James's. The council met; and ce the days of Nebuchadnezzar there s not been known such dire dismay! —Hours elapsed and none broke the awful silence. Every heart throbbed in sorrow, while every countenance bespoke the mighty terror of their souls. At last from the quivering lips of Petty, proceeded this question——"Where is Canning?"—to which C. replied "here my lord."——

P. You've heard the news!

C. O yes—

P. And direful news they are!

C. Alas! 'tis too true. Dreadful—Dreadful. Our hopes appear blasted!

P. Sir, is there no way by which we can place ourselves on a better footing with America. We need her assistance now be assured!

C. We can I think. I have had my thoughts engaged on this point, and begin to suppose our situation not yet desperate!

P. Ah! Do then my dear sir—Speak—I hope we can so arrange it as to make the American Government our friends!

C. I do not consider that a difficult matter—for we have but to confirm the arrangements of Mr. Erskine, and!

Melville.—But sir, I am of the opinion that since we took that advantage of Copenhagen—The several nations of the earth have had their eyes upon us, and I would advise a giving into the American requirements altogether.—Let us lose no time!

C. I think if we can so arrange affairs as to make a treaty, with some loop holes left, out of which we can at a favorable opportunity creap—it would be a good thing.

P. True it would answer our purposes exactly. We had this in view when we authorised Erskine to act as he has.

C. Yes—It was the only way in which we could procure those articles which their policy kept us from;—and which bye the bye we were suffering for!

Melville.—Gentleman I perceive such a body of corruption in this council that I connot hold way with those measures. For it has always been the case, that our adversity has compelled us to sue for American friendship—and our prosperity has always had a tendency to make us treat that nation contemptuously. You ardently see we are wrong. for even the dead are permitted to weaken our strong holds—and all Wellesley's army has been overcome by ghosts and ministers of etherial fire. I say we must be pure, in our councils we must banish corruption—we must love justice, a principle which we have all along studiously avoided. American claims are reasonable, give into them—they are just—respect them.

C. I think myself it is *now* time to do something with America, by which our present purposes may be answered—and I think no time should be lost; but we must send dispatches to the Essex Junto and inform them how to act, for they are so involved with us it would be to treat them worse than bad, not to let them know of those arrangements!

P. Can they not excuse us this once, think ye?

C. Perhaps they might, if we put our good friend Mr. Pickering up to some scheme.

Melville.—His brain is sufficiently prolific, and had it not been for his movements, our party in America would have been long since dwindled to a point!

C. Well so it is—We now must have terms with America—And the sooner the better!

The whole——Agreed.——

FROM THE BALTIMORE EVENING POST.

The interesting letter annexed came in to my hands in the following manner: A gentleman of my acquaintance having understood that Mr. *Smith*, (an officer in the *Navy Department* at Washington) had written a letter to *William Gwynn, Esq.* of this city, relative to the *far famed bills of exchange* drawn by S. Smith and Buchanan on Degan, Purviance & co. late merchants at Leghorn, requested a copy of the same; which was immediately and politely forwarded by Mr. Smith. This gentleman handed me the *original;* the following is correctly copied from it:—

A LETTER FROM
MR. JOHN KILTY SMITH
TO
WILLIAM GWYNN, ESQUIRE.

GEORGE-TOWN, July.

Dear Sir,

Recollecting the promise I made to you the other day when I had the pleasure of seeing you in Baltimore, I have occupied a few leisure moments in preparing for your consideration, a plain statement of the transactions of the navy department with Messrs. Degan, Purviance, & co. navy agents at Leghorn.

