d of the department. The letter of a contractor, suggesting an improvement and soliciting an extra allowance, not unfrequently has served the double office of an authority for the grant, and of a record of its existence. Some dark corner of a contract, or loose scrap of paper, is commonly the only official evidence of the order for large disbursements of money, under the name of extra allowances. It is a puzzling problem to decide, whether this discretionary power, throughout its whole existence, has done most mischief in the character of impostor upon the Department, or seducer to contractors. It has, doubtless, been an evil doer, in both guises.

"The committee have not deemed it within the scope of their authority to prepare a bill. This duty comes within the province of a standing committee of the house.

"The committee, in surveying the wide field of their labors, regret only that their reward had not been discoveries of a more pleasing character. They had hoped that their researches would have brought to light the fruits of an enlightened and well directed labor, instead of proofs of error and neglect. But they have finished the task assigned them with an honest purpose, and to the best of their ability. It remains for Congress to give a more perfect organization to this department, and, for those who administer it, to bring to its renovation the most efficient and persevering application of practical talent and business-like habit, with a general and vigilant personal superintendence."

FOREIGN.

IMPORTANT FROM EUROPE.

The packet ship Orpheus, arrived at New York, on the 18th instant, from Liverpool, whence she sailed on the 18th of January. By this arrival the Editors of the Commercial Advertiser received their usual supply of foreign Journals, including London of January 16th, (evening) and Liverpool of the latest.

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES.

The news by the Havre, which arrived on Sunday night, produced an impression that the Message of the President of the United States had been received in the French capital with far greater indifference than had been anticipated. The calm, however, was of but short duration, and has been followed by a measure, which, in ordinary cases, is the first preliminary to actual hostilities—*the recall of the French Minister from the United States, and the tender of his passports to the American envoy resident near the Government of France!*—Coming to us circuitously through the English papers, our accounts are less perfect in their connexion, than we could desire, since we are without the means of tracing the action of the French government step by step to the breaking up of the diplomatic relations between the two Governments. It appears to have been known in the capital on Tuesday the 13th of January, that the King had determined to assume the hostile attitude, and the fact was announced by the *National* of that evening as follows:—

"It is this evening affirmed that the Moniteur of to-morrow morning is to announce that Mr. *Livingston*, the American Minister has received his passports, and that M. *Surrurier*, Minister of France in the United States, has been recalled. War, is, therefore, declared. But at the same time that the Royalty of the 7th of August gives such satisfaction to its outraged dignity, it orders his ministers to present, after to-morrow, to the Chamber of Deputies, the treaty with the United States and in the course of eight days peace will be made."

Accordingly on the morning of the 14th (Wednesday,) the Moniteur published in its official part, the following important article:—

"The King has recalled M. Serrurier, his Minister, at Washington. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has notified this resolution to the Minister of the United States at Paris, informing him at the same time that the passports which he may be in need of, in consequence of that communication are at his disposal.

"In execution of the engagements entered into by France the project of the Law relative to the American claims will be presented to-morrow to the Chamber of Deputies.

A clause will be added to it intended to protect (garantir) eventually such French interests as might be endangered."

The same article was simultaneously published in the Journal des Debats, and the rumor of the preceding day had found its way into all other papers of Wednesday morning. It is truly one of the most inexplicable documents—inexplicable we mean, as to the motives of the government in the premises—that we ever saw. In one breath the government proclaims a measure, nearly equivalent to a declaration of war, while in the next it declares its intention, on the succeeding day, to send down a proposition to the Chamber of Deputies, which, if carried through in good faith, will remove every difficulty, and every pretext for anger and dissatisfaction, upon either side. Possibly, however, neither the King nor his Ministers have any idea of the indemnity being granted by the Chambers, especially under the existing irritation: but being, nevertheless, fully determined to redeem all his own promises and pledges to the letter, the King again avows the purpose of requesting a vote of the indemnity of the chambers while at the same time he resents what he considers a deliberate insult from the American Executive. The French correspondence of the London papers, on the whole, favors the opinion that the indemnity will be paid, while the tone of the French press, would lead to opposite conclusion. It appears from an article from the (Old) Sun, that the Indemnity Bill was not presented to the Chambers on the 15th, as promised, and the Temps says, it cannot persuade itself that the Bill will be presented to the Deputies "Il n'y aurait pas," it observes, "d'explications possibles de la part du Ministere pour l'inconvenance d'une telle demarche." [No possible explanations can be made by the Ministers to warrant such a proceeding.]

