council of prizes, and the reasoning founded upon it cannot but appear very extraordinary, and will justify me in requesting that his majesty may be moved to set aside the decision in question. I beg, &c. &c.

His Excellency
The Minister of Foreign Relation.
Paris, August 9th, 1807.

Sir—Your Excellency is not unapprized that soon after the promulgation of the Imperial Decree of the 21st of November last, one of similar character, and injunction was issued by the France of Peace, in behalf of H. C. M. Under this order sundry vessels belonging to the citizens of the United States have been captured on the high seas, brought into the ports of Spain, and are now before the court of admiralty for the examination. To this brief statement I subjoin an extract from a letter of the 27th ult. from the Charge des Affairs of the United States at Madrid, which will shew your Excellency that the fate of these vessels will depend not on the construction which might be given to the Spanish decree by the Spanish tribunals; but on the practice which shall have been established by France, under her decree of November last, and that Prince Masserano had accordingly been directed to ask from your Excellency such exposition of that decree, and of the practice under it, as shall regulate, on this head, the conduct of Spanish courts and cruizers towards neutral commerce in general. Assured as I feel myself, that this exposition whenever given, will not be less friendly and liberal than that already found in the decisions of his Imperial majesty's council of prizes and correspondence of his minister of marine, viz. that the provisions of the decree in question do not infract any of the rights of commerce stipulated by treaty between France and the United States, it is incumbent on me to pray your Excellency that it (the exposition required) be given as expeditiously as possible, to the end that the legitimate commerce of the U. States be relieved from all further annoyance, growing out of the doubtful meaning and operation of the Spanish decree aforesaid.

Your excellency will permit me to avail myself of this occasion, to recall to your attention the subject of my letter of the 26th of June last. I learn from Antwerp that the cargoes mentioned in that letter are yet under sequestration, and that considerable loss, as well by diminution of price in the articles, as by accumulation of interest and charges, has been already incurred.

Your excellency will do me the honor to accept the assurances of my profound respect.

(Signed) JOHN ARMSTRONG.

His excellency
The Prince of Benevento.

Letter from the minister of Foreign Relations, of the 21st of Aug. 1807, referred to in the preceding page.

Sir—I have received the letter which you did me the honor af addressing me on the 9th of this month, relative to American vessels carried into ports of Spain, in consequence of the measures taken by that power against the English commerce in imitation of France.

As the execution of the maritime measures indicated by the Imperial Decree of the 21 of Nov. 1806, rests naturally with his Excellency the Minister of Marine & that moreover he has already had the honor of addressing you some first observations on the application of that decree, I transmitted without delay your letter, and asked from him the new explanations which you might desire—When they shall have been forwarded to me, I will have the honor of informing you of them.

Accept the assurance of my high consideration.

(Signed) CHAMPAGNY.

H. E. Gen. Armstrong.

[*Here follows the Milan Decree.*]

Judge Charlton, in the supreme court of enquiry, Georgia, has issued a writ of injunction to stay sales upon executions, until the first day of September next—the complainant depositing with the sheriff, when required, to meet the day of sale, sufficient property, the valuation of which to be ascertained by the price at market three months preceding the embargo act.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

During the freshet occasioned by the rains, a tributary stream, which falls into the Connecticut in the upper part of Norwich, (Vt.) rose so high, as to carry away a mill-dam at that place. It happened on the night of the 18th ult. The water immediately wore so fast upon the land below, which was of a light sandy nature, as to reach a house, 15 or 20 rods from the shore of the river channel. One of the family happened providentially to be awake at the time, and hearing the noise of the waters gave an alarm. They instantly left the house, and in less than 15 minutes beheld it turned bottom upwards, and floating down with the current.

[*New Hampshire paper.*

FOR THE STAR.
No. I.

THE time has arrived when a full view of the conduct of the administration in regard to England & France may be submitted to the American nation, without injustice to pending negociations. Much censure has certainly been cast on the executive, by those who ignorantly or with design attached to him views favorable to France and hostile to England; and not a few have maintained the charge direct, that war with Great Britain was the ultimate object of his pursuit. It will now be seen, that his conduct to both nations has been equally just and impartial; and that perhaps *too much forbearance* for multiplied aggressions is the only semblance of charge that could be attached to his conduct.—His official instructions to our ministers fully evidence this fact, and would require no comment; but they are volumnious, not easily collected, and may not be attentively perused by the community at large. It is therefore my object mostly to detail their leading features, and to intermix such remarks as candor and truth may suggest.

