CONGRESS.

HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, December 17.

SALT.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Livermore, was ordered to lie on the table:

Resolved, That the committee of commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of permitting certain vessels to depart from the harbors of the United States, for the purpose of importing SALT, & that they have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

QUESTION ON NON INTERCOURSE DECIDED.

The following resolutions again under consideration:

Resolved, That it is expedient to prohibit, by law, the admission into the ports of the United States of all public or private, armed or unarmed ships or vessels belonging to Great Britain—or France—or to any other of the belligerent powers, having in force orders or decrees violating the lawful commerce and neutral rights of the United States—and also the importation of any goods, wares or merchandize, the growth, produce or manufacture of the dominions of any of the said powers, or imported from any place in the possession of either.

Mr. Rhea (T.) supported in a speech of two hours. Mr. Taggart opposed in a speech of the same length.

The resolution was divided into different questions as marked in the dashes (—) in the resolution; and after many motions to adjourn, and amendments offered, which were withdrawn or declared out of order, about 9 o'clock the question was taken on the following member of the resolution. "Resolved, That it is expedient to prohibit, by law, the admission into the ports of the United States of all public or private, armed or unarmed ships or vessels belonging to Great Britain," and CARRIED by Yeas and Nays, NINETY-TWO to TWENTY-NINE.

Previous to taking the first question Mr. Gardenier spoke for half an hour against the part interdicting British vessels.

And the question being taken on the next member—"or France," was CARRIED NINETY-SEVEN TO TWENTY-FOUR.

And the question being taken on the next member—" or to any other of the belligerent powers, having in force orders or decrees violating the lawful commerce and neutral rights of the United States"—was CARRIED, NINETY-SIX TO TWENTY-SIX.

Mr. Randolph now made a speech of two hours and a half against the remaining clause of the resolution.

When, at near twelve o'clock, the question was taken on the last clause in the following words—" and also the importation of any goods, wares or merchandize, the growth produce or manufacture of the dominions of any of the said powers, or imported from any place in the possession of either," and CARRIED, EIGHTY-TWO TO THIRTY SIX.

The question was then, at twelve o'clock, taken on the WHOLE resolution, and CARRIED, EIGHTY-FOUR TO THIRTY.

The question was then put on the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That measures ought to be immediately taken for placing the country in a more complete state of defence"—and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Both resolutions were referred to committees, and thus after *eighteen days* debate, the House concluded the agitation of the subject for the present about twenty minutes after twelve.

SENATE—Dec. 17.

The bill to authorize and require the President of the United States, to arm, man and fit out for immediate service all the public ships of war, vessels and gun boats of the United States, was read the third time and passed. The bill appropriates 400,000 dollars.

The bill making further provision for enforcing the embargo was read the third time; when a debate commenced on its passage. Mr. Goodrich spoke at length against the bill, when the Senate adjourned, without taking the question.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Thursday, December 8.

At 12 o'clock the governor, accompanied by the officers of government, entered the chamber of the house of representatives, and delivered the following

SPEECH.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives.

The existing crisis in public affairs will naturally engage the attention of the members of the union; and particularly, I trust, of Pennsylvania. The communications which the president has recently made to congress, disclose, in a clear and comprehensive reviews the origin and progress of our controversy with the belligerent powers. And should we, after all, be compelled to surrender the blessing and the hope of peace, we have certainly the consolation to see it demonstrated to the world, that neither the guilt of aggression, nor the folly of ambition, can be fairly imputed to the measures of our government. Impartial, respectful and conciliatory towards other nations, the federal administration, with becoming firmness and dignity, has sought in return, atonement for acknowleged injuries, and security for unquestionable rights. In the result, however, an appeal to the justice, (nay to the interest) of those nations, has been received with indifference, or rejected with derision—truth and reason have been opposed, in vain, to pride and power—and every candid mind at last perceives, that the independence of America must be maintained (as it was achieved) by the active patriotism and valor of her sons.

If any thing were wanting to evince the wisdom of the course which congress has pursued at this perilous period, the safety given to our commercial capital, with all its incidents, (notwithstanding the probable fate of the negotiations with foreign powers) must, I think, remove every doubt. It is true, that by the operation of the Embargo, the spirit of maritime enterprise has been restrained, the profits of trade are for a while surrendered, the price of some of the staples of the United States has been reduced, and the occupations of particular classes of citizens have been partially interrupted: but these inconveniences are not so great, as the loss of private property, which lawless captures and arbitrary confiscations would inevitably produce—and they are unworthy of a moment's calculation, when placed in competition with the loss of national independence, to be incurred by a tame submission to the orders and decrees of the sovereigns of Europe.—Now are these (you will readily perceive) the only considerations, which accommodate the suspension of foreign commerce to the interest, as well as to the honor of our country.