LATE FROM FRANCE.

The packet ship Havre, capt. Stoddard, at N. York, sailed from Havre on the 13th January.

The President's Message was received at Havre on the 6th of January, and of course at once transmitted to Paris. Of the effect produced by this document in France, the public will best be able to judge from the translations we give below from the French papers which have reached us, and these are all the most important. In the case of two or three, we have been compelled to use the meagre sketches given in Galignani's Messenger, the originals not having been received by us. Sufficient time had not elapsed for any open action of the Government consequent on the language of the Message; we are therefore, as our only resort compelled to have recourse to the opinions and feelings expressed by the public press, and of these we furnish to-day an ample supply.

Capt. Stoddard, of the Havre, reports that the President's message was landed at Havre on the 6th; that it created much sensation on 'change at Havre. It was reported at Havre that notes had been exchanged between Mr. Livingston and Admiral De Rigny, the purport of which was understood to be, that the bill would have been brought forward in the Chambers on the 12th, with every prospect of success, but that in consequence of the excitement occasioned by the threat in the President's Message, the subject would not be brought forward during that excitement; and further, that if our Congress gave their sanction to the measure proposed by the President, the French Government would consider it a declaration of war, and make immediate reprisals.

Capt S. states that he thinks the general opinion was against paying the claim until they could hear further from this country, in order to ascertain how Congress would treat the subject. Those who had been in favor of an immediate payment were now against it, as they were unwilling to be driven into it.

It was the opinion of the prominent American merchants at Havre, that the claim would have been settled but for the threat in the President's Message.

The Havre Journal of Jan. 12, has a long article, of which the following is the substance:

"We have this moment received accounts from Paris of the effect which the President's message had in that capital. It produced but little sensation. The reasons that General Jackson gives for his menaces of hostility, appear too weak to excite much anxiety in France; and a war with the United States seemed to come from too great a distance to cause real alarm to a country so little maritime as ours. The general indifference with which the message has been received by the country, has not been participated in by our Ministry, who, it appears by the disclosures from Washington, are placed in an awkward predicament. They have promised payment; and it is asked whether the Chambers will consider the Message as an attack upon its dignity, or whether through timidity they will pass the indemnity bill. In the latter case, it will be said that our ministry, and the cabinet at Washington, will have leagued to destroy the independence of the Chambers. If, therefore, the majority of the Chambers submit to the earnest entreaties of the Ministry, and have the weakness to pass the bill of indemnity, which it has once rejected without a threat, it will be the Ministry, more than the subservient Chamber, that public opinion will accuse. The public will then be indignant at a Ministry, who, forgetful of all nationality, have plotted with the American Government to destroy the independence of the French Chambers, &c.

From the Paris Journal (moderate) Le Temps.

A proclamation of unexpected violence has reached us from across the Atlantic. It is the chief of a pretended liberal republic, who addresses it to France, liberal and just.

It is to be regretted that General Jackson has prejudged in a tone prematurely hostile, the conclusion of a question which he knows must be submitted by us to a new legislature

Setting aside the right of the U. States, and the delays of which they pretend to have a right to complain, there is, in this affair of the twenty-five millions to which they lay claim, a question of constitutional law, which ought to have been better understood and appreciated by the chief of a state, governed by the most rigorous constitutional principles.

Notwithstanding some declamatory precautions against the language being construed into an intention to intimidate France, it is too clear that in this affair, General Jackson has shown himself, similar to what he has been in his difficulties with the Bank—that is to say—an arrogant logician and a self-willed patriot.