From the year 1801, till late in the year 1807, the United States had in the Mediterranean sea a number of vessels of war, consisting sometimes of five, sometimes of two, three and four frigates, besides small vessels of war—these vessels you will admit, would require supplies and assistance.——Leghorn from its peculiar situation, and the numerous facilities it afforded, was one of the ports which it was foreseen our public vessels would of necessity frequent—hence at that port early in the year 1801, the only repectable American house then known to the Department, Debuts and Purviance and Co. were appointed navy agents—when first appointed, it was known that they could draw on London without loss—that some difficulty attended making direct remittances to them at Leghorn. Hence no remittance was for a considerable time made to them; and they were instructed by the department to furnish supplies upon the requisitions of the commanding officers, and to reimburse themselves by drafts upon Messrs. J. M'Kenzie and A. Glennie, merchants and navy agents at London, to whom remittances were from time to time made to enable them to pay such drafts. This system prescribed by Gen. Smith, whilst he acted as Secretary of the navy, in the year 1801, was continued till late in the year 1802, and was not departed from till the interest of the public obviously suggested the propriety of departing from it.—At this time difficulties in negociating at Leghorn, bills on London arose, exchange was against Leghorn, shipments of naval stores for the use of the squadron were made, and the freights made payable at Leghorn—hence the department commenced making remittances to Leghorn direct; but the remittances made during the year 1802, did not exceed $ 30,000 and they were not all received at Leghorn till some time in 1803. During the year 1803, Commodore Preble with a squadron, consisting of seven vessels of war, was sent to the Mediterranean. Tripoli was then at war with us—part of the squadron previously in the Mediterranean having been recalled, and it being late in the year 1803 before Commodore Preble sailed for the Mediterranean, the remittances to Leghorn during that year were inconsiderable. Exchange was still much against Leghorn on London, arising from hostilities as you well recollected having been renewed in Europe in that year.

Some time in the year 1802 Mr. Debuts died, and the firm was thenceforth changed to Degan, Purviance & Co.

During the year 1804, $ 50,000 were remitted to Degan, Purviance & Co. of which 25,000 were remitted from Philadelphia, and 25,000 from Baltimore; the bills were purchased at 91 cents the pazza or par—at Philadelphia the department was obliged to purchase the bills payable 60 days after the arrival at Leghorn of a vessel then loading at Philadelphia for Leghorn; the drawers to be exonerated from damages that might arise from the bills being returned protested—the bills it is true were paid, but they were purchased on conditions which it was desirable to avoid. The bills purchased at Baltimore were not saddled with any such condition; the further sum of $ 30,000 were remitted in this year. Upon the fund thus established at Leghorn not only the commanding officers of our vessels then in the Mediterranean, but the different agents at Malta, Syracuse, Marceilles, Toulon and Naples were authorised to draw.

In the year 1805—6 bills to the amount of 226,000 dollars were remitted to Leghorn; the squadron under the command of Commodore Baron consisted of the President, the Constitution, the Constellation, the Congress, the Essex, the John Adams, the Siren, the Argus, the Vixen, the Nautilus and the Enterprize, besides a number of Gun Boats—there were various important reasons for making these large remittances, two which now present themselves to my mind, are first, the necessary demands of the squadron, which would require at least that sum, and the loss in drawing from the Mediteranean, either upon London or the department, it was stated in 1805, "that negociations on London were found extremely inconvenient, and at this moment attended with a loss of 10 per cent, on account of the fall in Exchange, which owing to the convulsed state of the continent will become every day more ruinous." And a loss of 6 per cent did actually accrue upon a bill negociated upon the department—the then commanding officer strongly urged the propriety of making our principal deposits of money at Leghorn, which the department thenceforth did, and at less than par—and was it not the bounden duty of the Secretary of the navy, under these circumstances, to make the deposits he did at Leghorn? In the begining of the year 1807, 30,000 were purchased at one per cent. below par, to meet the expences of the squadron under the command of Commodore James Barron—the attack upon the Chesapeake, and the disasters of that year you well know.

