and rain; and that for carrying the same into effect dollars be, and the same hereby are appropriated, to be paid out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mr. Mitchill moved that the committee should rise.

Mr. Rutledge enquired the reasons on which the gentleman founded his motion.

Mr. Mitchill said the resolution contemplated an appropriation of half a million of dollars. He had supposed the committee might not be prepared at that time to come to a decision. But as it appeared to be the wish of gentlemen to proceed in the consideration of the subject, he would withdraw his motion, and assign the reasons on which the report had been made.

Mr. Mitchill then spoke at some length.

He was followed by Mr. *Smilie*, who renewed the motion for the rising of the committee, on the ground that they were not sufficiently informed to come to a decision.

Mr. *Rutledge* opposed the rising of the committee, and observed, that though they might not be prepared at that time to take a question on the resolution, yet the best way of being prepared was to let the debate progress.

Mr. *Eustis* then made a speech of considerable length against the resolution.

Mr. *S. Smith* followed, and declared himself in favor of it to a certain extent, but concluded with an expression of the opinion, that from the peculiar state of the country, it would be advisable to postpone the consideration of the subject to the next session.

The question was then taken on the rising of the committee and carried.

The committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again, which was granted.

(Debate hereafter.)

WASHINGTON CITY

FRIDAY, January 21, 1803.

Extract of a letter of the 10th instant, from Lexington, Virg.

"I have now to mention a most unfortunate circumstance; Washington Academy took fire after 10 o'clock last night, and is destroyed—Nothing remains but the bare walls. This must have happened, it is apprehended, from the fire taking from the top of the chimney, or otherwise communicated through some small opening in the chimney to the roof. The library was chiefly saved; there is a considerable loss sustained in the philosophical apparatus; the stewards were all in bed, and mostly asleep. The fire was discovered by one of them, who gave the alarm in time for all of them to get out safe, with the most of their property. The academy was fortunately insured but six or eight weeks before the burning. The trustees have it in prospect to procure houses in Lexington to answer the purpose; till the academy can be repaired, the improvement of the students will not be obstructed.

Accounts received by the Bacchus, state, that a duel was fought at Leghorn, on the 16th of October last between capt. McKnight and lieut. Lawson, of the United States ship Chesapeake, which proved fatal to the former the first fire.

Extract of a letter from one of the officers of the Constellation, dated United States frigate Constellation, off Leghorn, Oct. 19th, 1802.

"A melancholy affair happened last night. As the boat of the Schooner Enterprize was returning to her from the Chesapeake, she upset, with 8 men in her—it was blowing very hard indeed. About 8 o'clock we heard a man overboard—picked him up with our boat, and he gave us the account. Lieutenant Stewart and myself immediately went off, and in the course of two hours picked up three more—the other four and the boat have not been heard of. A Mr. Ennis, midshipman, was one of the drowned."

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The Medical Repository, and Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the auxiliary branches of Philosophy, in five vols. conducted by Doctors Mitchill and Miller, of New-York. This work is continued to be published in quarter yearly numbers, four of which make a volume, and are regularly received immediately after they are published.

At the same place may be had,

The American Review and Literary Journal, publishing at New York.

January 21, 1803 epaw

On Saturday next will be published,

At the Book-Store, Pennsylvania Avenue,

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An Examination of the Question, Who is the writer of two forged Letters, addressed to the President of the United States—attributed to John Rutledge, Esq. Member of Congress from South-Carolina.

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January 21. sp

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ALSO TO LET,

The Dwelling part of the new Brick House, adjoining said store. These two will be let together, or separate, as may be most convenient. For terms apply to EDGAR PATTERSON, at the above store.

George-town, Jan. 21. eptf

Public Sale,

By virtue of a deed of trust from OWEN ROBERTS to the subscriber, on the third Monday in February next, if fair, if not, the next fair day, will be exposed to sale, for ready money, on the premises,

One Moiety of that Lot of GROUND in the city of Washington, described in the plan of the city by the number eighteen, in the square number one hundred and sixty eight, fronting fifty-nine feet upon the Pennsylvania avenue, and extending back one hundred and seven feet seven inches—Upon the premises is erected a two story brick Dwelling, and the lot is under a mortgage to secure the payment of fifteen hundred dollars, subject to which it will be sold—Also, one moiety of that Lot of Ground in the said city, described in the plan by number ten, in square number two hundred and fifty-six, fronting forty-eight feet five inches upon the open area on the Pennsylvania avenue, and on which there is an unfinished Frame Dwelling-House.

JAMES KEITH.

Alexandria, Jan. 17, 1803. eptf