France need not be uneasy about these bravadoes, which certain private interests have no doubt dictated, particularly as those interests are not circumscribed by the limits of the Union, and that it would not be difficult to designate that corner of Paris, from which may have proceeded, the advice followed by the writers of the message.

We prejudge in no way the manner in which this delicate question will be considered by the French Chambers. We are persuaded that where the honor and dignity of the whole country is concerned, neither its representatives, nor the government itself, will ever require any impulse to stimulate it to action. It is only to be regretted an ew, that the whole ministry did not accept the proposal of M. de Broglie, and make room for a new cabinet better calculated to bring the question of the United States, and many others, to a solution.

From the Journal des Debats of 9th Jan. (ministerial.)

We published yesterday the message with which the President of the United States has opened the session of the American Congress. We have received to-day various journals from Washington and New York, of which we place extracts before our readers to enable them to follow closely the violent and bitter controversy which has arisen on a question whose importance prevails over all others treated in this document.

At the moment when public attention was on the point of being naturally called back to the American treaty, at the moment when it became the imperious duty of every one to examine coolly and without bias, a question of general interest, we cannot but deplore the unexpected appearance of a document, which wounds the most noble and holy susceptibilities of a great people.

We are far from taking as the expression of public opinion, the threatning tone which runs throughout every part of the message that concerns the relations of the U. States with France. Of the three powers in the State, only one has spoken; it is that whose previous life, whose recollections, whose habits of military command, and perhaps embarrassments of domestic policy, would most likely carry beyond the limits of wisdom & reason. In the silence of the two others, we are even authorised, thus far, not to consider serious those menaces which cannot in any event be realised without the sanction of the constitutional powers. But we have notwithstanding felt with equal force a language to which it would be too easy to reply, if we wished to return recollection for recollection, or menace for menace! France has rarely known her fidelity to engagements (loyante) called in question, and it is not the only character she incontestibly possesses.

This susceptibility, wounded in us as it is in every one who bears a French heart—this susceptibility, which we may, perhaps, be permitted to express more warmly than others,—we who were so sincerely engaged in the defence of the treaty—we do not doubt that the government experiences it to a great extent, we even fear we ought rather to moderate this sentiment, than to excite it.

But likewise we cannot forget that, as guardians of all rights and of all interests, it is particularly the duty of the Government to examine, without passion, the most irritating questions.

Such as it now is, that of the American treaty calls for the gravest reflection. Without doubt, the intrinsic merit of the negotiation has lost nothing in our eyes by the blamable procedure of the American Government. The treaty is at this day not less just nor less politic than it was yesterday.

But there is a question of dignity which now adds to the complication of the political question. We do not know what course the Government will think proper to follow in this affair. But of this we are certain that they will consider it in the double point of view it now presents, and that their efforts will be directed to reconcile national honor with the faith of treaties.

From le Journal du Commerce, (Anti Ministerial.)

There has been much talk to day of the hostile disposition announced by President Jackson in his message to the American Congress, in reprisal of the vote of the Chamber of Deputies which rejected the appropriation for the twenty five millions claimed by the United States. It seems that people on 'Change have been prematurely alarmed at menaces made hypothetically and accompanied besides by considerations, which shew that in the mind of the honourable President, resentment does not exclude prudence and reflection.

It is well known in the United States, that no treaty implying a vote of subsidies is obligatory u on the country until it has obtained the assent of the Chambers, and all governments who treat with ours ought to govern themselves accordingly. The fact is, that the intention of the Chamber was not preremptorily to deny all right of claim, to the U. States but to appel to a new negotiation, in which with a view to the interests of France, certain facts might come under consideration which the negotiators of the treaty appear to have forgotten. This was a means of conciliation which the President ought not at the first blush to have declared out of the question, at the risk of incurring the blame of the civilized world, to which he appeals.