It is true that the monies thus remitted were not all drawn out of the hands of Degan, Purviance and Co.—this proceeded from the different commanding officers of vessels, still drawing on London instead of Leghorn. Contrary to the expectation of the department which had it not in its power to remedy the evil, our vessels being so remote and cruizing in different parts of the Mediteranean.—The consequence was that the house of M'Kenzie and Glennie, were overdrawn upon to the amount of 50,000 £ terling see extract No. 1)—this is mentioned to prove that there was not more money remitted than was actually required. If the officers had have drawn upon Leghorn, instead of London, here would not at this time have been a cent of public money in the hands of Degan, Purviance and Co.

The balance of the account stated against Degan, Purviance and Co. upon which a suit was brought, was 165,650 dollars, and this is the sum charged in the declaration filed in the case, which I have seen published. They do not owe half that sum, as I will explain to you. The Secretary of the Navy, after the affair of the Chesapeake, detached a vessel to the Mediteranean, and among other things directed that the funds which might remain in the hands of our agents should be returned. In consequence of which, S. and W. Y. Purviance paid over to Capt. Dent of the Horne, for the use of the United States, 40,000 dollars in specie, and moreover remitted bills drawn by the Consul-General at Algiers, for 20,000 dollars upon the department of state, which were paid—This was the last official transaction of those gentlemen, and was at a time at which it has since been insinuated they had failed——these sums were drawn into the treasury, and used for navy purposes. The 40,000 in specie remained upon the books of the Accountant of the Navy to the credit of Captain Dent, who was merely the bearer of the money; and the 20,000 in bills to S. and W. Y. Purviance—both sums ought to have been carried to the credit of D. P. and Co. which, with other sums to be carried to their credit for supplies furnished, will leave their balance, as I was informed by the Accountant of the Navy to-day, at between 60 and 70,000 dollars. You have seen Mr. Purviance's explanation as to the cause of this defalcation. I have no doubt the money will be recovered soon.

It is necessary for me now to state, that the remittances which were made from time to time to Leghorn, were directed to be made in most instances by the Secretary of the Navy, after the chief clerk of the department and myself had stated to him the necessity there was for such remittances, founded upon a view of circumstances and upon detailed calculations of the sums required, and which are proved to have been correct; because if the sums provided and remitted to Leghorn had been drawn for as we expected, and as was intended, D. P. and Co. as was said before, would not have owed a cent, and M'Kenzie and Glennie would not have been overdrawn upon to the large amount they were. I mention this circumstance to prove, that the Secretary of the Navy directed the remittances to be made only when they were required, and not to suit the convenience of his friends, as has been insinuated. I firmly believe he never knew of whom bills had been bought, or were to be bought; the only instances I recollected to the contrary, was in the purchase of a small bill of six thousand dollars from the Messrs. Barneys of Baltimore, and of one from a gentleman of Philadelphia, for a less sum.

As regards our navy agent at Baltimore, General Stricker, he used the same vigilance and attention with regard to the bills in question, that he has always done to every official transaction confided to him. He was directed to purchase good bills upon Leghorn, and upon the best terms in his power.—He did so.—He required and did receive, upon every bill purchased, two substantial and sufficient endorsers, and the bills were all regularly paid and carried to the credit of the navy department. The drawers and endorsers, upon every bill in question, would have been received by you, then, and at this time, for the whole amount of all the bills ever drawn for the navy department upon Leghorn.

I will now advance my opinions with regard to S. Smith and Buchanan, of whom a portion of the bills upon Leghorn were purchased. The strong ground of attack made upon General Smith, one of the partners of that house, is, that Degan, Purviance & Co. were their agents, as well as the agents of the navy department. The same thing may be applied to the remittances made to London. M'Kenzie and Glennie, one of the most respectable houses in England, (so much so, that they were examined before Parliament, relative to American affairs) are the navy agents of the United States at London, and they are the agents also of S. Smith and Buchanan, and others, of whom bills have been bought. The bills which have been remitted to them on account of the government to a large amount, not only from Baltimore, but elsewhere, were generally drawn upon themselves by the persons who furnished the bills.