Ever since the conclusion of peace in 1783, differences have existed with the British government in regard to the impressment of American seamen—the treaty of Mr. Jay, concluded in 1794, was silent on the subject; and as our commerce since that period has daily become more widely extended, in the same proportion has our difficulties on this point been increased, and our wrongs augmented. The solicitude and anxiety of the nation on this subject are generally known; and no sooner did the termination of Mr. Jay's treaty in 1804, give to the President an opportunity for a *new* commercial arrangement, than he seized the earliest moment, to close, if possible, this source of national discontent. As early as January 1804, instructions were forwarded to our resident minister in England, on this interesting subject, and the *basis* of the convention to be concluded between the two countries, was furnished by the executive. This document is now before the public; and without reciting the detailed stipulations therein contained, it is sufficient to remark that it was particularly calculated to restore and maintain harmony with England during the conflict of the great maritime nations of Europe. Provision was then made for the security, and future safety, of those sailing under our flag—the contraband in war was specifically enumerated—the principles and method of search precisely defined, and pointed out; and the character of a blockaded port as nearly designated as the nature of things would admit.

Things were in this train for final adjustment, when the lawless attack on the frigate Chesapeake, by the Leopard ship of war, was officially announced. The indignity of the act, like an electric shock pervaded the union, and provided a concentration of feelings and actions honorable to the nation—the ordinary distinctions of party was buried in the higher sense of national indignity, with the demand of speedy reparation, for insulted sovereignty, was the voice of America. On the nature and character of that art, I shall no further comment, than barely to shew that the United States in a situation that justified an immediate resort to hostilities, so far pursued the system of pacification, as only to adopt *precautionary* measures against similar indignities; and yet not furnish to England any just pretext for war. Vattel, in his law of nations, fixes this principle—that a national ship of war on the high seas, is as sound from the hostile entrance, as national territory; and the result is the same in both cases:—That *forcible* entrance in *either*, constitutes a just, and reasonable cause for war.—Were any doubt entertained of the correctness of this opinion, Mr. Canning's official correspondence with our minister fixes the principle, for he expressly states "that an attack on a national ship of war is an *indubitable* act of hostility."

That in this state of affairs, the situation of the President was delicate and embarrassing, none can deny—the act of hostility as committed had scarcely a parallel in the history of civilized nations; nor could the ordinary plea of necessity be added to cover the outrage—it was against a nation in the time of perfect peace—it was within the waters of a friend; but more than all, it was against a national vessel of war that the attack was commited. Had the President been desirous to aid France, or to involve the United States in war with Great Britain, no occasion could possibly have offered more propitious to his views—the act recently done would have justified him—the involved situation of England was favorable; and the feelings of the nation were enlisted in his cause. But a rupture with Great Britain was not the desire of the president; on the momentous objects confided to his trust, he deliberated with calmness, and acted without precipitation; and although the pulse of the nation might seem to demand immediate measures of coercion, yet if peace could be preserved without the prostration of national honor; it was too sacred to be endangered by hasty decision, or intemperate action.

I am fully sensible, that the power of declaring war belongs not to the President, but is vested exclusively in Congress; yet so varied and important are his duties, that from their exercise on this momentous occasion, conclusive testimony of his wishes and disposition, may be collected. And in fact, this testimony is now exhibited to the American people; for his proclamation of interdict, and his instructions to Mr. Monroe, contain the great outlines of his subsequent conduct. In June the act of violence was done, and in July the proclamation was issued, interdicting the use of our waters to British armed ships.—This instrument recites part of the injuries committed on our commerce, by officers acting under the controul and direction of England;—cases are specified of the highest indignity on our national sovereignty, and examples are enumerated, of personal violence, and merciless cruelty to unoffending individuals. To this summary of grievances, the attack on the Chesapeake is superadded, uniting in the whole a combination of such acts as would have justified an immediate resort to force and hostility.