American philanthropy has often spoken of abolishing privateering; of giving to commerce a perpetual passport applicable even to times of war, and here it is proposed in full peace to resort to acts of violence and spoliation, of which legitimacy would hardly be suspected even in time of open war, for Mr. Jackson declares with the greatest sang froid, that this perfectly just measure (*mesure toute d'equite*) would be a just cause of War on the part of France, that is to say, our ships of war ought apparently to allow our merchant ships to be swallowed up by American privateers without placing the least impediment in their way, on pain of exposing themselves to the *just vengeance of Heaven.*—We believe for our part, that if French property is seized in America, American property ought to be treated in the same way in France; and that if the American Cruizers are met by our Cruizers, committing depredations on our commerce, the corsairs ought to be treated *as pirates*, according to the strict letter of the law of nations; seeing, that to exercise the right of fitting out for privateering, it is previously necessary to declare war, and the United States have not come to that yet.

The adoption by the Chamber of the project of the law rejected at the last session was already very difficult, we do not hesitate to say that it has now become impossible.

The Constitutionnel (Anti Ministerial) says, that all are unanimous in feeling that the dignity of France has been wounded by the President's message; but he will be deceived if he supposes that his menace will induce the legislative bodies to give a sanction which they have once refused. Whatever may be the timorous habits of the Chambers, they will not, in the face of the country, appear to yield to fear. The United States have ruined their cause even if their claims had been legitimate. The conduct of the French ministry in this unfortunate dispute, has not a little contributed to render the solution difficult, after having, with inconceivable stupidity, recognized a debt which the restoration had constantly disavowed. It pledged itself, with still greater stupidity, to bring the question again before the Chambers immediately after the convocation, to ask again for that sanction which had been formerly refused. This promise has not been kept, and General Jackson justly complains.

LEGISLATURE.

House of Delegates.

FRIDAY, February 13.

The bill reported by Mr. Jones of Somerset, chairman of the committee on grievances and courts of justice, entitled, an act to extend to executors and administrators, the privilege of appeal from judgements rendered by justices of the peace, against their testators or intestates, was taken up for consideration, read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The bill from the senate, entitled, an act for the relief of Mathias Dashiell, late sheriff and collector of Somerset county;

And, the bill, entitled, an act relating to the trial of ejectment causes, in this State, were read the second time, passed, and returned to the senate.

SATURDAY, February 14th.

Mr. Moores reported a bill, entitled, an act to repeal certain parts of the act relating to the people of colour of this State; and

Mr. Jones of Baltimore reported a bill, entitled, an act to incorporate the President and Managers of the Thompsonian National Infirmary.

The bill, entitled, an act to incorporate the Merchant's Bank of Baltimore, was passed, yeas 47, nays 24.

MONDAY, February 16.

Mr. Carter reported a bill entitled, an act to a amend the assessment laws of Caroline county, read the first and second time by special order, and passed.

Mr. Ringely reported a bill, entitled a supplement to an act, entitled an additional supplement to an act, entitled, an act to reduce into one the several acts of assembly, respecting elections, and to regulate said elections, passed at December session, 1832, chapter 275.

The bill reported by Mr. Merrick, entitled an act to provide for the appointment of district and ward justices of the peace, was taken up for consideration, and ordered to lie on the table.

The bill reported by Mr. Teeckle, entitled; an act to form an association, entitled Guillet Cravitation Company, was taken up for consideration, and the amendments reported thereto by the committee on corporations.

The said bill was read the second time as amended and rejected.

TUESDAY, February 17.

The bill, entitled, an act to amend the assessment laws of Caroline county,

And, the resolutions in relation to the States Special Deposites now in the Union Bank of Maryland, and directing the treasurer to sell and dispose of the debt due to the State by the Bank of Maryland, &c.

Were sent to the senate.

Mr. Nicols presented a memorial of the commissioners of the town of Cambridge in Dorchester county, praying an alteration of the time of meeting of said commissioners, and for other purposes.

Mr. Nicols, reported a bill, entitled a further additional supplement to an act, entitled, an act for the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Cambridge in Dorchester county, and to establish and regulate a market in said town.

Mr. Scott, reported a bill entitled. an act to increase the present allowance of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates.