I am confident S. Smith & Buchanan can shew from their books, if they are disposed to answer the accusations made against them, that the bills drawn by them, were predicated in every instance, upon shipments made, or upon their deposits or credits at Leghorn. It was immaterial to the department, upon what circumstance the bills were predicated—the only inquiry was, whether the drawers and endorsers were substantial and sufficient. The government had confidence in their agents. I recollect some bills having been purchased in Georgetown, drawn upon Mr. Murdock of London, predicated upon shipments of tobacco, and that the bills were sent in the same ship with the tobacco. The bills drawn by S. Smith and Buchanan, have, in every instance, not only upon Leghorn, but upon London, been duly honored and passed to the credit of the navy department—and there the matter, as respects them, ought to have rested.

The reason why S. Smith and Buchanan, and those who were in the habit of shipping with them, furnished more bills upon Leghorn, than others, was because they were enabled to do it by the extent of their trade to Leghorn; and you will recollect as was stated before, the great difficulty the Department had experienced in purchasing bills upon Leghorn elsewhere—if they could have been purchased upon the same terms in Philadelphia that they were in Baltimore, the remittances would have been divided as they were in almost every instance of remittances to London.

After looking over what I have written, it only remains for me to observe to you, that I am firmly of opinion that there is no ground for the imputations intended to be cast upon the character of Gen. Smith in the transactions detailed—to believe otherwise, Mr. Smith the former secretary of the navy, (now secretary of state) Gen. Stricker the navy agent at Baltimore, Gen. Smith and Mr. James A. Buchanan his partner, and the Mr. Purviances, must all be considered as capable of having conspired to swindle the government. I am sure no one can seriously entertain that opinion of them either collectively or individually, and they must have been weak indeed to implicate their characters in transactions which they know must appear upon record against them.

The remarks which I have given you are written too hastily for the importance of the subject, to comply with my promise made to you, and a desire to satisfy your mind, has been my inducement to give you this statement. You know I am not connected in any manner whatever to any of the parties, and knowing me, you will attribute no other motive than that I have stated—to hear from you that you are satisfied upon the subject will be a grateful gratification to

Your respectful
Obedient Servant,
JOHN KILTY SMITH.

WM. GWINN, Esq. Baltimore.

Extract of a letter from Commodore Rogers, dated U. S. ship Constitution.

Leghorn Roads, Nov. 1st, 1805.

"Permit me to suggest to you the "propriety of having the principal funds "for defraying the expences of the "squadron lodged at Gibraltar, Leghorn "and Naples, as the commercial intercourse between the ports of the Mediterranean and England, is so inconsiderable in proportion to the bills "that are drawn by different individuals, "that ours more or less, share the same "fate with the rest, and are very often "unsaleable and will continue to be so "long as the numerous other bills afford "such a field for speculation."

Extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, to Messrs. Jas. M'Kenzie and Glennie, Navy agents at London,

Dated 6th January, 1807.

"Having placed sufficient funds at "Leghorn, which was deemed a convenient deposit for the use of the squadron in the Mediterranean, and directed the commanding officer on that "station to draw on that place,—I am "surprised at the amount drawn on you, "and regret the circumstance of your "having been in advance, which I shall "take care to prevent in future."

FOR THE STAR.

MR. SMITH.