Thus situated, only two courses were left for the option of the president—either immediately to call Congress, and, if he thought proper, recommend hostilities against England; or send a special messenger to our minister there, and demand reparation for the violence committed. The latter course appeared to him the more eligible, a public ship was sent off with his instructions on this recent event; and the nature and extent of the satisfaction to be demanded, was specially pointed out, he required "a formal disavowal of the deed, and restoration of the seamen to the ship from which they were taken: And as a security for the future; an abolition of impressments from vessels under the flag of the United States." Unless the attack on the Chesapeake was under the immediate direction of the British government, and intended as the prelude of war with the United States, the demand of disavowal and restitution, was *scarcely commensurate* with the offence—It was barely that kind of demand which independent governments make, and the practice of nations justify granting, for offences less aggravated in their nature, and forms, conclusive evidence of the peaceful disposition of the president. That this assertion is correct, take the Turks Island case as stated by Mr. Madison, where some British salt-makers, collected according to annual custom, were driven off by a party of French Troops sent for that purpose. In this case even the *right of soil* was claimed by the French as attached to St. Domingo: yet being once quietly possessed by British subjects, and they dispossessed by force; that *dispossession* was considered such an aggression as to require prompt and efficient satisfaction from the French monarch. The event was—the act was disavowed, and the intention of taking the Island was disclaimed—orders were given for its immediate abandonment by the French and every thing was restored to its former condition. ! ! ! The Falkland Island case is yet stronger to prove the practice of nations, and more particularly the *sensibility* of England on an occasion far less aggravated than the one complained of The Spaniards were possessed of one of those Islands, the title to which was a subject of dispute among the maritime nations of Europe. In the year 1770 the English took possession of Port Egmont in one of those Islands, the Spaniards at the same time being in possession of another port; and protesting against the settlement; but the protest being disregarded, and the settlement made, the British were afterwards forcibly driven off. The English government, looking alone at this forcible dispossession, demanded, not only that disavowal of the deed; but the restoration of every thing to its original *condition*. The Spanish government finally yielded, the proceeding of its officers were formally disavowed, and the whole British demand fully complied with.

To compare the violence or indignity, sustained by England, in either of these cases, with the outrage on the Chesapeake, would insult common understanding, and the American feelings. In this scale of national injury they scarcely rise higher than the lawless capture of a neutral vessel; but they become vastly inferior, if from the vessel thus captured, ONE AMERICAN SEAMEN shall be impressed.

CIVIS.

Queen-Ann's County, April 1808.

By the last arrivals from Liverpool, we have an account by private information of the increased distresses of the inhabitants of that city, in consequence of the total stagnation of business.—Thousands of people of all descriptions having *nothing to do, and no bread to eat*, are constantly clamoring against their administration, who have brought these troubles upon them.

The haughty ministers of St. James, with their corrupt majority in parliament, will not be able, much longer, to turn a deaf ear to the united complaints of a distressed, hungry, and oppressed people. They may endeavor to hide themselves under the *robes of his majesty*, but the time will soon come when they can no longer deride the calamities of an oppressed nation, or "mock when their fear cometh," and their "destruction approaches like a whirl wind."

Let the citizens of America preserve with patience and firmness, in the measures of their government, or the British faction in this country will sacrifice America to make peace for Britain.

Bost. Chron.

FROM THE RUTLAND (VER.) HERALD OF APRIL 30.

Express from Washington.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. STATES.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, information has been received that sundry persons are combined, or combining, and confederating together on lake Champlain and the country thereto adjacent, for the purposes of forming insurrections against the authority of the laws of the United States, for opposing the same and obstructing their execution; and that such combinations are too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the laws of the United States.

Now therefore to the end, that the authority of the laws may be maintained, and that those concerned directly and indirectly, in any insurrection or combination, against the same, may be duly warned—I have issued this PROCLAMATION, hereby commanding such agents, and all concerned in such combination, instantly, without delay, to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abode: And I do hereby further require and command all officers having authority, civil or military, who shall be found within the vicinage of such insurrections or combinations, to be aiding and assisting, by all the means in their power, by force of arms, or otherwise, to quell and subdue such insurrections or combinations, to seize upon all those therein concerned, who shall not instantly, and without delay, disperse and retire to their respective abodes; and, to deliver them over to the civil authority of the place, to be proceeded against according to law.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the seal of the United States, to be affixed to these presents, and signed the same with my hand. Given at the city of Washington, the 19th of April, 1808: and in the sovereignty and independence of the United States, the thirty second.

TH: JEFFERSON.

By the president,
JAMES MADISON,
Secretary of State.

THE CAUSE OF THE REPUBLIC.

The election topics are now likely to come upon the *tapis*—there is much more *intrigue* afloat than we had believed, and in quarters to which we could not have suspected, and means used which we could not have supposed. But as this paper has been accustomed to determine coolly, and with a single eye to the national *honor*, the *national policy*, and the best *interests of society*; without listening to the querulous sneers of the irrascible or the petulance of personal discontent—we shall take this opportunity of declaring that upon a strict examination—upon a fair view of the whole ground, with the best lights of which the subject is susceptible, we are of opinion that the happy policy which has preserved the *peace* and *prosperity*, of the United States, and the respect of the universe, will be best ensured and promoted by the support of the candidate recommended to be put in nomination by the meeting of the members of both houses of congress—

Among other reasons for this opinion, independent of the admirable talents so recently displayed by Mr. MADISON—besides that prepared knowledge of the general state of the world, which is not to be immediately caught, and embraced, and acted upon like mathematical problem—

We should be apt to suspect the motives of any man who was supported by *Gideon Granger*; and should think the opposition of *Timothy Pickering* a tolerable good reason for believing the man to whom he was opposed, the best choice that could be made—as this paper has been always decided on its ground, writers who are opposed to the candidate of the republican majority, must resort to the numerous papers which support British policy, who will all be ready to oppose the wishes of the people and the best interests of the country.