Upon a full view of the national situation, its present inconveniences and its probable consequences, the patriotic disposition, which has been manifested by our immediate constituents, is entitled to universal respect and applause: if it is true, that symptoms of disaffection to the union, of opposition to the laws, and of animosity to the chosen rulers of the people, have elsewhere appeared, Pennsylvania, we know, directing her energies to other objects, has borne the suspenston of her commerce without murmur or complaint. Neither the restraints of the embargo, nor the feuds of party, nor the allurements of private interests, nor the menaces of war, have impaired, in feeling or in action, her obedience to the constitution and laws; her pride of character, or her plighted faith to the government of the union. An example so honorable and so conspicuous, cannot fail to be beneficial. Extending beyond the limits of Pennsylvania, it will animate and confirm the virtue of her sister states. And for my own part, I feel the highest gratification, that among the latest act of a protracted public life, after a lapse of more than thirty years, and in seasons of extreme difficulty and danger, I can again unite with my countrymen "the mutual pledge of our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor," to support the declaration—"that these United States are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT."

But, gentlemen, in order to give efficient support to such a declaration, every state, nay every citizen of every state, must rally round the standard of the union, prepared, in numbers, in discipline, and in arms, as well as in resolution, to encounter and repel every hostile assailant. Hence the condition of the militia will claim and receive your earliest attention. The muster-roll exhibits a force formidable indeed in its amount and exemplary for the patriotism and bravery of those who compose it—but to render the militia an adequate substitute, or even a useful auxiliary for a regular army, a new system of organization, better directed to the purposes of discipline, subordination and equipment, is anxiously expected from the wisdom of the legislature.

Nor is it in military preparation alone, that our zeal to support the declaration of independence ought now to be displayed. The theory of independence is often distinct from its practical enjoyment, and the republican institutions of our country will be vain and illusory, unless the morals and the manners of the people shall be moulded in conformity to them. To be truly independent, we must be able to provide, at least, for our own wants—we must explore and combine the physicial properties of our climate and our soil, our woods and our waters: and, to be truly republican, we must maintain a pure and vigilant administration of justice; we must multiply the opportunities of acquiring useful knowledge—and we must endeavor (mutually endeavor) to extinguish or to allay the spirit of party. Upon the various subjects, connected with these important considerations, the records of your predecessors will present an ample scope for deliberation—and, I am persuaded, that in the encouragement given to the improvement of roads, inland navigation, and other public works in the patronage conferred on seminaries for educating the poor—and in the necessary augmentation of the number of the judges, as well as in the reorganization of the courts, to answer the calls of justices, you will invariably consult and pursue the welfare and the honor, of the state. In a career so laudable, all party animosity will be subdued; all personal asperity will be assuaged—and the diffusive influence of such liberality and forbearance, will not fail to produce, among our constituents, that unity and harmony of action, without which we cannot long hope to prosper, and with which we shall never have occasion to fear.

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

By the annual report from the department of accounts, you will perceive, that the permanent revenues of the commonwealth are sufficient to defray the ordinary expences of the government; and that to those revenues an addition has been made since your last session, by a subscription for two hundred shares of the stock of the bank of Philadelphia, at par; the market price being so advanced as to exclude the alternatives of a purchase.

In the application of the public treasure the legislature will endeavor, I am confident, to unite the duty of economy, with the attainments of a liberal and enlightened policy, particularly as our constituents have ever evinced an eager disposition to contribute whatever may be wanting for the important objects to which I have alluded.

Permit me to add, that in revising the journals it will be found, that a legislative pledge remains unsatisfied; to the honor of the late governor Mifflin, whose patriotic life, in war and in peace, in the field and in the cabinet, had been devoted to the service of his country, a public funeral and a monument were decreed in the year 1800—but, by an unfortunate omission, the resolution of the two houses was not presented for the executive approbation (which would cordially have been given) and no appropriation consequently exists, to complete this last testimonial of the affection and respect of Pennsylvania, for one of her distinguished sons. Another native of our state, the gallant Wayne, who, to the glorious exploits of the revolutionary career added in later times, a signal of victory over a combination of Indian forces, hitherto, probably, unequalled, lies buried in a distant grave, without a single trophy to designate the spot. His deeds must amply consecrate his memory—but something will still be due to evince the sense, which his country entertains of his virtue and his valor.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

In my last personal communication to the legislature, probably in the last important public act of my life, I shall be indulged, I hope, in claiming some credit for feelings corresponding with the solemnity of the occasion. It has been my lot to witness the progress of our country, from a colonial to a national character, through the ordeal of many trials in peace and in war. It has been my happiness to enjoy the favor and the confidence of our country in the most arduous as well as in the most auspicious stages of her political career. Thus attached, by every tie of honor and of gratitude, by all the motives of social interest and affection, I contemplate the future destinies of our country with a proud, but an anxious expectation. My day of exertion, (of feeble exertion at the best,) is past; but for our fellow citizens and for their representatives, in every department of the government, I can only cease to implore the blessings of providence, when I cease to exist.