The false notion of honor which at this time so much prevails, has induced me, to trouble you with a few lines on the subject—It appears many are possessed of an opinion that it is highly honorable to have it publicly known they have the principles of a murderer in their hearts and are actually disposed either by giving or accepting a challenge to take away the lives of their fellow mortals—On the other hand, should any one have so much virtue or humanity existing in his breast, as to manifest an unwillingness to take away the life of another, by refusing to accept a challenge, or have any scruples about committing actual murder; he, in their opinion, is forever disgraced, and unworthy of genteel or civil society—Strange infatuation indeed! I would ask any man, who has the feelings and understanding of a man; which is the most disgraced, or who the most unworthy of genteel, or civil society, he who unblushingly evinces that he has the principles of a murderer, and is actually disposed to take away the life of a fellow creature; or he, whose heart revolts at the idea of taking the life of another, and sending from his friends and connections into an eternal world one destined to the same hopes and privileges with himself, and who may hereafter be useful to himself, his friends, and the community—few, I should suppose, would be at a loss to determine; for my own part I have no hesitation in saying that I consider it the greatest disgrace in human nature, and to human nature itself, for any man either to give or accept a challenge; or what is the same thing, to avow publickly that he is a murderer in his heart, and actually disposed to kill one of his fellow men. Were one I esteemed as my best friend, and whom I regarded as a brother, either to give or to accept a challenge, I could never again view him in the same light I had done before, unless I could be fully satisfied he had repented of his inhuman design, and cultivated better dispositions of heart—my esteem and regard for him would from that moment cease, and very unpleasant sensations would occupy my mind, whenever I was in the company of one so base and barbarous in his principles.

I have as yet never been able to discover the foundation of that honor some seem to think attached to duel-fighting, or to know the source from whence it arises. It can in no sense of the word whatever, be termed any thing less than actual murder to kill a man in a duel; and are murderers to be accounted the most honorable men, and the only persons worthy of genteel or fashionable society? In some of the states, either to give or accept a challenge is as great a violation of the law as to commit actual murder—Indeed, I think there is far less to plead in excuse for one who kills another in a duel, than for one who kills another in the heat of his passion; for he has time to reflect and consider beforehand, and goes deliberately to the place appointed, solely for the purpose to kill the person with whom he is to fight; whereas the latter in the heat of his passion, without purpose or design, perhaps kills the person with whom he is contending. Deliver me from such base honor if you will plead for the term, and let me never see the day when my heart shall have become so perverse, and so void of every principle of virtue and humanity, as to feel a disposition therein to take away the life of a fellow creature—It cannot be supposed you either give or accept a challenge with a view to get killed yourself; and can you delight in taking the life of another, or reflect with satisfaction afterwards on having removed into another world, unprepared, one of your own species? If you can, you must indeed be hardened in wickedness, and are a monster in the human shape.—But you will say, perhaps, away with your moralizing, your religious scruples—it is the fashion of the times, and one must need conform to the custom of superior characters. This is a poor plea indeed, and the only one, I presume, you will pretend to adduce. If it was the fashion of the times, and persons of superior character accounted it an honor and indicative of courage, to cut off an arm, would you so far renounce your own reason, and act so unnatural as to comply with such a fashion? and yet this is but a feint comparison to those of killing a man—I know it is to little purpose to bring forward reason in order to dissuade them from a practice, how absurd soever it may be, which in spite of conscience and common sense, they are determined to follow—but I would willingly displode that false notion of honor which many appear to entertain, and exhibit the folly of duelling in such a manner, that at least, no one may follow that inhuman practice merely for the honor that will arise to them therefrom. If the duellist will call it cowardice for a man to refuse killing another, or exposing himself to be killed, what will he call it to kill a man, or expose himself to be killed? If the one be cowardice and effeminacy of soul, is not the other brutality and madness in the extreme? If the one disgraces a man, will not the other render him odious to mankind, and a bane to society? In short, if there be any thing base and inhuman, or any thing which disgraces human nature, it is that of duelling; and it is to be hoped, as Philanthropos observes, that our legislators will, at their next session, adopt some decisive measure against that unnatural practice. SOCRATES.

August 18, 1809.

John Quincy Adams, lady and suite, sailed from Grant's wharf, Charlestown, (Mass.) on his mission to Russia, in the ship Horace, on the 1st inst. The Essex frigate has gone round to Boston with intent to carry him out, but she will have arrived too late. Mr *John Smith*, son of general *Smith*, of this city, was to have went out passenger in the ship with Mr. Adams. It has been erroneously stated that Mr. Smith was attached to the legation. He is not in any public capacity, but is commencing his travels. *(Balt. Amer.)*