Mr. Jones of Somerset, chairman of the committee on grievances and courts of Justice, asked that the committee be discharged from the consideration of the petition of sundry citizens of Somerset and Worcester counties, residing in the town of Salisbury, in said counties, setting forth the injury of the morals of the community, resulting from indiscriminately issuing license to vend ardent spirits, and praying that an act of assembly, passed at December session 1833, chapter 543, may be extended to the said town of Salisbury. Resolved in the affirmative.

On motion of Mr. Jones of Somerset said petition was then referred to a select committee, consisting of Messrs. Jones of Somerset, Cottman, Teackle, Hearn and Bevans.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill entitled, an act to confirm the name of James Bromwell, and of Mary Ann his wife, and of their several children hereinafter named of Dorchester county, severally endorsed, "will pass," ordered to be engrossed.

Also the resolution in favor of James Layton, and Daniell Murphy.

Also the resolution authorising and requiring the treasurer of the western shore, to pay to the commissioners of Talbot county, a certain sum of money for the repairs of the Court House in said county, severally endorsed, assented to and ordered to be engrossed.

And, delivered a bill originated in and passed by the senate, entitled, an act in relation to the clerk of the court of Appeals for the western shore of Maryland.

Mr. Jones of Somerset, reported a bill entitled an act, to regulate, the sale of ardent spirits, within the vil lage of Salisbury, in Somerset and Worcester counties.

The bill, entitled, a further supplement to the act, entitled, an act relating to the importation of passengers,

Was taken up for consideration, read the second time, passed, and returned to the Senate.

On motion of Mr. Merrick, the house took up for consideration the bill from the Senate, entitled, an Act to authorise the appointment of a Commissioner of Loans and the amendments thereto adopted by the house,

The said bill was then read the second time, and passed with the proposed amendments.

Yeas 34, nays 30.

WEDNESDAY, February 18th, 1835.

The bill, entitled an act to incorporate the Merchant's Bank of Ballimore, was sent to the Senate.

The bill from the Senate, entitled, an act to authorise the appointment of a commissioner of loans was returned to the senate.

Mr. Dulany, chairman of the committee on insolvency, to which was referred the bill from the senate, entitled, a further supplement to the act, entitled, an act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, passed at November session 1805, reported the same without amendment.

The bill reported by Mr. Williams, entitled, an act to divide Worcester county into school districts, to regulate the distribution of the free school funds of said county, and for the promotion of education therein, was taken up for consideration, read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill entitled, an act to extend to executors and administrators the privilege of appeal from judgements rendered by justices of the peace against their testators or intestates, severally endorsed, "will pass," ordered to be engrossed;

Also, the bill, entitled, an act to amend the assessment laws for Caroline county, endorsed, "will pass with the proposed amendments," which amendments were severally ordered to be engrossed.

The bill entitled, a further additional supplement to the act, entitled, an act tor the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Cambridge, in Dorchester county, and to establish a market in said town, was read the second time, and passed.

THURSDAY, Feb. 19.

The bill, entitled, a further additional supplement to an act, entitled, an act for the appointment of commissioners for the regulation and improvement of Cambridge, in Dorchester county, and to establish and regulate a market in said town;

Was sent to the senate.

On motion of Mr. Annan,

Ordered, That the committee on grievances and courts of justice inquire into the expediency of repealing so much of the laws of Maryland, passed 1715, ch. 81, section 11, as authorises persons aggrieved, by trespassing horses, &c. to kill or destroy the same.

Mr. Cottman, obtained leave to bring in a bill, to be entitled, an additional supplement to an act, entitled, an act relating to the public roads in Somerset county.

Mr. Merrick, chairman of the committee on ways and means, reported a bill, entitled, an act to provide for the augmentation of the Sinking fund and the gradual payment of the public debt.

On motion of Mr. Hughes, the house took up for consideration the bill reported by him, entitled, a further additional supplement to an act, relating to the people of color in this state, passed at December session 1831, chapter 281.

The said bill was then read the second time, passed, and sent to the senate,

FRIDAY, Feb. 20.

Mr. Carter presented a petition of James M. Stanton, of Caroline county, representative of Beauchamp Stanton, one of the securities of Frederick Holbrook, former sheriff of said county, praying a law may pass authorising him to settle up certain estates therein mentioned.