THOMAS M'KEAN.

Lancaster, December 8, 1808.

The two decisions made in Congress are important, in every point of light in which they can be contemplated. In the Senate it has been determined by a majority of twenty-five to six, not to repeal the embargo; and in the House it has been determined by a majority of eighty-four to twenty one, to prohibit the admission of the British and French public or private vessels into the ports of the United States, or importation of goods, wares or merchandize, the growth, produce, or manufacture of the dominions of said powers; and as preliminary to, or consequent on, this determination, it has been likewise decided that the "United States cannot, without a sacrifice of their rights, honor and independence, submit to the late edicts of Great Britain and France"; and that "measures ought to be immediately taken for placing the country in a more complete state of defence."

These votes decide unequivocally the disposition of the government in all its branches, and proves its determination to maintain the ground it has already taken, or to occupy such higher ground as circumstances may require.

The vote of the Senate shews that notwithstanding the torrent of detraction which has flowed for a year past against the embargo, the policy which orginally dictated it is still approved by fourteen states out of seventeen; and the voice of the house shews that the representatives of the people, so far from being appalled by the crisis, have acquired new confidence in the measures of resistance adopted by the government. This is abundantly proved by the relative votes on this occasion, and on the imposition of the embargo, which in the Senate was passed by a vote of 22 to 6, and in the House by a vote of 82 to 44.

The importance of the congressional proceedings prevents our dilating on this subject; but we venture to predict that these votes, with the overwhelming majority given to Mr. Madison, will be found to be harbingers of a greater unanimity than has been experienced since the era of the new government.

[*Nat. Intel.*]

Americans in Slavery. It appears by a letter from the secretary of state, that returns had been made to his office of the impressment, by the British of 4,228 American seamen, since the commencement of the war; and that 986 of this number had been discharged thro' the exertions of the American agents, leaving in that service 3,192. General Lyman, in a letter of October 1807, estimates the number of American seamen now detained in the British service greatly beyond what is here stated. Yet we are told we have no cause of complaint against Great Britain.

Extract of a letter dated Liverpool, Oct. 3, 1808.

"Cotton and tobacco are at an enormous price; the former at 2s. 0d. 3 2 per lb. and the latter at 1s. 5d. per lb. They say they can do without tobacco, but I have ascertained that there is not cotton enough to last throughout this year, indeed I am informed by a very respectable Manchester manufacturer, that there is more consumed the last 3 months of the year than in 6 months of the former part. Bankruptcies are daily taking place in the manufacturing towns, but they say if our embargo continues, every one must go, consequently merchants here have undertaken large speculations in cotton either to make or break. The manufacturers are obliged to keep their machines at work, or they in a few weeks would be good for nothing, and whilst they do keep them going, they are throwing away their property in hopes of better times. But the thing shows for itself, for how can they afford to manufacture cotton at 3s. and sell their goods at the same price as when cotton was only from 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d. and now the market is overstocked with manufactured goods. All the cotton in Liverpool has been purchased by speculators at 3s. per lb. and should our embargo be removed unexpectedly, it will immediately falls to 1s. I would not therefore advise to make any consignments to merchants here, if that event should take place, as I do not believe there is one who could, that has not speculated largely."

Extract—dated "Washington, Dec. 5.