Menaces and intrigues have forced us to this early declaration, which we should not have otherwise found it necessary to make; but instead of waiting for the sense of the community to be expressed in its regular manner, a kind of *sap* has been put into operation to blow up the republicans, and to place them in a similar state of distraction as was exhibited in this state of 1799. The republicans of this state will not be duped now as they were then; the great interests of the nation are not to be put in the scale with individual prejudices.

Aurora—May 5.

LIST OF ACTS
Passed at the first session of the Tenth Congress.

[CONCLUDED.]

35. An act remitting the duties payable on the importation of a monument to be erected in memory of the officers of the United States navy, who fell during the attack made on the city of Tripoli, in the year one thousand eight hundred and four.

36. An act granting William Wells the rights of pre-emption.

37. An act for erecting a light house on the south point of the Island of Sapelo, and for placing buoys and beacons in the shoals of the inlet leading to the town of Darien, and near the entrance of Ipswich harbor, near Plymouth harbor, before the horbor of Nantucket, and on the Island of Tuckanuck, at, or near the entrance of Connecticut river, and near the entrance of Great Egg Harbor river.

38. An act extending the time for issuing and locating military land warrants.

39. An act to amend the act, entitled "an act establishing circuit courts, and abridging the jurisdiction of the district courts for the districts of Kentucky, Tennesee and Ohio."

40. An act further to prolong the continuance of the mint at Philadelphia.

41. An act concerning the sales of the lands of the U. S. and for other purposes.

42. An act authorizing a detachment from the militia of the U. States.

43. an act authorising the sale of public arms.

44. An act to raise, for a limited time, an additional military force.

45. An act to authorize the transportation of certain documents, by mail, free of postage.

46. An act to revive and continue in force "an act declaring the assent of congress to certain acts of the states of Maryland and Georgia."

47. An act to continue in force for a farther time an act, entitled "an act for the more effectual preservation of peace in the ports and harbors of the United States, and in the waters under their jurisdiction.

48. An act for the relief of the legal representatives of Thomas Barclay, deceased.

49. An act concerning public contracts.

50. An act for the establishment of a turnpike company in the county of Alexandria, in the district of Columbia.

51. An act for the relief of Matthew Smith and Darius Gates, jointly, and Darius Gates, separately.

52. An act to continue in force an act, intituled "an act to extend jurisdiction in certain cases to state judges and state courts."

53 An act to authorise the president of the United States, under certain conditions to suspend the operation of the act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States, and the several acts supplementary thereto.

54. an act making provision for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States.

55. an act far the relief of Philip Turner.

56. An act for altering the time of the next meeting of congress.

57. An act to establish certain post roads in the state of Georgia and Ohio.

58. An act concerning invalid pensioners.

59 An act making an appropriation to supply a deficiency in an appropriation for the support of government during the present year, and making an appropriation for defraying the expenses incident to the valuation of houses and lands and the enumeration of slaves within the U. States.

60. An act making appropriations for the support of an additional military force for the year 1808.

61. an act to make Plymouth, in North-Carolina a port of entry, to change the name of the district of Nanjemoy to that of St. Mary's and to make Augusta, in the district of Maine, a port of delivery.

62. An act for the relief of Geo. Hunter.

63. An act authorising the secretary of the treasury, to pay to the comptroller of the treasury, in trust, the amount of certain bills drawn by John Armstrong, minister from the U. States to the court of France, on the treasury of the United States.

64. An act to authorise and empower the, president of the United States to exchange certain lands for other lands more suitable for fortification.

65. An act to make good a deficit in the appropriation of eighteen hundred and seven, for completing the public buildings, and for other purposes.

66. An act in addition to the act, entitled "an act laying an embargo on all ships and vessels in the ports and harbors of the United States," and the several acts supplementary thereto, and for other purposes.

67. An act for the relief of Joseph Chase, Jared Gardner, and others.

68. An act supplemental to "an act regulating the grants of lands in the territory of Michigan."