Mr. Jones, of Somerset, chairman of the committee on grievances and courts of justice, made an unfavorable report upon the bill from the Senate, entitled, a supplement to the act, entitled, an act for the establishment of Vestries for each Parish in this State.

The bill reported by Mr. Merrick, entitled an act to amend the law in relation to last wills and testaments, was taken up for consideration, and after being variously amended, was rejected—yeas 36, nays 32.

Mr. Iglehart obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, a supplement to the act, entitled, an act for regulating and inspecting weights and measures used in this State.

The clerk of the senate returned the bill, entitled, an act for the relief of Mary Stanton;

Also, the bill, entitled, an act to regulate the sale of Ardent Spirits, within the village of Salisbury, in Somerset and Worcester counties, severally endorsed 'will pass; ordered to be engrossed.

The bill, entitled, an act to change a part of the divisional line between the fourth and fifth election districts in Worcester county;

And delivered a bill originated in and passed by the Senate, entitled, a supplement to an act, entitled, an act to prevent the unlawful exportation of negroes and mulattoes, and to alter and amend the laws concerning runaways, passed at December session, 1817, chapter 112;

Mississippi—A special session of the Legislature of Mississippi was convened on the 19th ultimo, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of electing a Senator to Congress in the place of Mr. POINDEXTER, whose term of service will expire on the 3d of March next. The House of Representatives passed a resolution to go into the election on the 24th, but the Senate refused to concur, and postponed the resolution indefinitely. The election, therefore, stands over until the next regular session of the Legislature in January next.

NAVAL.—Our Navy Yard at Charlestown presents at this moment rather a busy scene; a number of the *largest* size guns, and a great quantity of ammunition were received at the yard while we were there a few days since, and we understand that *more* is on the way, and that orders have been received "to have the Constitution and Boston fitted for sea *as quick as possible.*" The former is nearly ready, and the latter is on the Dry Dock. She has been newly coppered and is ready to come out. The Independence has been laid up some time, but as soon as the Boston is out, she is to go in. The "receiving ship" of the line, Columbus, is also to be got ready.

The *new* Dry Dock is to be begun upon early in the spring, and a new ship house is also to be erected. All hands in the yard appear lively, and from the remarks of a number, we should think a war with *any* country would, to them be a very agreeable amusement.—*Boston Adv.*

FRANCE.

The Editor of the New York Star in discussing the Expediency of a war with France, thus remarks.

"When wrong after wrong was done to us by Great Britain—when our seamen were impressed, our ships of war fired into, our flag insulted, did we forthwith appeal to arms? Certainly not—we tried negotiations, amicable remonstrances—embargo and non intercourse, and having exhausted every pacific effort, we declared war, and the nation sustained the government. Shall we refuse to France—to France, *who fought our battle for Independence*, what we yielded to Great Britain?

The just the natural, the dignified and honorable system, of retaliation which the United States should adopt for a want of faith on the part of Franse, is NON-INTERCOURSE.

Nothing more.—If France violates her faith towards us, we will hold no intercourse with her—but the sword once unsheathed, it is impossible to say when and under what circumstances it may be returned to the scabbard. We have entertained these opinions and continue to exprees them. We know what is going on at Washington, and warn the nation against proceeding on this business with rashness or to allow the old enemies of France to take advantage of pecuniary difficulty, and blow a spark into an unextinguishable flame.

Remarkable Sagacity of the Dog.—The most extraordinary instance of the sagacity of this faithful animal, that we recollect to have heard, occurred the other day in this city. While the carriage of Mr. Powell was standing in Spruce street, near Fifth, Philadelphia, the horses became alarmed and set off at full speed. The dog immediately ran after them and by seizing the reins in his mouth actually succeeded in stopping them until the driver came to his assistance.

Mortality among Officers.—There has been a great mortality among the Generals and Admirals in the British service. From recent returns it appears that in the course of the last four years, no fewer than 63 Admirals and 78 Generals have paid the debt f nature.