"I perceive that the last winter's system of traducing the government thro' the medium of misrepresentations and falshoods in letters from this place, is again renewed this season with increased vigor. The papers in and about Boston, I perceive, are crowded with this contemptible sort of stuff—before me is the Boston Centinel, of the 30th ult. containing a professed extract of a letter from here, in relation to the proceedings of the secret session of the house, and abounding in the grossest falshoods, such as even the faction themselves laugh at, when they have travelled back here:—for instance, it is there stated, that the reasons advanced against publishing the secret documents were, "*that it might endanger the safety of our minister at Paris.*" You may rely upon it, that this representation is utterly false, and this conceit of general Armstrong being in any personal danger, never entered the head of any body; tho' it is said to have fallen from the lips of a Mr. Livermore of your state, in the course of the secret debate, but was laughed at by every one else as a mere farce. The most charitable supposition is that Mr. L. did not believe any such thing himself, and certainly he had no sort of reason to do so; for if he did believe it, how could he vote as he seems to have done, for publishing the documents, and thus without any previous notice, to general A. expose him to the wrath of the emperor?—Surely this sort of conduct would afford but a poor picture of Mr. L's humanity or honor;—but this was all a mere piece of grimace, and is so viewed by every body, and so far from general Armstrong's being in any personal or other danger in France, Americans who have lately seen him, tell me he is very much at his ease, and will be well pleased in spending a few years more there for the education and improvement of his family—though by the way, I doubt whether either he or Mr. Pinkney ought be be continued at their respective courts much longer; but one is just as safe there as the other, and has just the same reason for being continued in his mission, or for being both recalled, if such should be the policy.—Since the secret journal is published, you will see by that, that the assertion of Mr. Randolph having made a motion "to dispatch a fast sailing vessel to bring gen. A. home," out of harm's way, is a sheer falsehood, a clumsy fabrication like many others here, fit only for exportation to the Boston market, and consumption amongst *the junto troops.* The course of this trade is really a little curious—one of the party here it seems, drives the house into secret session, under the pretence of a solemn motion which he has to make; in this situation, a second throws out some ridiculous and silly suggestions which neither he or any one else believes a word of; a third perhaps takes them up and sends them all the way to Boston, as the reasons which were offered by the majority for their conduct in refusing to pass the motion—What a sample of candor and good faith!—In short, it may safely be averred, that if a man is very anxious to be imposed upon, his readiest way is to make up his mind to believe all the surmises and misrepresentations which he finds in the Boston federal papers, under the head of "News from Washington;" and it has this peculiar advantage over all other news of the day; that when it travels back here, it is generally as much "news" to us who are on the spot, as it was to you Boston folks, when it first arrived there. In truth, amongst all the other false signals of the times, these are among the last that the public opinion ought to steer by."

Bost. Chron.

PATRIOTIC.

The following tender of voluntary service has been made by the Fifth Regiment of Maryland Militia, attached to Gen. Striker's Brigade:

Baltimore, Dec. 9th, 1808.

SIR,

In obedience to the call of our country, and in discharge of a pleasing duty, assigned to me by the unanimous resolve of the officers under my command, I have the honor to make you a tender of the services of the Fifth Regiment of Maryland Militia, completely officered, uniformed, armed, and equipped, as the quota of the Third Brigade, and in virtue of the requisition of the President of the United States.

It is my duty to add, that although the Regiment will be complete, as to Field Officers, Regimental Staff, and executive men, yet that some of the companies may possibly have more, others less, than the exact number of privates *recommended* by law, and that although such may be the case, the officers and men request and will expect to be permitted to remain with their respective companies.

I have the honor to be,
With the greatest respect,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
J. A. BUCHANAN.
Lt. Col. 5th Regt. Maryland Militia.

Brig. Gen. John Striker,

Baltimore, Dec. 5th, 1808.

SIR,

I had the honor to receive your letter of this date, making a tender of the voluntary services of the Fifth Regiment of Maryland Militia, as the quota of the Third Brigade, and in virtue of the requisition of the President of the United States.

It would have been very pleasing to me to have commenced the detail of duty by accepting the voluntary tender of services of the 5th or any other Regiment, as the quota of the Third Brigade, under the requisition of the President; but as this mode so acceptable to me, does not accord with the situation of other Regiments, and as I understand there are some companies in all, desirous of evincing their patriotism in the present momentous crisis of our common country, I owe it to motives so laudable on their part to decline the offer of the Fifth Regiment, and to confine myself to requiring its proportion of the Brigade quota.

In discharge of this duty, I wish to be understood, and I beg you to be assured that I appreciate as I ought, the meritorious conduct of the Fifth Regiment, and I avail myself with great pleasure of the present occasion to express to them, through you the high sense I entertain of their patriotism in this and all instances when their services had been required.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN STRICKER,
Brig. Gen. 3d Brigade M. M.

James A. Buchanan,
Lt. Col. 5th Regt. M. M.

"RUTLAND, (Ver.) Dec. 8.

"I have but a moment to inform you that the Electors of President and Vice-President, met here yesterday, and gave six votes for J. MADISON, for President, and Six votes for JOHN LANGDON, as Vice-President."

Dr. Michael Leib is elected a senator from the state of Pennsylvania in the senate of the United States for the next term.

Letters have, we understand, been received from Mr. Pinkney to the 10th of October. They are said to contain nothing of importance.